

## Hanuman and the Spider

You all know about how Lord Ramachandra killed the demon Ravana for stealing His wife Sita devi. Ravana took poor Sita to his island called Lanka. Lord Rama was building a bridge across the sea to reach Lanka and save His wife. Many living beings were helping Lord Ramachandra because they loved Him. His greatest servant was Hanuman, the monkey.

Hanuman was very, very strong. He was throwing the biggest rocks into the water, and Lord Ramachandra was making them float on top of the water. In this way they were building the bridge across the sea for the armies to walk on.

There was a little spider on the bank of the river who also wanted to serve Lord Ramachandra. With his small legs, he was kicking bits of dust into the water, and the bits of dust were floating along with the big rocks.

When Hanuman saw the little spider he said, "You useless spider! Get out of the way. Can't you see that I am bringing big rocks to the water to build a bridge for Lord Ramachandra? You had better move away from here before you get stepped on."

Lord Ramachandra heard this and said, "My dear Hanuman, just as you are working as hard as you can to carry very big rocks, so this spider is working as hard as he can to kick some bits of dust into the water. Both of you are working as hard as you can for Me, therefore your service is just the same."

### WORDS TO WATCH

Hanuman	island	bridge	Ramachandra
building	float	Ravana	

### QUESTIONS

1. Why did Lord Ramachandra kill the demon?
2. Who is the greatest servant of Lord Ramachandra? What do you know about him?
3. How was Hanuman's work the same as the spider's work?
4. What did you learn from this story about how you should behave toward your Godbrothers and Godsisters?

## The Rich Karmi and the Poor Devotee

Once upon a time a rich karmi and a poor devotee lived in the same house. The rich karmi lived upstairs, and the poor devotee lived downstairs.

The devotee liked to chant Hare Krishna all the time. He chanted and chanted. But the rich karmi liked to sleep a lot, and the chanting bothered him.

One day the rich karmi said, "Devotee, I will give you a bag full of money every day if you will stop chanting Hare Krishna."

"Fine," said the devotee. He was thinking how he could use the money to serve Krishna. The devotee stopped chanting, and he became richer and richer. But the more money he got from the rich karmi, the more unhappy he became, because he wanted to chant Hare Krishna so much.

Finally, he brought all the money back to the rich karmi. "Here," he said, "take your money. I cannot be happy if I cannot chant the holy names."

"What do you mean?" said the rich karmi. "How can anything make you more happy than all this money?"

"Chanting Hare Krishna is the only thing that makes me happy," said the devotee. "All the money in the world cannot make me as happy as the chanting of Hare Krishna. Why don't

you try chanting with me right now, and then you will see. Come. Chant Hare Krishna with me and be happy."

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare.

The rich karmi began to chant along:

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare.

"Oh!" This is making me feel so good, "said the rich karmi. "I never want to stop chanting Hare Krishna. You may have all my money, devotee. Give it all to Krishna. Just let me always chant the holy names with you and then I will be happy."

### WORDS TO WATCH

karmi	richer	finally	
once	unhappy	brought	
upstairs	because	downstairs	bothered

### QUESTIONS

1. How do you know that the rich man was a karmi?
2. Why was the poor devotee happier than ever after he gave the money back to the rich man?

## **A Gong Rings in the Morn**

**A gong rings in the morn**

**To tell us to rise.**

**If we miss morning keertan**

**We'll never be wise.**

**For early to bed**

**And early to rise**

**Is the way to serve Krishna**

**And be healthy and wise.**

## The Mango Pit

One day a devotee bought some mangoes for Krishna at the store. She took the mangoes to the temple and put them in a large bowl. She told the children, "These mangoes have not been offered to Krishna yet, so do not eat them."

All the children stood around the bowl and thought about how Krishna would enjoy the mangoes. They did not eat any.

Little Gopal das had never tasted a mango before. When everyone left the room he took one of the unoffered mangoes and ate it.

Before the offering, the devotee saw that one of the mangoes was gone, and she told the temple president.

The temple president said, "Did any of you children eat one of these mangoes?"

All the children said "No." Gopal's face turned as red as a beet, but he also said, "No. I didn't eat."

Then the president said, "If one of you did eat a mango before it was offered, that is bad, but that is not what worries me. What worries me is that mangoes have pits, and if you eat the pit, it might choke you, and you might die."

Gopal das turned pale and said, "No, I threw the pit out the window."

Then everyone laughed, and Gopal das began to cry.

Finally the president said, "Don't cry, Gopal. We know that you won't eat anything again before it is offered to Krishna.

"No," said Gopal, "I won't. I promise."

### WORDS TO WATCH

children      admired      laughed      know  
everyone      president

### QUESTIONS

1. What did Gopal das do?
2. Did he think he was wrong? Why is it wrong to eat unoffered food?
3. When Gopal das said he threw the pit out the window, why did everyone laugh? Why did Gopal cry?

## Krishna is Blue

Krishna is blue,

Radharani is gold,

Balaram is white like snow,

We are told.

If you want to see Them,

You can, you know--

By chanting Hare Krishna,

Prabhupada says so.



## WORD STUDY EXERCISE (colors)

### I. Read and Spell

blue	pink	saffron
green	gray	brown
black	white	purple
red	yellow	orange

### II. Read and answer

1. Which colors do you need to make every color?
2. What colors mixed together make orange?
4. Can you name the colors of two eternal associates of Krishna?
5. Name some other colors.

### III. Write

See those colors way up high?

That's a rainbow in the sky.

All the colors that you see

Come from the body of Lord Hari.

## Krishna and the Fruit Vendor

Once a fruit vendor came to Vrindavan. Little Krishna heard her calling, "If anyone wants some fruit, come and get it from me."

Krishna was hungry, so He took some rice in His little hands to give to the fruit vendor in exchange for an apple or a peach or a mango or a banana.

Krishna was a very little boy. He was not careful to keep His hands tightly closed. So the grains of rice fell from His hands. When He reached the fruit vendor, His hands were almost empty.

The fruit vendor saw Krishna's pretty face and glowing body, and she fell in love with the boy. Right away the vendor gave Krishna all the mangoes and apples and pears and bananas He could carry in His little arms. She did not care that Krishna had no rice left to give her in exchange.

When the vendor looked at her cart again, she saw that Krishna had turned all her fruit into jewels.

From this story we learn that if someone gives to Krishna, he does not lose anything, but he gains a thousand times more.

## WORDS TO WATCH

fruit      exchange      lose  
vendor      empty      gain  
hungry      thousand

## QUESTIONS

1. Why did little Krishna take a handful of rice?
2. Why did the fruit vendor give Krishna so much fruit?
3. What happens when we give to Krishna? Should we give everything we have to Krishna? Why?

7 =

## **Hearts are Like Doors**

**Hearts, like doors, will open with ease**

**Prabhupada has given the keys**

**The way is easy and sublime:**

**Chant Hare Krishna all the time.**

## Sarghal Singh is Dead

One day the baker met his friend the washerman sitting by the side of the road. The washerman was crying, and he had his head shaved the way people do when someone has died.

"My good friend," said the baker, "what is the matter? Has someone died?"

"Sarghal Singh is dead!" wailed the washerman. "Sarghal Singh is dead! How shall I live without Sarghal Singh?"

"Who is dead?" asked the baker. "Sarghal who?"

"Sarghal Singh! Sarghal Singh! Don't you know Sarghal Singh? He was the whole world. Oh, Sarghal Singh is dead."

"Oh, Sarghal Singh," said the baker. "Sarghal Singh is dead? I should shave my head."

And so he did.

Feeling very sad, he went to see his friend the flower vendor. "My dear friend," he said, "have you heard that Sarghal Singh is dead? It is so terrible."

"Who is dead?" asked the flower vendor. "Sarghal who?"

"Sarghal Singh! Sarghal Singh! Don't you know Sarghal Singh?" said the baker. "Sarghal Singh was the whole world."

"Oh, Sarghal Singh," said the flower vendor. "Sarghal Singh is dead? I should shave my head. I will tell everyone that Sarghal Singh is dead."

And so he did.

That morning, the maidservant of the king came to the flower vendor. "Oh, maidservant," said the flower vendor, "have you heard the terrible news? Sargha. Singh is dead."

"Who is dead?" asked the maidservant. "Sarghal who?"

"Sarghal Singh! Sarghal Singh! Don't you know Sarghal Singh? He was the whole world."

"Oh, Sarghal Singh," said the maidservant. "Sarghal Singh is dead? I should shave my head."

And so she did.

When the maidservant got home to the palace, she saw the Prime Minister. "Oh, Prime Minister," she said, "have you heard the terrible news? Sarghal Singh is dead."

"Who is dead?" asked the Prime Minister. "Sarghal who?"

"Sarghal Singh! Sarghal Singh!" answered the maidservant. "You must know Sarghal Singh. He was the whole world."

"Oh, Sarghal Singh," said the Prime Minister. "Sarghal Singh is dead? I must shave my head and tell the king.

And so he did.

"Your Majesty," said the Prime Minister as he came into the throne room, "Your Majesty, have you heard the terrible news? Sarghal Singh is dead."

"Who is dead?" asked the king. "Sarghal who?"

"Sarghal Singh! Sarghal Singh! Don't you know Sarghal Singh?" answered the Prime Minister.

"No, I don't," said the king. "Who is Sarghal Singh?"

"They say he was the whole world, Your Majesty," said the Prime Minister.

"But who was he?" asked the king.

"I am not sure," said the Prime Minister. "I will go and find out."

The Prime Minister went to the maidservant. "Who was Sarghal Singh?" he asked.

"I am not sure," said the maidservant. "Go and ask the flower vendor."

The Prime Minister went to the flower vendor. On his way he saw many people with shaved heads and heard them saying, "Sarghal Singh is dead. Sarghal Singh is dead."

The Prime Minister came to the flower vendor and asked, "Who was Sarghal Singh?"

"I am not sure," said the flower vendor. "Go and ask the baker."

The Prime Minister went to the baker. "Who was Sarghal Singh?" he asked.

"I am not sure," said the baker. "Go and ask the washerman who is sitting by the road and crying."

The Prime Minister went to the washerman. "Who was Sarghal Singh?" he asked.

"Oh, Sarghal Singh! Sarghal Singh! Sarghal Singh is dead," wailed the washerman.

"I know," said the Prime Minister. "But who was Sarghal Singh?"

"Sarghal Singh?" said the washerman looking up. "Sarghal Singh was everything to me. Sarghal Singh was my donkey."

The moral of the story is that blind following makes a fool out of you. We should not be like the foolish persons in the



story who shaved their heads for no good reason. The washerman said that Sarghal Singh was the whole world. But Sarghal Singh was only a donkey. We must be careful who we listen to. We should hear from our parents, teachers and gurus. They will help us understand how Krishna is the whole world.

### WORDS TO WATCH

Sarghal Singh    maidservant    palace

baker    Prime Minister    majesty    throne

### QUESTIONS

1. Why did the baker, the flower vendor, the maidservant, and the Prime Minister shave their heads?
2. Do you think the king was smarter than the other people? Why?
3. Did everyone think that Sarghal Singh was someone very important? Why?
4. What does it mean to follow blindly? How can you avoid following blindly?

**BLOW, WIND, BLOW**

**Blow, wind, blow! and go, mill, go!**

**That the miller may grind wheat**

**That the baker may take it**

**And into cakes make it,**

**To place at the Lord's lotus feet.**

## Boy Birbhadra

Boy Birbhadra bought some butter.

"But," he said, "the butter's bitter.

If I put it in my batter,

It will make my batter bitter,

But a bit of better butter

Will make my batter better."

So he bought a bit of butter,

Better than his bitter butter,

And he put it in his batter,

And the batter was not bitter.

So 'twas better Boy Birbhadra

Bought a bit of better butter.

## Garuda and the Little Bird

Once a little bird laid her eggs by the edge of the ocean, but the ocean came and stole them. The little bird was very sad. She prayed to the ocean, "My dear ocean, please return my eggs."

But the ocean would not.

Then the little bird became angry. "Ocean," she said, "if you will not return my eggs, then I will dry you up."

But the ocean would not return her eggs.

The little bird began to dry up the ocean. She filled her beak with water and carried the water onto the land. Then she went back and filled her beak again and again and again.

But the ocean just laughed, because the little bird was so small and he was so big.

Garuda, Krishna's giant bird carrier, heard the sad story of his sister bird and came to help her. He said to the ocean, "If you do not return this little bird's eggs, then I will dry you up."

The ocean saw that Garuda was very big and strong and really could dry him up, so he returned the eggs to the little bird.

We can learn a lesson from the little bird who would not give up even when she had a very hard job to do. Sometimes it seems very hard to serve Krishna, but if we keep trying and do not give up, then Krishna will surely help us, just as Garuda helped the little bird.

### WORDS TO WATCH

ocean            return    strong

prayed    angry    Garuda

laughed    surely    carrier

### QUESTIONS

1. Why did the ocean laugh at the little bird?
2. Why did the ocean return the eggs when Garuda asked him to?
3. In what way should we be like the little bird?

# Blue Sky, White Clouus

Blue sky, white clouds,

Krishna and Balarama,

Following the cows,

Over on Govardhana,

While the calves <sup>all</sup> stray,

The cowherd boys <sup>will</sup> play

With Krishna and Balarama

All through the day.

## WORD STUDY EXERCISE (In the House)

### I. Read and Spell

rug            kitchen            fireplace

bed            bedroom            altar

lamp            bookcase            yard

porch            closet            pictures

stove            chair            pillows

stairs            garage            attic

Deity room            telephone            garden

basement            cupboard            prasadam room

### II. Read and Answer

1. Which of these things do you have where you live?

2. Name some other things in a home.

### III. Write

**Back home, back to Godhead.**

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

I.A. You have read these stories in the second part of your book. Tell what each story is about:

Govinda dasi's Plans

The Mango Pit

Hanuman and the Spider

A Day at the Farm

The Rich Karmi and the Poor Devotee

Sarghal Singh is Dead

Krishna and the Fruit Vendor

B. Which story did you like best? Why?

C. Read the story you liked best to your class or read it to yourself again.

II.A. Learn by heart one of the poems in the second part of your book and recite it to your class.

B. Copy the poem you liked best in the second part of your book. Copy it carefully.



PART THREE

Of all the stories about Krishna

I don't know which is best,

But I have liked them all so well

I'm ready for the rest.

## So Many Things

"Come out with me," said Girish prabhu.

"There are so many things that we can do.

We can milk Krishna's cow,

We can pick a flower.

The time is now!

Let's spend every hour

Working for Krishna."

## Narada Muni and the Hunter

Once there was a mean hunter who liked to half-kill animals. He liked to see them die slowly, with great pain.

One day Narada Muni, the devotee who can travel in space, was walking in the forest where this hunter lived. Narada saw many animals rolling on the ground, half-dead from arrow shots.

"Who is doing this terrible thing?" he said. Just then he saw the hunter drawing his bowstring, about to shoot another deer. Narada Muni plucked a string on his vina. The sweet sound made the hunter miss his shot.

Narada walked over to the hunter. "My dear sir," he said, "why are you half-killing these poor animals in such a terrible way?"

"My father told me to hunt in this way," said the hunter. "There is nothing wrong with it. Why did you make me miss my shot?"

"Don't you know," asked Narada, "that you will have to suffer for each animal that you kill? In lifetimes to come these animals will all have the chance to kill you in some terrible way."

"Oh no!" said the hunter, feeling very afraid. "I don't want that to happen. What can I do, kind sage, so that will not happen?"

"First, hunter, break your bow!" said Narada.

The hunter did as Narada told him.

"Now go to your home, sit down with your good wife, and spend your days chanting Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare. Give water to the tulasi tree which grows beside your house. Don't worry about getting food for yourselves, I will take care of that. Just worship Lord Krishna in this way, and you will not have to suffer from your past sins."

The hunter went home and did what Narada Muni told him to do, and he became very happy. Every day people from the nearby village came to see the hunter who had become a devotee of Lord Krishna. They always brought prasadam with them for the devotee and his good wife to eat.

Some time later, Narada Muni was again passing through the forest with his friend Parvata Muni. They went to visit the hunter. When the hunter saw his spiritual master coming, he ran out to greet him and bow down before him. But Narada saw that the hunter was running in a very strange way, jumping from side to side and hopping on one foot and then on the other foot.

After the hunter had bowed down and offered his respects to his spiritual master, Narada Muni said to him, "My dear devotee, I am very glad to see you. But please tell me, why were you running in such a strange way? Is something wrong?"

"Oh, my spiritual master," said the hunter, "nothing is wrong. My life has been so blissful since I stopped killing animals and began chanting Hare Krishna. I was just running like that so that I would not step on any ants or small bugs on the ground. They are also parts of Krishna, and I did not want to hurt them."

### WORDS TO WATCH

Narada Muni	vina	sins	forest	suffer
village	terrible	sage	wrong	plucked

### QUESTIONS

1. What did Narada Muni see when he was walking through the forest?
2. Why did the hunter miss his shot?
3. Why did the hunter want to stop killing animals after he talked to Narada Muni?
4. How did Narada Muni take care of feeding the hunter?

5. How did chanting Hare Krishna change the hunter?

6. What do you think would have happened to the hunter if he had not met Narada Muni?

### WORD STUDY EXERCISE (Things to Eat)

#### I. Read and Spell

milk rolls bread chapati cereal  
lettuce spinach sweet rice tomato  
rice peas laddu puri pie  
corn potatoes butter pakora soup  
dahl ice cream carrots orange juice beans  
pancakes cake halavah

#### II. Read and Answer

1. Which of these are vegetables? Which are sweet?
2. Name some more kinds of food.
3. What prasadam do you like best?

#### II. Write

Sweet rice and halavah, laddu and bharat,  
Krishna prasadam, you should eat a lot.

## The Witness Gopal

Once two brahmanas went to Vrindavan to worship Lord Krishna. One brahmana was old and rich, and the other brahmana was young and poor. The young brahmana was always helping and serving the old brahmana during the hard trip.

While the two brahmanas were visiting the temple of Gopal, the old brahmana said to the young brahmana, "You have been so good to me and helped me so much on this trip. I want to thank you in some way. I would like you to marry my daughter."

The old brahmana promised his daughter to the young brahmana in front of the Deity of Gopal. When a promise is made before the Deity, it cannot be broken.

The two brahmanas went back to their town. After a few weeks, the poor young brahmana went to get his new wife.

When the rich brahmana's family saw the poor brahmana, they became very upset. "Our daughter cannot marry this poor man," said the wife. "If you let this happen, my husband, then I will kill myself from shame."

"Our sister is too good for this poor man," said the sons. "If she marries him then we will have to leave home out of shame."

The oldest son said, "No one heard you promise my sister to this poor man. Only the Deity of Gopal heard, so he has no witness. You can say you never made such a promise."

The old brahmana did not want to break his promise, but he had to do what his family wanted. He prayed to the Deity of Gopal, "Please, somehow help me to keep my promise."

When the poor young brahmana heard that the old brahmana would not keep his promise, he was not surprised. He knew that the rich brahmana's family would not want him to marry the daughter.

"I will go to Gopal for help," thought the young brahmana. "The old brahmana is a good man. Surely Shri Gopal will help him keep his promise."

The poor brahmana went again to Vrindavan to the temple of Gopal. He bowed down before the Deity and prayed, "Oh my dear Gopal, You are my dearest friend. You heard the old brahmana promise his daughter to me. Please come and be our witness to that promise. Save the good old brahmana from the lie his family is making him tell."

Then the Deity of Gopal said, "My dear young boy, I want to help you and the old brahmana because you are My devotees. But how can I come with you? Whoever heard of a Deity walking?"



"Oh, but Gopal," said the poor young brahmana, "if You can talk, then You can walk. Please come and be our witness."

The Gopal Deity laughed. "All right," He said, "you walk to the town, and I will follow. You will know that I am behind you by the jingle of the bells on My feet. Do not look behind you, for if you do then I will stop right where I am."

The young brahmana set out for his town. He could hear the sound of Gopal's foot bells behind him. He felt very blissful. He walked and walked, and he did not look back.

When they got to the edge of his town, the young brahmana felt afraid. "Maybe Gopal is not really there " he thought, and so he looked behind him.

The Gopal Deity laughed and stood still. "Go to the town and tell the people I am here," He said. And He would not take another step.

The boy ran to the town crying, "My good people, come and see! Gopal has come as witness to prove ~~that~~ the old brahmana promised his daughter to me. Come and see! Come and see!"

All the people ran to see. The old brahmana ran too. When he saw the Deity of Gopal he fell on the ground at Gopal's feet. He prayed, "Oh my dear Gopal, You are my most merciful Lord. Thank you for saving me from breaking my promise. Now my daughter can marry the good young brahmana."

All the people of the town began to worship the Deity of Gopal. They built a big temple for Him, and they called it the Witness of Gopal Temple.

You can still go to that temple today to worship the wonderful Deity of Gopal.

### WORDS TO WATCH

during Deity jingle

daughter witness another

promise follow merciful

### QUESTIONS

1. Why did the rich brahmana want the poor brahmana to marry his daughter?
2. Why didn't the rich brahmana want the poor brahmana to marry his daughter?
3. Why did the Gopal Deity want to help the brahmanas?
4. The Deity of Gopal was made of brass. Why was He able to walk and talk?

## The Day Shrila Prabhupada Left New Vrindavan

Shrila Prabhupada was going away. The devotees walked down the road with him.

A devotee stayed behind to clean Shrila Prabhupada's rooms. She found flowers that were offered to the Deity. They smelled so sweet.

She swept where Shrila Prabhupada had sat. She bowed down and touched her head to the floor where his feet had been.

She made the bed where Shrila Prabhupada had taken rest. The sheets smelled like sandalwood oil. The air was filled with the sweet aroma of incense offered to Radha and Krishna.

She chanted Hare Krishna all the time. She looked at the picture of Shrila Prabhupada on the wall. Tears came to her eyes. She was happy knowing that Shrila Prabhupada was her father.

The devotee began to think of him and remember:

Prabhupada liked milk from the cows. It was rich. Sometimes he would eat corn meal cereal for breakfast.

Shrila Prabhupada would go walking with Devananda every day. He used a walking stick.

Satyabhama and Shyama dasi made chapatis for Shrila Prabhupada. He had a big plate of fruit at four o'clock. He gave every devotee a piece of orange, apple, or other fruit with his kind hand.

Every morning Shrila Prabhupada would sing prayers to his spiritual master. He would play the harmonium too.

One time he let some of the devotees come into his room. They listened to a record of Hare Krishna. They all danced around Shrila Prabhupada.

Once a devotee pulled up a bucket of water from the well. She filled Shrila Prabhupada's brass cup with water, and he poured the water on his lotus feet. Then he went into the temple.

Shrila Prabhupada told a story at keertan one night. He said, "You are at the bottom of the well. I throw you a rope. You catch the rope." That rope is Krishna consciousness. We must reach out and grab the rope. Shrila Prabhupada will pull us up, back home, back to Godhead.

Sometimes Devananda would rub Shrila Prabhupada's back in the sun. He would sit on the ground. The devotees could peek at him.

The devotee dried her eyes, smiling at the picture of her spiritual master. She thought, "I offer my obeisances unto my spiritual master who is very dear to Lord Krishna, having

taken shelter at His lotus feet. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Chaitanya and delivering the Western countries." She hoped Shрила Prabhupada would come back again soon.

She swept the lotus dust into a pile and shouted, "Haribol! All glories to Shрила Prabhupada!"

## WORDS TO WATCH

aroma

cereal

harmonium

## WORD STUDY EXERCISE

### I Read and Spell

Krishna das

Balai dasi

Girish das

Tara dasi

Hari das

Badra dasi

Guru das

Lalita dasi

Ananda das

Palika dasi

Taruni dasi

## II. Read and Answer

1. Say all the names of Krishna that you can spell.
2. What are some other spiritual names? Don't say them if you can't spell them.

## III. Write

1. Govinda, Gopal Rama, Sri Madhusudana, Giridhari Gopinatha, Madana Mohana.
2. O my Lord, Your holy name alone can give all blessings, and therefore You have many, many names like Krishna, Rama and Govinda.

## The Story of Dhruva Maharaja

Once there was a prince named Dhruva Maharaja. When he was still a young boy, his stepmother told him he could never be king.

Young Dhruva Maharaja went to his mother and said in anger, "My stepmother will not let me become king. What can I do to get another kingdom, bigger than my father's?"

"My dear son," said his mother gently, "your father is the strongest king in the world. No one but Lord Vishnu Himself can help you get another kingdom bigger than his."

"Where can I find Lord Vishnu?" asked the boy.

"I do not know," said his mother. "There are holy men who live in the forest, and they know Lord Vishnu, so maybe He is there. But you are just a young boy. You had better wait until you grow up."

"No!" said Dhruva. "I want a kingdom now! I will go to the forest and ask Lord Vishnu to help me get a kingdom back."

In the spiritual sky, Lord Vishnu saw Dhruva looking for Him. He sent Narada Muni to find out what the boy wanted. Narada Muni came to Dhruva and said, "My dear Dhruva, I see that you are looking for Lord Vishnu. What do you want from Him?"

Young Dhruva said, "My father and step mother will not let me rule the kingdom. I am told that only Lord Vishnu can help me get another, bigger kingdom."

"That is true," said Narada Muni, "but it is very, very hard to find Lord Vishnu. You had better wait until you grow up."

"No!" said Dhruva Maharaja. "I want a kingdom now. I must find Lord Vishnu right away."

"All right," said Narada. "If you really want to find Lord Vishnu you must do just what I say. Sit down in a holy spot without moving and think of Lord Vishnu in your heart. Make a Deity of Lord Vishnu and chant: Om namo bhagavate vasudevaya. In this way you will see the Lord."

Young Dhruva wanted very much to find Lord Vishnu, so he went right away to a holy spot and did just what his spiritual master, Narada, had told him to do. He did not even eat or sleep, but just thought of Lord Vishnu in his heart.

Lord Vishnu saw Dhruva's great effort. After only a short time, He appeared to the boy, glowing more brightly than the sun. "What is it you want from Me, My dear boy?" asked Lord Vishnu.

When Dhruva saw Lord Vishnu, he was overcome by the beauty of the Lord. He bowed down at the Lord's feet and began to pray, "O my Lord, You are more beautiful than hundreds of shining suns. I was trying to find You so You would help me



get a kingdom to rule. But now I see that I was looking for some pieces of broken glass and instead I have found a jewel. All I want now is to be able to see You always."

### WORDS TO WATCH

Dhruva Maharaja

Lord Vishnu

colorful

young

answered

effort

stepmother

giant

overcome

kingdom

spiritual sky

pieces

### QUESTIONS

1. Why was Dhruva Maharaja looking for Lord Vishnu?
2. Why did Dhruva's mother think Lord Vishnu might be in the forest?
3. How has our spiritual master told us to find Lord Vishnu? Why don't we just think of Lord Vishnu in our hearts?
4. What do you think Dhruva Maharaja meant when he said, "I was looking for some pieces of broken glass and instead I have found a jewel?"

## Krishna and the Black Snake Kaliya

Once, when Krishna was a small boy in Vrindavan, there was a big black snake named Kaliya living in the Yamuna River. Kaliya had about one hundred heads, and when he breathed, poison came out of his mouths. All the animals and plants near the river and in the river were being killed by the poison. The cowherd boys could not go to the riverbank to play, and the cows could not drink the clear water. Krishna thought to Himself, "I will get rid of this snake who is bothering my friends."

Krishna climbed up a tree on the bank of the river and jumped into the poison water. He made such big waves and so much noise that Kaliya came to look.

When Kaliya saw Krishna he thought, "This Krishna is very beautiful. But He has made me angry by coming into my pool." Thinking this, Kaliya grabbed Krishna and put his black coils around Him.

Krishna's friends, the cowherd boys and the cows, as well as Mother Yasoda and Nanda Maharaja and all the gopis and cowherd men, were standing on the bank of the river. When they saw Krishna being held by Kaliya, they all began to cry, "Oh Krishna! Krishna!" for they thought that their little boy was being killed by the snake. Some of them fell on the ground, and some tried to jump into the poison water.

Only Balarama was smiling because He knew that no one could harm His younger brother Krishna.

Krishna let Himself be held by Kaliya's black coils for two hours, until He saw that all the people of Vrindavana were on the point of death out of fear of losing Him. Then Krishna made Himself get bigger and bigger until Kaliya had to let Him go.

Kaliya looked at Krishna with eyes like fire and mouth breathing poison. Then Krishna jumped on Kaliya, and Kaliya tried to bite Him, but Krishna moved around him. As they moved in a circle, the snake became very tired and weak.

Krishna then jumped on Kaliya's heads. Krishna is the greatest of all dancers, and He began to dance on Kaliya's heads which were moving to and fro.

On seeing this, the demigods in heaven began to shower flowers, beat drums, play flutes and sing songs and prayers.

Krishna was dancing on Kaliya's heads, and Kaliya was trying to push Krishna down with some of his other heads. Krishna was kicking Kaliya with His lotus feet until Kaliya could not stand any more and was fighting for his very life. Kaliya then began to see that Krishna as the Supreme Lord and master of everything, and he began to give himself up to Krishna.

Kaliya had many wives, and when they saw that Krishna was about to kill their husband, they came and prayed to Him to let their husband live. "My dear Lord Krishna," they said, "we know that You are very kind to fight with our husband, who is so sinful. But You must know that if our husband dies, life will be very hard for us. So we are praying that You will kindly not kill him."

Upon hearing the sweet prayers of the wives of Kaliya, Krishna let the snake go. Then Kaliya began to pray to Krishna, "My dear Lord, I have the body of a snake, and such a body is always angry. I can only hope to get out of this body by Your mercy. You may kill me or let me go as You wish."

Krishna said to Kaliya, "You must go away from here. Take your family with you. Do not poison the water of the Yamuna anymore. Let My cows and cowherd boys drink the clear water."

So Kaliya went away to the ocean, and the Yamuna water became pure once again.

When Krishna came out of the water, the cowherd boys, the cows, Mother Yasoda, Nanda Maharaja and all the gopis and cowherd men felt like they had gotten their lives back. They were very happy, and each one held Krishna to his chest.

Balarama also held Krishna, but He was laughing because He had known all along that nothing would happen to Krishna.

## WORDS TO WATCH

Kaliya bothering to and fro

Yamuna River coils husband

poison Vrindavan laughing losing

## QUESTIONS

1. Why did Krishna want to get rid of Kaliya?
2. Why were the people of Vrindavan standing on the bank of the Yamuna and crying and falling on the ground?
3. Do you know what Kaliya's wives meant when they said to Krishna, "We know that You are very kind to fight with our husband, who is so sinful?" What happens to someone who is killed by Krishna?
4. Why was Balarama laughing?

## Krishna's Alphabet

A is for Arjuna,

N for Narada

B is for Balarama

O is for offering Krishna prasadam

C for kachori, Krishna prasadam

P is for Prabhupada

D is for dhoti,

Q for Queen Kunti,

E is for Ekadasi,

R is for Radha, the greatest devotee

F is for father, whose name is Nandaji

S is for sur i,

G is for gopi,

T is for tulasi,

H is for Hari,

U for Uddhava, the pure devotee

I is for ISKCON, Krishna's society

V is for Veda

J is for Jagannatha,

W for worship,

K is for karma

X is for expert, try to be perfect

L is for Lalita, the friend of Radha

Y is for yoga

M is for mahatma,

Z is for zodiac.

## Krishna's Headache

One day Narada Muni came to see Krishna at Dvaraka. "My dear Narada," said Lord Krishna, "I am always so glad to see you. Tell me where you have been traveling."

"Oh dear Lord," said Narada, "I have been traveling all over the three worlds, but all the time I am just thinking of Your lotus feet. I have seen the glittering riches of the heavenly planets, but I have seen nothing that is as beautiful as Your shining moonlike face. Dear Lord, please tell me, is there some way that I may serve You?"

"Narada, My devotee," said Krishna, "there is some service you may give Me. I am feeling a slight headache today. My headache will only be cured if I get some dust from the feet of My devotees. Will you kindly get Me this medicine?"

"I will go right away, my Lord," said Narada, and he left.

Narada went to the river bank, where he saw two yogis sitting under a tree talking about Krishna's energy. "I can get some dust from their feet to cure the Lord's headache," thought Narada. He walked over to the yogis.

"Krishna's energy is everywhere," one yogi was saying. "Nothing is outside Krishna."

"Yes," said the second yogi, "we are all Krishna."

"Excuse me, my dear yogis," said Narada Muni, "the Supreme Lord Shri Krishna has a headache, and He needs some dust from the feet of His devotees to cure His headache. Will you holy men kindly give me some dust from your feet?"

"What!" said the first yogi, "Dust from our feet? Can't you see that we are very busy talking?"

"Go away!" said the second yogi. "You are talking nonsense. We are very busy."

So Narada left the yogis. He walked on until he saw a brahmana. "Good brahmana," said Narada, "The Supreme Lord, Shri Krishna, has a headache and He needs dust from the feet of His devotees to cure His headache. May I please take Him some dust from your feet?"

"Narada Muni," said the brahmana, "how can I give the dust from my feet to Lord Krishna? I will go to hell for offending Him like that. No, I cannot give you dust from my feet."

So Narada went on until he came to Vrindavan. When the gopis saw Narada coming they ran to meet him. "Oh, how is Krishna? What news can you tell us about Him? Please, Narada, tell us what He is doing. Tell us everything," they all cried together.

"My dear young gopis," said Narada, "Krishna has a headache, and He says it can only be cured with the dust from the feet of His devotee."



"Here, here, Narada, take the dust from our feet," they cried, brushing their feet clean.

"Aren't you afraid you will go to hell for giving Krishna the dust from your feet?" asked Narada.

"We may go to hell. We do not care." answered the gopis. "But Krishna's headache must be cured."

### WORDS TO WATCH

headache

glittering

yogis

Dvaraka

cure

energy

traveling

medicine

### QUESTIONS

1. Why wouldn't the yogis give Narada the dust from their feet? The brahmanas?

2. How does this story show that the gopis are Krishna's greatest devotees?

3. Shrila Prabhupada tells us that we should follow in the footsteps of the gopis by serving Krishna without caring what happens to ourselves. Shrila Prabhupada is always serving Krishna in that way. Can you tell a story about Shrila Prabhupada that shows how he is following in the footsteps of the gopis?

## WORD STUDY EXERCISE (All Kinds of Things)

### I. Read and Spell

#### (Fast and Slow Things)

turtle	jet plane	deer
Hanuman	snail	Garud'

#### (Big and Little Things)

elephant	seed	sky
ghee wick	world	ant
spiritual sky	temple	sun
jiva soul	incense stick	ocean

#### (Devotees and Demons)

Ravana	Kamsa	Prabhupada
Haridasa	Radha	Prahlada

### II. Read and Answer

1. Name some more things that are fast or slow, big or little.
2. Name some more devotees and some more demons.
3. Name some green things, some pretty things, some heavy things, and some light things.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**I.A. You have read these stories in the third part of your book. Tell what each one is about.**

**Narada Muni and the Hunter**

**The Witness Gopal**

**The Story of Dhruva Maharaja**

**Krishna's Headache**

**Krishna and the Black Snake Kaliya**

**B. Which story did you like best? Why?**

**C. Read the story you liked best to your class, or read it again to yourself.**

**II.A. Learn by heart a poem you read in Part Three of your book, and recite it to your class.**

**B. Copy the poem you like best in the third part of your book. Copy it carefully.**