



Spiritual Letter Land



A TO Z

Part 1

Gopal's Fun School (GFS)



ISKCON
CHOWPATTY



International Society For Krishna Consciousness

Founder Acharya : His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

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Gopal's Fun School (GFS)

A TO Z (Part - 1)

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Gopal's Fun School (GFS)



Śrī Guru praṇāma

om ajñāna-timirāndhasya
jñānāñjana-śalākayā
cakṣur unmīlitaṁ yena
tasmai śrī-gurave namaḥ



Prayers to Srila Prabhupada

nama om viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe



Sri Caitanya
Mahaprabhu

Nityananda
Prabhu

Gadadhara
Pandit

Advaita
Acarya

Srivas
Thakur

Śrī Pañca-tattva praṇāma

śrī-kṛṣṇa-caitanya
prabhu-nityānanda
śrī-advaita gadādhara
śrīvāsādi-gaura-bhakta-vṛnda

Mahamantra

Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa
Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare
Hare Rāma Hare Rāma
Rāma Rāma Hare Hare

A - Arjuna

WHO IS ARJUNA?

Arjuna is one of the five Pandavas. He is the greatest archer. He is a friend of Krishna. Krishna spoke the Bhagavad-Gita to Arjuna in the battlefield of Kurukshetra.



ARJUNA AND THE EYE OF THE BIRD



Long ago in the kingdom of Hastinapura, which was ruled by the Kuru Dynasty lived the royal princes known as the Pandavas and the Kauravas. The Pandavas were 5 princes namely Yudishthira, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva. The Kauravas were 100 princes namely Duryodhana, Dushyasana and 98 others.

‘Dronacharya’ was the royal ‘Guru’ or ‘Teacher’ of these princes. He would train them in the art of war which included archery, ‘gada’ fighting, sword fighting, spear fighting and other arts of fighting with weapons.

All the princes were extremely clever and had learnt the teachings of their Guru very well. Yudishthira was expert at throwing spears and chariot fighting, Bhima and Duryodhana were very good in gada-fighting, Nakula and Sahadeva at sword fighting, and Ashvatthama who was the son of Dronacharya was excellent in using magical weapons. Arjuna was an all rounder, excellent at archery (bow and arrows) and could fight with sixty thousand soldiers at the same time.

One day, Dronacharya decided to test his students. He therefore placed a toy bird on top of a branch of a tree and called all his students. He said, "I want all of you to aim at the eye of that toy bird situated on the tree with your bow and arrows. I will call each one of you turn by turn to do so".

First, he called the eldest prince Yudishthira. When Yudishthira placed an arrow on his bow and aimed at the bird, Dronacharya asked him, "O prince, tell me what do you see." Yudishthira replied, 'O Gurudev, I can see you, my brothers, the tree and the bird'. Dronacharya asked him the same question again and again and each time received the same reply. Dronacharya was very angry with Yudishthira and said "Keep your bow and arrows down and go back to your seat".

Dronacharya then called Duryodhana and asked him. "O prince, tell me what do you see." Duryodhana too, gave the same reply as Yudishthira. Angry Dronacharya asked Duryodhana to go and did not allow him to shoot either. One by one, Dronacharya called all the princes and asked them the same question, to which all of them gave

the same answer. He was extremely disappointed with them and sent all of them back without letting them shoot.

Finally, Dronacharya called Arjuna and asked him, "O prince, tell me what you see? Can you see me, your brothers, the tree or the bird?" Arjuna replied 'O Gurudev, I can only see the bird's eye and nothing else'.

This reply of Arjuna, made Dronacharya extremely happy and he immediately asked Arjuna to shoot the eye of the bird. Arjuna carefully aimed at the bird's eye with full concentration and released his arrow from the bow. The arrow perfectly hit the eye of the toy bird, and the bird instantly fell down to the ground.

Dronacharya was extremely satisfied and pleased with Arjuna. He hugged Arjuna tightly and praised him for his qualities and ability to focus and hit the target perfectly.



Arjuna accepts Krishna as the Supreme Personality of Godhead.



Moral's of the Story:

1. The Power of Attention/Focus made Arjuna the greatest archer and warrior in the whole world.
2. We should also be attentive when we study, play, help others, chant or pray to get the best results.

Value : A - Attention

• Value - Story 1



During the construction of the Taj Mahal there was an expert plasterer who worked on the construction site. The construction manager was inspecting the construction every day, noticed for three days in a row the plasterer was sitting in the same place and mixing the same plaster. The construction manager became angry and said, "Why are you still simply sitting and mixing this plaster? You are so lazy!" The man who was mixing the plaster told the inspector "Let me show you what i have been doing" The plasterer then threw some mixed plaster on the wall and then he challenged the construction manager to take out the plaster. The construction manager tried with all his might but was unsuccessful. The plaster was so well mixed; it became solid and hard, that no one could get it off the wall, and it is still there today. So children, next time you visit the Taj Mahal try to spot the plaster!

Value : A - Attention

• Value - Story 2



Once upon a time, Kapil and his friend Sudhir were walking in a busy, crowded road. Suddenly Kapil turned towards his friend and with a beaming smile said, "That's the voice of a cricket. Not the game cricket but the insect cricket! Come let's find it."

Sudhir immediately began to find the tiny insect (cricket) on that busy road. But it was this nature loving Kapil who found that cricket some feet away in a road side bush. Sudhir was surprised at Kapil's ability to hear the voice of a small cricket on such a busy road. Kapil was not at all surprised rather he was very happy. They continued walking on the road. A few steps later Sudhir asked "How is it possible for you to recognize such a small sound on such a busy road?" With a mischevious smile Kapil said "I'll show you!" Kapil took out a coin from his pocket, flicked into the air and allowed it to drop on the ground with the sound "Clin Clin Clan..."

As soon as the coin fell on the ground, the entire crowd of commuters came to a stand still:- as each one heard the sound of the coin falling to the ground. The public started checking their pockets to see if it was their own coin that fell. Seeing this Kapil started laughing and told his friend "If you love something, if you pay attention, you can hear!"

VALUE LEARNT

"When one is absorbed in whatever he does it will have a great and lasting impact"

B - Balram

BALARAM DESTROYS THE DEMON PRALAMBASURA



When Krishna was a little boy, He, Balaram and their cowherd friends would go to the beautiful forest of Vrindavana each day to play and graze their cows. They would pluck delicious fruits from the trees and eat them, play games, chase birds, imitate the sound



of birds and animals, swing below the trees, sing and dance in the beautiful forest where the cool breeze would bring fragrant scents from the bright and colourful flowers.

One day when they were all enjoying and playing in the beautiful forest of Vrindavana, a demon known as Pralambasura joined their group disguised as a cowherd boy. Krishna immediately understood that this new cowherd boy was a demon who had come to



kill him. Knowing his plans, Krishna called Balaram and all his cowherd friends to play a wrestling match. Balaram's team won the match. As a punishment for loosing the match, Krishna's team was required to carry Balaram's team on their backs and walk in



the forest.

Taking advantage of this game, Pralambasura carried Balaram on his back and misled him far away into the forest. Soon, Pralambasura showed his original demoniac form with big sharp teeth, tall and strong body with fire blazing from his mouth. Pralambasura started expanding higher and higher and with his demoniac strength, tried to crush Balaram to death. But, Balaram beat Pralambasura hard on the head with his strong fists and with one single punch Pralambasura fell to the ground with a tremendous thud, with a smashed head and blood pouring from his mouth.

On seeing the demon dead, Krishna and all the cowherd boys cheered, clapped, hugged and praised Balaram for the heroic strength displayed by Him in killing Pralambasura.



Moral's of the Story:

1. Krishna and Balaram are the Supreme Personality of Godhead. God is in our heart and is always watching our thoughts and activities. So, we cannot cheat or fool Him.
2. If we try to cheat God or others, initially we might win like the demon Pralambasura but ultimately we will loose.

Value : **B** - Bold and Brave

BRAVE LOBHIMAL



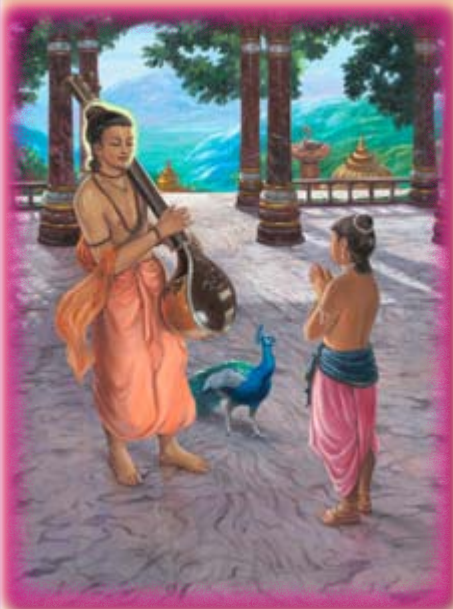
Once upon a time there was a man called Lobhimal. He was a cruel and atheistic (one who is faithless or hates God) person. He bought a huge cloth factory. Immediately Lobhimal passed an order, "From tomorrow, no one in this factory will be allowed to wear tilak or any other marks on their body connected to God. If anyone disobeys this order then he will be thrown out of the job!"

Next day, all the workers removed their tilaks and kanthi malas and all other Godly decorations from their bodies. Only one worker, Prahlad, was still wearing his tilak. He was immediately taken to the office of the owner, Lobhimal.

Lobhimal thundered, "Don't you know that if anyone is found with tilak in this factory, I will kick that person out of here!" Prahlad replied, "If I love my lord, what's wrong if I show my love for Him? Every national government building has a national flag on top of it. Every policeman wears a police uniform. Similarly every true devotee of God should be allowed to wear a tilak and carry a bead bag as a part of his spiritual uniform!"

Lobhimal was very impressed by the boldness of Prahlad. He said, "Prahlad, you are the only true devotee here. You have great courage, faith and determination to serve the Lord in all circumstances. So from today, I make a rule that only you will be allowed, to wear tilak and all others will not!"

VALUES LEARNT



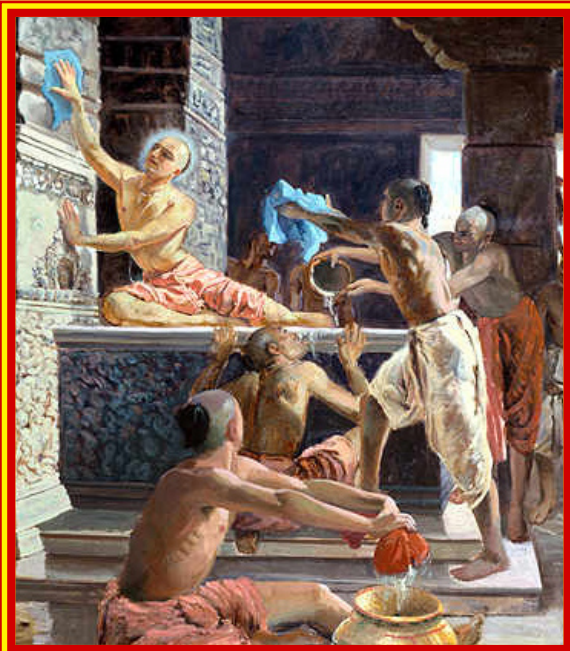
- 1) God helps those who help themselves. We must be bold and courageous in performing our duties. Do your best and leave the rest to God!
- 2) We must take guidance from our seniors, parents and teachers so that we do not fall into unnecessary trouble. Eg. Boldly crossing a busy road when the signal is green!

C - Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

NIMAI'S PUPPY



Lord Chaitanya was as naughty and playful as Lord Krishna!



By his personal example, Lord Chaitanya taught us how to worship Lord Krishna.

Lord Chaitanya was called 'Nimai' when he was a little boy. One day when little Nimai was playing with His friends in a garden, four puppies came there. When Nimai saw them, He pointed at one of the dogs and said, "Look, what a sweet little puppy! He is going to be My new pet." Little Nimai started playing with the puppy, laughing and rolling on the ground for hours together. He then tied a piece of twine around the neck of the puppy, got it home and tied it outside the house.

As Nimai entered the house, His mother, Sachi, was going out. She said, "I am glad You came, Nimai. I am going down to the Ganges to take a bath. Stay here and I will be right back." As soon as mother Sachi left, little Nimai untied the puppy and got him inside the house. He was playing, running and jumping with the dog all over the house. When Mother Sachi returned home she saw the puppy and shouted, "Eeech! A dirty dog! What is he doing here? Nimai, You are a Brahmana boy and You are not supposed to play with dogs!" "But he is My new pet," Nimai said. "What is wrong with that?" Mother Sachi said, "Dogs are unclean. They eat dead animals and all kinds of things that we would not even touch. You must get rid of him immediately."

Nimai begged His mother, to let Him keep the little puppy. "Ok, we will let him stay," Mother Sachi said. "But, You will have to tie him outside the house." An overjoyed Nimai tied the puppy outside the house and went to the river to take a bath.

When little Nimai had gone to the river, Mother Sachi untied the puppy and let him free and the puppy ran away. One of the neighborhood boys saw what happened and ran down to the Ganges to tell Nimai the terrible news. "Nimai! Nimai! Mother Sachi has



Lord Krishna incarnated as Lord Chaitanya and Mother Yashoda as Mother Sachi.



Lord Chaitanya also all the animals and birds in Vrindavan just like Lord Krishna had done.

just let your pet loose!" "What?!" Nimai jumped up onto the bank and ran home as fast as His little legs could carry Him. Nimai could not find His pet anywhere. He looked and looked, but the puppy was nowhere to be found. "Someone has stolen my puppy," Nimai cried.

Mother Sachi held Him and tried to comfort Him. "Do not cry, my little Nimai," Mother Sachi said. "Please do not cry." "Somebody took My puppy!" Nimai said. "I cannot find him anywhere. He is gone. I want my puppy back." "Oh, that is why you are crying," Mother Sachi said. Nimai just cried and cried. Mother Sachi took Him on her lap and tried to calm Him and comforted Nimai with her gentle voice. She said "Look, we will try to find him tomorrow, so please do not cry anymore, my sweet little Nimai". She gave Him some tasty prasadam and He was soon very happy again.

In the meantime, the puppy had reached the other end of the town. Because Nimai had touched and embraced the dog, the puppy was dancing and rolling on the ground and on top of his voice started singing "Radha-Krishna, Radha-Krishna, Gauranga, Gauranga!" People looked at each other with amazement when they saw how the puppy was dancing. People began to gather around the dancing dog. They had never seen such an event in their whole lives and they could not understand what was going on.

They did not know that Nimai had touched the dog and given him love of Krishna. For a few days the puppy kept on dancing and singing Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare". Then one day while singing and dancing the

puppy suddenly fell down and died. Suddenly, a brilliant light came from the sky and a shining airplane, decorated with flowers and thousands of jewels and a beautiful satin seat, came down from the sky. The airplane stopped and Gandharvas began to sing and blow conchshells. All around, one could hear the sound of "Hari, Hari!"

Then a brilliant light came out of the body of the dog. A beautiful person, dressed in divine clothes appeared and climbed on to the

flowered airplane. It was the spirit soul who had just left the dog's body. Now liberated, he was sitting on the airplane ready to go back to the spiritual world to be with Lord Krishna eternally. The demigods showered flowers, offered prayers and bid farewell to the spirit soul.

All glories to

Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu!



Lord Chaitanya makes cruel and envious animals chant Hare Krishna and dance in ecstasy in Jharikhand forest.

Moral's of the Story:

- 1) Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is the incarnation of Lord Krishna in this modern age of Kali Yuga.
- 2) In the previous yugas Lord Krishna and other incarnations killed the demons with weapons like Sudarshan Chakra, bow and arrow etc.
- 3) Now, in this Kali Yuga, Lord Chaitanya defeats the demons and makes them into devotees, by giving them the HARE KRISHNA MAHA MANTRA, Mahaprasad and His loving mercy



Lord Chaitanya dancing His in front of Lord Jagannath during the Rath yatra festival.

Poem: Nimai's puppy...



When Nimai was in the woods one day,
A small puppy came along to play.

Nimai brought him to His home,
And tied him so he would not roam.

Mother Sachi said, "Oh, no!"
Then untied the dog to let him go.

The people they did crowd around,
As the dog chanted and rolled on the ground.

Back to Godhead went the soul of the pet,
For Nimai's mercy he did get.

VALUE STORY FOR c - COMPASSION

One day a rich man's son was lost in a town fair. That little boy was crying and weeping for a few days lost in the streets. One good hearted man saw his sorry state and gave him some food, clothes and medicines. Again this boy started feeling very sad and started crying. Another person took pity on him and spoke some sweet and inspiring words to pacify his heart. Again a few days passed and this boy started feeling useless. He started developing bad habits like smoking and gambling to pass his time. Another person took pity and admitted him to a school to learn proper behaviour and have good education. Finally a man recognized this boy and took him back to his

billionaire father. The father was so overjoyed and gave his son the best clothes, food, affection and education! He also gave a huge reward to the man who bought his son back.



Compassion should be shown for the body, mind and souls of others.

VALUES LEARNT

- 1) We all must show compassion to those who are in difficulty. No one likes to live with a selfish person.
- 2) Selfish people are always fighting with others to get what they want and are never satisfied with what they have.
- 3) We can show compassion for the body (give food, clothes, medicine etc), for the mind (speak sweetly) and for the intelligence (give books, knowledge and education)
- 4) The best compassion is to connect the person (the spirit soul) with his Supreme father (Lord Sri Krishna) who can give all happiness to His surrendered children and His devotees. Such people will get the highest reward from the Lord!

D - DAMODAR LILA



Yogis, jnanis etc. perform great tapasya for many many years and still cannot capture Krishna in their hearts. But he is very easily captured by the devotees who have great love for him.

Krishna was very naughty when he was a little boy. He would steal butter from the house and feed it to the monkeys and run all around Vrindavan as fast as His little feet could take Him, so that mother Yashoda could not catch Him and punish Him.

One day when mother Yashoda was churning butter and singing beautiful songs of the childhood pastimes of baby Krishna, little Krishna, who was hungry and wanted milk came to her. He sat on mother Yashoda's lap and she lovingly started feeding Him her milk. Suddenly, she remembered that she had kept some milk on the stove to boil. She immediately kept baby Krishna on the ground and rushed to the kitchen.

Krishna got very angry when mother Yashoda had to place

Him on the ground and leave; as He wanted the love of mother Yashoda. In this anger, He broke the pots of butter and started eating the butter and sharing it with His monkey friends.

When mother Yashoda came back, she saw what little Krishna had done. On seeing her, Krishna fled in the fear of being punished. With a stick in her hand, mother Yashoda chased Krishna all around the house and finally caught Him. In order to punish Him, she decided to tie Him with a rope to a huge grinding mortar. But, when she tried to tie Him, she found that the rope she was using was short by 2 inches. She gathered more ropes from the house and added to it, but the rope was still 2 inches short.

Mother Yashoda was astonished and wondered to herself "How



Even the demigods in the heavens offer prayers to Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Here Nalakuvera and Manigriva (sons of Kubera) are praying to him.

is this happening? Each time I add more rope they fall short by 2 inches". Seeing



Krishna is also called Damodara because He agreed to be tied by the ropes of Mother Yashoda's love. 'Dama' means rope and 'udara' means stomach.

her puzzled and tired, little Krishna finally allowed her to bind Him by her love. Upon tying Him, mother Yashoda left, to complete her household duties.

After she had gone, little Krishna thought to Himself, "Mother Yashoda left me without feeding me, so I broke the pots and fed the monkeys butter, and now she has tied me to this wooden mortar. I will now do something more mischievous". Thinking this, Krishna dragged Himself along with the wooden mortar in the courtyard, however, while dragging Himself, the wooden mortar got stuck between two Arjuna trees. Krishna pulled Himself with great force and the trees fell down with a loud crash.

From these two trees appeared two persons named Nalakuvera and Manigriva. Many years ago, Narada

Muni had cursed them for their bad behaviour and transformed them into these trees. Narada Muni told them, "You will be liberated only when you come in contact with Lord Krishna and when He showers His mercy on you." On seeing Lord Krishna, Nalakuvera and Manigriva bowed down before the Lord and offered wonderful prayers to Him for having saved them. After receiving Krishna's blessings they happily returned to their heavenly abode.

Morals of the Story :

1) There are 2 things necessary for success :

- a) Our endeavour
- b) Lord's mercy.

2) In our activity we must do our best and leave to Krishna the rest !

Krishna will then shower His mercy on us, and we shall soon achieve success.

3) Therefore, it is said, "Work as if the success depends on you and pray as if the success depends on Krishna!"

VALUE STORY FOR D - DETERMINATION

Garuda and the Sparrow



Krishna is very eager to help His devotees who serve Him with great determination.

Once upon a time, a little sparrow was searching for a nice, safe and warm place where she could lay her eggs. After many days of searching, she found a beautiful beach with crisp white sand gleaming in the bright sun. She then laid her eggs in the soft and warm sand on the beach.

While after the sparrow had laid her eggs on the warm sand; the ocean created a big wave, came up to the shore and washed away the sparrow's eggs. Not being able to find her eggs, the sparrow got extremely worried and started flying helter-skelter around the sand where she had laid her eggs. When she couldn't find the eggs she started crying. "Oh Ocean, please, please give me back my eggs. I beg you to please return my eggs" she cried. But the ocean did not even consider her appeal.

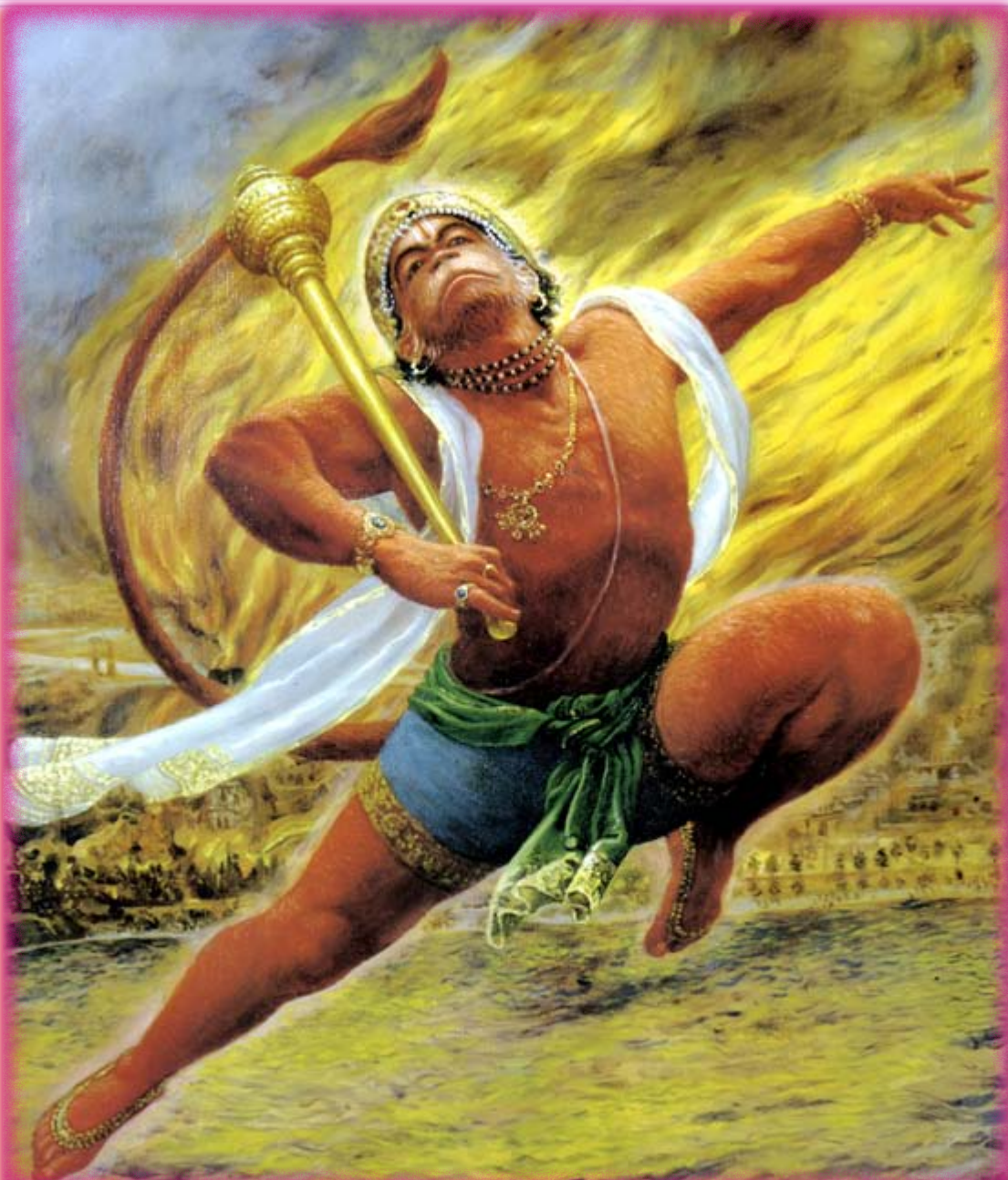
The sparrow told the ocean, "I am going to empty all the water from you, so I can find my

eggs. Please help me Krishna". So, with strong determination, the little sparrow filled her tiny beak with salty ocean water, took it across the sand and emptied it. She did the same thing again repeatedly; went back and forth, for filling the water in her beak and emptying it across the sand.

All the animals and the fish in the ocean saw what she was doing and laughed at her impossible determination and said, "Foolish sparrow, you will never be able to empty the ocean". But the sparrow was not discouraged and did not stop. The news of her activity spread and at last Garuda (the huge bird carrier of Lord Vishnu), flew down to help the little sparrow. Garuda warned the ocean and bellowed, "Oh Ocean, return the eggs to mother Sparrow, else I shall dry you up and locate her eggs"

On hearing Garuda's threat, the ocean got extremely scared and terrified since she knew that a bird as huge as Garuda could swallow up the whole ocean in just two or three gulps. She quickly returned Mother Sparrow's eggs in the next wave that rolled onto the shore.

The sparrow was very joyful on getting her eggs back by the grace of Garuda and Lord Sri Krishna. Then she flew away with her eggs to build a nest far away from the waves.



VALUES LEARNT

- 1) God helps those who help themselves. This is especially true for the devotees. But the Lord never helps the demons.
- 2) Even if the task appears very difficult in the beginning, one will be successful by the grace of Krishna, if one continues with great determination.
- 3) Hanuman ji and the simple monkeys were successful in building the bridge across the ocean to Lanka but Ravana was destroyed by Lord Rama although he had done great tapasya and had a lot of wealth!

E - Elephant King, Gajendra.



When Gajendra was in difficulty, he sincerely called out to the Lord for help. Lord Krishna immediately came to help him.

Gajendra, was the king of elephants. He lived in the valley beneath Trikuta Mountain which was inhabited by many varieties of jungle animals. There, beautiful birds chirped in sweet voices in the trees which stood in gardens, maintained by the demigods. There were monkeys, lions, rabbits, deer and other animals, large and small, wandering in the woods. Trikuta Mountain had many lakes and rivers, with beaches covered by gems resembling grains of sand. The demigods would bathe in the fragrant and crystal clear water.

One day, Gajendra was thirsty. He went to a lake to drink water with his other elephant friends. The elephants entered the water and drank to their hearts' content. Suddenly a big crocodile in the water caught the leg of Gajendra. It started pulling Gajendra into the water. Gajendra fought back with all his force but the crocodile would not let go. He tried pulling the crocodile out of the water but the crocodile was very big and strong. It pulled harder and harder. All the elephants said in despair, "God alone can help you," and left the place one by one.

Gajendra and the crocodile pulled one another, in and out of the water. The fight lasted for one thousand years! During the 1000-year fight, Gajendra could not eat because he was not meant to live so long in the water. His home was the jungle. But, the crocodile had plenty of food to eat because his home was always in the lake. Therefore, the crocodile stayed strong, but Gajendra grew weaker and weaker.

When all the elephants had left him, it appeared that the crocodile was going to win the fight. Gajendra knew that the end of his life was near. He then began to pray to the lotus feet of Lord Vishnu. He sincerely cried out to the Lord, "I offer my respectful obeisances unto you. You are the hope of those who have no other hope. What is the use of an elephant's body covered by ignorance? Please release me from material life." He offered many such prayers to Lord Hari.



Lord Krishna gave Gajendra both material and spiritual benefit. Materially the Lord saved him from suffering and gave him a spiritual body full of bliss!

Narayana in Vaikuntha heard his devotee's cry of despair. How can the Lord bear if his devotees suffer even a little? At once he mounted Garuda and came to the lake where Gajendra was, and hurled the Sudarshan Chakra, at the crocodile. Blazing like a thousand suns and revolving round and round, the Sudarshana Chakra shot forward and cut off the head of the crocodile. The compassionate Lord brought the elephant out of the lake. He accepted with all affection, the lotus flower devoutly offered by Gajendra.

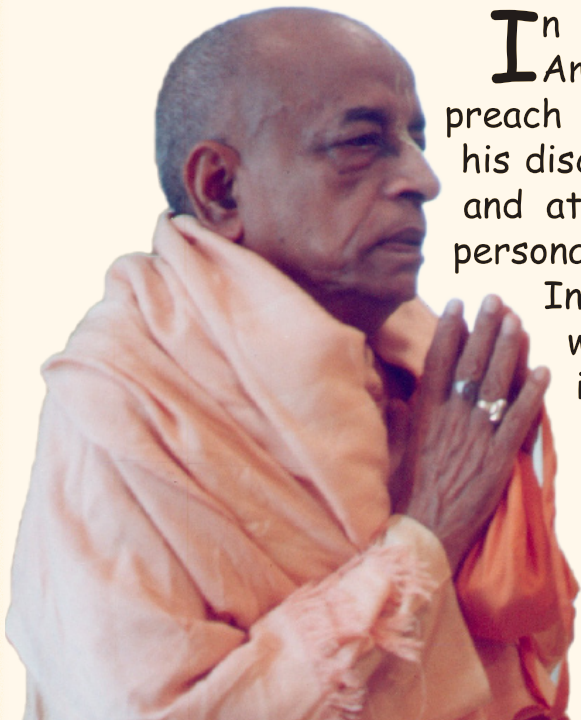
In this way, the Lord saved Gajendra. Because the hands of the Lord directly touched him, Gajendra was immediately freed from his material body and assumed his spiritual form. By turning to Lord Vishnu for help, Gajendra returned home back to the spiritual world.

Morals of the Story :



1. Lord Krishna loves you and all His devotees very much. He cannot bear to see His devotees suffer.
2. Lord Krishna's devotees always pray only to Him to save them from suffering and difficult situations.
3. One should chant the Holy names of "Hare Krishna Maha mantra" throughout one's whole life.
4. Then one will remember Krishna at the time of death. Such a person will go back to the spiritual world full of happiness and bliss!

VALUE STORY FOR E - ENTHUSIASM



In August 1968, Srila Prabhupada inspired 6 American disciples to travel to London and preach Krishna Consciousness. Prabhupada wanted his disciples to go out boldly, chant the holy name, and attract others to chant. Lord Caitanya had personally used this method while touring South India. Caitanya-caritamrta describes that whoever saw Lord Caitanya became ecstatic in love of God; then that ecstatic person would chant the holy name and ask others to chant; and when they saw that person, they too would become ecstatic. Thus the waves of ecstatic love of Krsna would increase. Prabhupada's enthusiasm was contagious, and as he spoke he filled his disciples with the same contagious enthusiasm.

When Mukunda asked Prabhupada if he had any specific instructions, Prabhupada replied with a story. In his youth, he had once seen a movie of Charlie Chaplin. The setting was a formal ball dance, held outdoors. Nearby from the main dance arena, were benches where couples sat. Some mischievous boys had plastered glue on one of the benches, before Charlie and his girl



friend came and sat down. "When Charlie got up"-Prabhupada laughed as he told the story-"his coat tore up the middle!"

Prabhupada told how the couple had returned to the dance, unaware of what had happened. But now they drew stares from the other dancers. Wondering why he was suddenly attracting so much attention, Charlie went into the dressing room and saw in the mirror his ripped coat. Deliberately, he then tore his coat all the way up to the collar, returned to his partner, and began dancing ecstatically.

Seeing Charlie's enthusiasm another man joined, ripping his own coattails and dancing with his partner, as if to compete with the first couple. One by one, the other dancers followed, thinking it to be the fashion, ripping their coattails and danced joyfully!

By the conclusion of the story, the devotees in Prabhupada's

room were all laughing uproariously. Prabhupada had expertly answered his question. By their bold, enthusiastic, confident preaching, they would attract people. Not everyone would immediately "join in the dancing," as had the people in

the Charlie Chaplin film; the devotees might even be considered crazy at first. But they would be offering Krsna consciousness, the highest and rarest gift, and intelligent people would gradually appreciate this, even if at first they did not understand. (Sri Prabhupada Lilamrta Vol. 3)



VALUES LEARNT

1. To be enthusiastic one must be convinced of the truth and follow the path of God.
2. If we have too many material desires then, one will be forced to follow the fashions of the people of this world.
3. With too many choices to decide from, we will always be confused about our goals. By blindly following others our personal enthusiasm and convictions hardly grow!

F - FRIENDSHIP



Krishna comes into this world to invite all of us to join His lila with His eternal friends in the spiritual world.

Which was unfit for His eating. “My dear friend,” Krishna said, “certainly I am not in need of anything, but if My devotee gives Me something as an offering of love even though it may be very insignificant I accept it with great pleasure.”

Sudama still felt ashamed to offer the chipped rice to Lord Krishna. He bowed his head out of shyness. “How can I offer such insignificant things to Krishna?” he thought.

Krishna then snatched the bundle of rice that was hanging from Sudama’s shoulder. “What is this? My dear friend, you have brought Me nice palatable chipped rice! I consider that this quantity of chipped rice will not only satisfy Me but will satisfy this whole creation.”

While Lord Krishna was speaking to Sudama, He ate one morsel of chipped rice from the bundle and when He attempted to eat a second morsel, Rukminidevi stopped the Lord by catching hold of His hand. “My dear

Lord, “ Rukmini devi said, “this one morsel of chipped rice is sufficient to cause him who offered it to become very opulent in this life and to continue his opulence in the next life. You are so kind to Your devotee that even one morsel of chipped rice pleases You very greatly.”

Overwhelmed by all this Sudama forgot to ask for what he actually came to ask. But the Lord realises what His devotee needs, and the Lord’s consort Rukminidevi who is incarnation of Lakshmi, gifts him with his desires. On his return journey, Sudama pondered his circumstances and was thankful for the great friend he had in Lord Krishna. When Sudama finally returned to his home, to his great surprise he found a palatial mansion instead of the hut he had left. He also found his family dressed in extremely nice clothes and ornaments waiting for him. He understood that the Lord had listened to his heart, and provided him these opulences. He always used these opulences in the service of Krishna.

Morals of the Story :

1. Lord Sri Krishna is our Supreme Father, Mother & our well – wishing Friend. Out of His love for us, He provides the sunlight, moonlight, fresh air, vegetables, fruits etc.
2. Most people approach God to ask for material things and pray, “O God! Please give me this and that and my daily bread!”
3. Like great devotees, we should not only keep taking from God but we should also offer God before whatever we eat or we do or we have.
4. If we offer anything to Lord Krishna in love, we will gain millions of times in return like Sudama did.

VALUE STORY FOR F - FAITH

JESUS' TEST

One time a disciple of Jesus Christ became very sick and no medicine could cure him. Jesus said to him, “You must fast for many days.” The other followers were thinking, “How can he do this? We thought Jesus was compassionate, but here he's making this sick man fast.” After a few days the man became very thin and weak.

Jesus brought a cup of warm milk with honey and a little butter on top. He then ordered the disciple, “Open your mouth.” So the man was relieved. “Finally I'm going to eat something.” When the cup was right on his lip, Jesus said, “Don't drink. This is your test.” He was a sincere disciple so he followed. You can just imagine that after many

many days of fasting, how much he must be craving for the sweet aroma of the milk.

The man was practically dead from starvation. But Jesus kept saying, “Keep your mouth open, but don't drink.” Those who had faith knew that whatever Jesus said would be all good for them, so they were waiting to see the conclusion of this lesson. Others gave up faith and they went away, never to return.

For several minutes the man kept his mouth open and Jesus held the silver goblet right below his lip for a long time. This man had been sick for years, and whatever he ate gave him no nourishment.

After about half an hour, a tapeworm came out of his mouth. This worm, who lived in his stomach used to eat whatever he would eat. Now that the man had not eaten anything for many days, the tapeworm was also starving. So to everyone's astonishment this worm came out, attracted by the smell of milk. Jesus took out the worm and threw it away!. Then he said, "Now you can drink this milk. Because you have followed my instructions this nectar will give you material and spiritual health."



Complete Vedic knowledge is given only those great souls who have complete faith in both, Guru and Krishna [Svetasvatara Upanishad 6.23]

VALUES LEARNT

1. People say, "seeing is believing" but that there are many things that we cannot see with our eyes or with advanced instruments.
2. So we must also depend on the experience of our elders and spiritual guides and with faith, follow them.
3. One who has great faith in the protection of Lord Sri Krishna, and regularly chants His Holy Names will achieve perfection.

G - GANESHA (BIRTH & ACTIVITIES)

LORD GANESHA WRITES THE MAHABHARATA



As the Dvapara-yuga was coming to an end (5000 years back), in order to help the people, Vyasadeva compiled the four Vedas – ‘Sama Veda’, ‘Yajur Veda’, ‘Rig Veda’ and ‘Atharva Veda’. After this he put together the epic ‘Mahabharata’ which has the stories of the Pandavas and their great devotion towards Lord Krishna.

Lord Brahma gave Vyasadeva blessings and advised him to take help from Lord Ganesha for the purpose of writing the ‘Mahabharata’. Vyasadeva went to Lord Ganesha and requested him to write the ‘Mahabharata’. Hearing this Lord Ganesha said, “O Vyasa, I shall agree only on one condition – while writing,

my pen should not stop even for a moment”. Vyasadeva replied, “You too shall not write a single alphabet without properly understanding its meaning.” Lord Ganesha agreed to this condition by making an “Om” sound.

Thus, Lord Ganesha wrote the entire ‘Mahabharata’ by properly understanding the meaning of the stories of the great faith and devotion of the Pandavas towards Lord Krishna even in the most difficult situations.”

In this way, Lord Ganesha was happy to render service by glorifying Lord Krishna and His words that are a part of the ‘Mahabharata’.

Morals of the story:

1. Every human being has 4 faults - imperfect senses, so a tendency to be illusioned, therefore commit mistakes, and to cover up we cheat others.
2. The Vedas, Bhagavad Gita (from Mahabharata) etc. are perfect because they come from a superhuman, divine origin. They were spoken by the incarnation of God, Vyasdev and written down by Lord Ganesha.
3. The Vedas explain that there are 33 crore demigods like Surya, Chandra, Indra, Ganesha etc. who maintain this universe and 1 Supreme Controller and owner of all the universes (material and spiritual), Sri Krishna.
4. Lord Ganesha understood this fact before writing it. He recommends in the Bhagavad Gita, that intelligent people should give up the worship of petty demigods and take to the chanting of the Holy Names of Lord Sri Krishna.



VALUE STORY FOR G - GRATITUDE

PAID IN FULL



A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that what all he wanted. As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation, his father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box.

Curious, and somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with the young man's name embossed in gold. Angry, he rose his voice to his father and

said "with all your money, you give me a Bible?" and stormed out of the house. Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realized his father was very old, and thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day. Before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to his son. He needed to come home immediately and take care of things. When he arrived at his father's house, a sudden feeling of sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important papers and saw the still gift-wrapped Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. His father had carefully underlined a verse, Matt.7:11, "And if ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father which is in Heaven, give to those who ask Him?" As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words PAID IN FULL.

How many times do we miss God's blessing's because we can't see past our own desires?



VALUES LEARNT

1. A grateful person can see the many blessings the Lord showers upon them. Filled with blessings one can be happy in life.
2. An ungrateful person only sees problems, counts the curses and always remains miserable.
3. We can thank the Lord for the sunlight, moonlight, the air, the food we eat, for our parents, teachers, clothes and millions of other things and remain happy.
4. So we have a choice to be grateful or a GREAT FOOL!

H- HANUMAN

HANUMAN AND THE SQUIRREL



The evil Ravana had cunningly kidnapped Sita and had taken her with him to Sri Lanka. So, Rama and Laxmana planned to attack Ravana and release Sita from his clutches.

To help Lord Rama in His battle against Ravana, thousands of monkeys gathered to help. The most powerful amongst them was Hanuman - the son of Vayu, the demigod controlling Wind. Lanka was across the sea and the monkeys were wondering how they should cross the sea. Finally, they decided to build a huge bridge across the sea up to Lanka. A monkey called Nala, an expert in building, headed the task.

After deciding an auspicious time and offering prayers to Lord Shiva, thousands of monkeys started the work to build the bridge. Some monkeys were so strong that they uprooted trees, dragged them to the shore and threw the tree trunks, huge boulders and mountain tops into the ocean to help form the bridge.



Hanuman, led a group of other monkeys who decided to build the bridge with stones. So, they pushed, pulled and shoved the stones into the water. However, the stones sunk in the water. Suddenly, an idea struck Hanuman. He started writing the word 'Rama' on each stone. Miraculously, the stones with the word Rama did not sink in the water. Others followed Hanuman and they began building the bridge.

When Hanuman's vaanar (monkey) sena was busy building the bridge for Lord Rama, a small squirrel was quietly watching them work. She went up to Hanuman and said, "I want to help build this bridge for Lord Rama too." Hanuman said, "You will get hurt. We cannot take time to watch out for you while we do



important work for Lord Ram.”

She then started rolling herself in the sand and then shaking off her body to deposit sand particles amongst rocks brought by the monkeys. When Hanuman asked her what she was doing, she said, “I am making my own small contribution to build the bridge.”

All the monkeys roared in mocking laughter. “We have never heard anything so foolish.” they said. Seeing this, Lord Rama remarked, “Blessed be the little squirrel. She is doing her work to the best of her ability. Therefore, she is quite as great as the greatest of you.

Never make fun of those who are not as strong as you. What truly matters is not the strength one has, but the love and devotion with which one works.” He then gently stroked the squirrel on the back; and it is believed that the marks of Lord Rama’s three fingers are still seen on the squirrel’s back.

The squirrel’s loving devotional service and enthusiasm had touched Lord Rama. In this way, with help from all, the bridge was completed and they all crossed the bridge, reached Lanka and started preparations to attack Ravana.

Moral's of the Story:

- 1) People value only the results of work but God values the endeavour also.
- 2) Because people are attached only to getting the best results, they lie, cheat, compete and even kill to become the best.
- 3) If we also see others’ endeavours (like Lord Rama saw the squirrels endeavour) then we can truly appreciate them.
- 4) Any devotional service whether tiny or great which is performed with love and devotion is of equal value to the Lord.

VALUE STORY FOR H - HONESTY

Nisha's Little Lie



One day Nisha told a little lie. She wasn't suppose to feed dinner to her dog, Tommy, but she fed him from her plate. When her mother came in and saw her plate all clean, Nisha said that she had eaten it all. (That was a little lie, wasn't it?) The dinner had coconut rice (with dried coconut pieces) and Tommy got a piece of dried coconut in his throat. Pretty soon he started to cough and snort and act very uncomfortable. "Do you know what's wrong with Tommy?" asked Mother. "No," said Nisha. (That was another lie, wasn't it?) But Nisha had to do it so that mother wouldn't know she told the first lie. Mother looked in Tommy's mouth but couldn't see anything. "Did Tommy eat something, Nisha?"

"I don't know, Mommy." (That was another lie, wasn't it? But she didn't want her mother to know

about the first two lies.) Tommy got worse and Mother took him to the animal hospital. Nisha went too. "What happened to the dog?" asked the doctor. "We don't know," said Nisha.

(That was another lie, wasn't it? But if Nisha had told, the Mother and the doctor would know she had lied before.) The doctor said, "If it's just a food particle, we could get it out with an instrument, but it might be glass, so we may have to operate."

Nisha decided it was time to tell the truth. She said, "It's a coconut piece, and I did know Tommy ate it, and I didn't eat all my dinner and I did give it to Tommy, and I won't tell lies anymore, because if you tell one, you might have to tell more and more." Nisha started to cry, but her mother loved her, and she decided she really would tell the truth from then on.



VALUES LEARNT

- 1) This story teaches us how one lie can lead to another and produce serious consequences.
- 2) We get in a lot less trouble, in the long run, if we just go ahead and tell the truth.
- 3) But someone may ask, "I can lie and no one will know. Who is watching me anyways?" Then we should know that God is always watching, and we will be rewarded or punished for our actions.

VALUE STORY FOR H - HONESTY

HONESTY AMONGST THIEVES



Once 3 thieves, Tom, Jack and Harry decided to loot a bank. They collected a large amount of money and ran away into the forest. Tom went to collect some food while the other 2 thieves patiently waited for him. Jack suddenly had an idea, "Hey! I think this is the best moment for us. Tom will take some time to return. Let us divide the money between the two of us and run away!"



Harry replied, "No! Never! We should be honest in sharing what we have. All 3 of us have worked together to rob the bank. Now we should share it together and live peacefully."

What kind of honesty is that? After all the money they are going to share is stolen money. Similarly everything belongs to the Lord and those people who take God's property, without offering it back to Him and sharing with others are THIEVES !! inconiplite ??



VALUES LEARNT

There are 3 types of people:

- 1) Those who are dishonest. They lie, cheat, steal and become miserable in the end.
- 2) Those who are honest, They speak the truth and do good for others but they do not have faith in worship of the Supreme Lord. Their honesty is like the honesty amongst thieves and they also suffer in the end.
- 3) Those people who are devotees of the Lord. They worship the Lord and chant His Holy Names with great love. They share Krishna's blessings with everyone and are actually happy.

I - Indra

Govardhan lila



Once, Krishna and Balaram were playing joyfully in their courtyard, they rushed to mother Yashoda to sit on her lap. “Oh! Here come my Krishna and Balaram” she said, and hugged them tightly with great love and affection.

While playing on mother Yashoda’s lap, Krishna saw that Nand Maharaj and all the Brajvasis had gathered together to arrange for a ‘yajna’ (sacrifice). “I see that all of you are preparing for some

great sacrifice. Tell me Baba, what are all these arrangements for?” asked little Krishna. Nand Maharaj replied, “Kanha, we are making arrangements to perform a traditional sacrifice to please King Indra. When he is pleased, he will send us rain clouds and give sufficient quantity of rain. If there is no rainfall, we cannot have any farm or grains. Hence we must do this ceremony”.

Upon hearing Nand Maharaj’s reply, Krishna said, “My dear



father, I don't think you need to worship any demigod for getting rains. Since we are engaged in cow protection, mother cow is our worshipable deity and cows live on fresh grass and water, which is so mercifully being provided by the Govardhan Hill. I therefore request you let us do a sacrifice which will satisfy the local Brahmanas, cows and Govardhan Hill."

The honest and simple cowherd men, headed by Nand Maharaj accepted Krishna's proposal. After all they simply loved Krishna and His satisfaction was their life and soul. Nand Maharaj called all the learned brahmanas and began to worship Govardhan Hill by chanting Vedic hymns and offering prasadam. The Brajvasis came together, decorated their cows and began to circumambulate the Govardhan Hill singing and chanting "Sri Giri Govardhan Ki Jai ! Govardhan Nath ki Jai !!". The Gopis dressed in beautiful clothes and ornaments sat in bull

driven carts, chanting the glories of Krishna's pastimes. Krishna then declared to the Brajvasis that He was Himself Govardhan Hill and gladly accepted their offerings.

Meanwhile, Indra seated in his palace heard the news of this festival and got very angry. He shouted, "the brajvasis have stopped my worship and are worshipping the cows and hills, on the advice of Krishna, the little son of Nanda Maharaj. By believing in this child, they have angered me and now, they shall have to pay a heavy price for this." Indra immediately called Samvartaka - the clouds of devastation and ordered them, "go to Vrindavan and flood entire village with your full force of rain. destroy that village and all the Brajvasis along with it." Samvartaka said, "But, but the Brajvasis are under the protection of Lord Krishna." "Don't be afraid of anything." Indra said. "You go ahead; I will use my full strength to punish the Brajvasis.

Back in Vrindavana, strong winds started blowing and big black dark clouds covered the sky. Soon there was loud thunder and lightening and it started raining very heavily like never before. Out of fear, the Brajvasis approached Krishna for help and said, "O Krishna, kindly protect us. We are being harassed by Indra and we have no other shelter than You. We are helpless."

Krishna understood that Indra was showing his anger in the form of this storm, thus misusing the power given to him. Instantly and very easily Krishna lifted the Govardhan Hill with the little finger of His left hand. He said, "O residents of Braja, you may all come under this hill with your cows. Sri Govardhan can give shelter to all the three worlds. Do not



fear, this mountain will not fall from my hand. Come under this great umbrella.” Lord Krishna, forgetting hunger and thirst, stood there holding the Govardhan hill for seven days and seven nights. The residents of Vrindavan, and their cows who had taken shelter of Govardhan hill looked at Krishna with joyful eyes and chanted His praises.

When Indra saw Lord Krishna's supreme mystic power of lifting Govardhan Hill, he was astonished and ordered Samavartaka clouds to stop pouring rains. When the floods and rains stopped, Krishna told the cowherd men, to go home with their wives, cows and valuables. A repentant Indra realised that Krishna was the Supreme Personality of Godhead and the master of this universe and all the demigods. Indra then bowed humbly before Krishna and begged forgiveness for his mistake and

bathed the Lord with the milk of the Surabhi cow and the water from the Ganges. After satisfying the Lord, King Indra took Krishna's permission to return to his heavenly abode.

Moral's of the Story:

1. All talents, beauty, intelligence, fame, wealth etc. come from God. We should work hard to build on these gifts from God. At the same time be grateful for and not proud of the fact that we happen to possess them. Why?
2. Because a proud person wants all attention for oneself, by hook or by crook!
3. Indra, being proud as the king of heaven, forgot that Krishna was his Lord and Master. In his desire to get attention and worship for himself, Indra was ready to kill all the Vrajbasis.
4. Krishna defeated Indra by lifting the Govardhana Hill. Krishna did this to free Indra from his pride and to convince people not to worship the demigods but to only worship the Supreme Lord.
5. In India, people feel scared to give up the worship of the demigods and only worship the Supreme Personality of Godhead. But Krishna protects His devotees just as He did by lifting the Govardhana partvat. Jai Sri Krishna!

Value Story for J - Inspiration

Some years ago, on a hot summer day in south Florida, a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore. His mother, in the house and looking out the window, saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, she ran toward the water, yelling to her son as loudly as she could. Hearing her voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his mother. It was too late. Just as he reached her, the alligator reached him. From the dock, the mother grabbed her little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs. That began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was

much stronger than the mother, but the mother was much too passionate to let go.

A farmer happened to drive by, heard her screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator. Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. And, on his arms, were deep scratches where his mother's fingernails dug into his flesh in her effort to hang on to the son she loved. The newspaper reporter, who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, "But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Mom wouldn't let go!" You and I can identify with that little boy. We have scars, too.



VALUES LEARNT

1) In the above story the little child is compared to the spirit soul. The home is compared to the spiritual world and the mother is compared to the Supreme Lord, Krishna. The water in backyard is compared to the material world and the alligator is compared to the painful bad habits.

2) All the bonafide scriptures teach us that God loves us. And we will be happy only if we love him. Rejecting His affectionate company, we have left the Lord's shelter and foolishly wade into dangerous situations of the material world, not knowing what lies ahead. The non devotees suffer from the scars of the alligator. These scars are of a painful past from mistakes that we have done!

3) Then why do the devotees suffer? In the midst of our struggle in the material world, God has been there holding on to all of us, trying to help us get out of the mess that we have gotten ourselves into. That's when the tug-of-war begins

(between our alligator like bad habits and the lord's affection) - and if you have the scars of His love on your arms, be very, very grateful. God is like the mother who would never like to let us go.

4) Every great endeavor requires a great inspiration. For eg. Shivaji maharaj used to hear the stories of great Vedic heroes from his mother Jijabai when he was a child. Also Prahlad heard from Narada Muni and became a great devotee. To achieve great success in life, we should also associate with great devotees and hear inspirational stories.



J - JAGANNATH

APPEARANCE OF LORD JAGANNATH

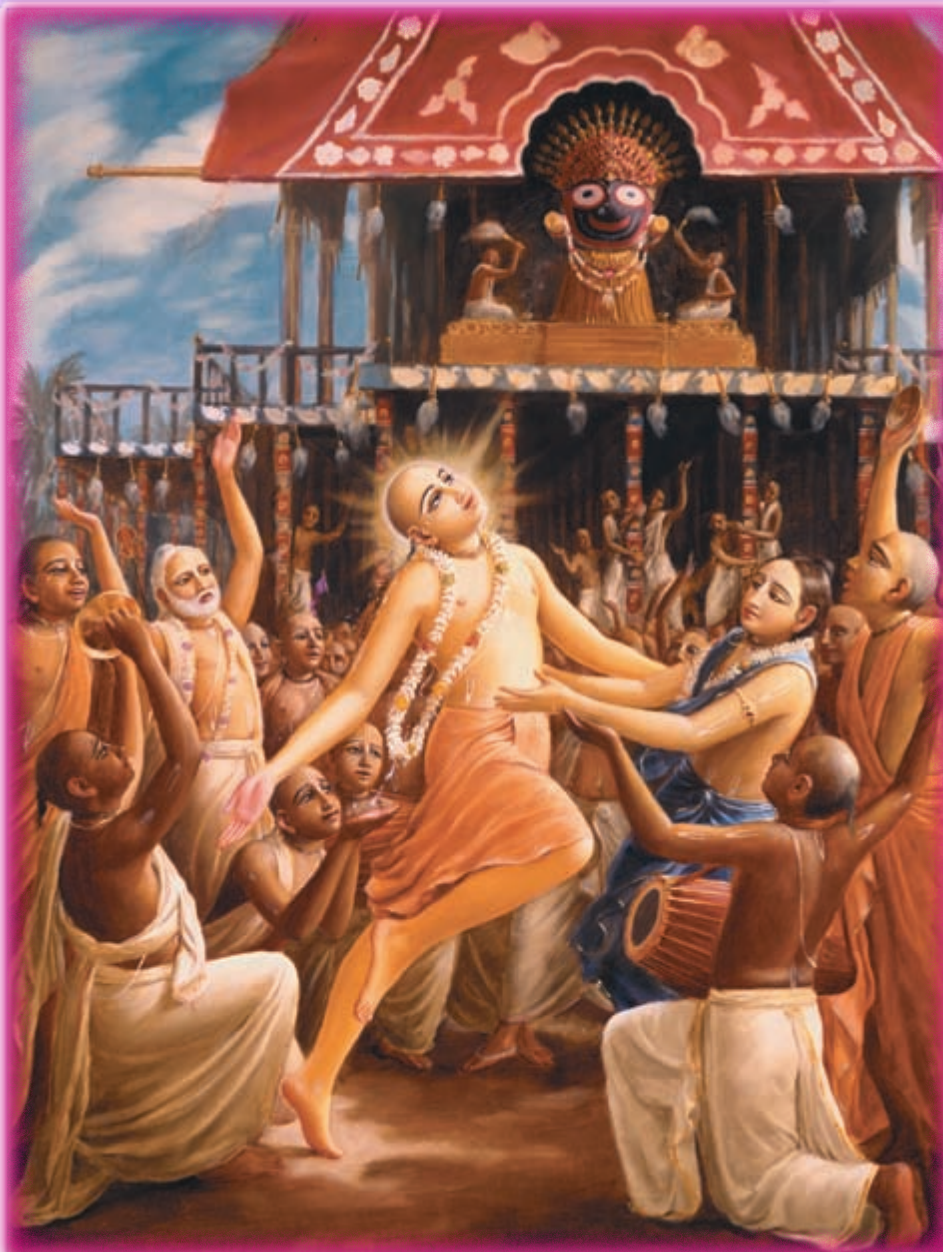


Several thousand years ago, lived King Indradyumna who was the King of Avanti, and also the King of the universe. He had unlimited wealth, power and fame and was a great devotee of Lord Krishna. In spite of all this, King Indradyumna was not happy. He wanted to see the Supreme Personality of Godhead with his own eyes. He always prayed, "When will a day come that I will see you my Lord?" One day an elderly sadhu visited the King. He, in his childhood had the darshan of the beautiful Nila-madhava deity. They told the King, "Anyone who receives Nila-Madhava's darshan will receive pure devotional service". The King wondered, "How can I obtain the darsana of Nila-madhava? Where is He located?" He then called Vidyapati, the very intelligent minister and ordered him, to search for the beautiful Deity of Nila-Madhava.



Vidyapati left towards in search of the Lord. Several days and months passed. At that time he could hear people living in the forest, the Sabaras speaking. Immediately Vidyapati went to them and the chief of the sabaras – Vishvvasu. Vidyapati saw a very beautiful village, where there was a mountain covered with beautiful

flowers and trees. There he stayed at the house of Visvvasu the head of the village. There Vidyapati got married to Vishvvasu's daughter Lalita. Everyday Vidyapati would smell a very beautiful fragrance in the house, especially when Visvvasu was home, and he wondered, "Where does that beautiful fragrance come from? I have never smelt anything like it in my entire life. I should wait here for a few days, and



may be I can find Nila-madhava.” Visvvasu went out regularly every day, and returned in the evening very fresh and fragrant. One day Vidyapati asked Lalita, “Please tell me where your father goes every day for worship, and where that fragrance comes from?” After a lot of persuasion, Lalita told Vidyapati that her father went to worship the Deity of Nila-madhava everyday. Vidyapati persuaded Lalita and Visvvasu to take him to worship the deity of Nila-madhava.

Finally Visvvasu agreed to take Vidyapati to the Deity on the condition that he would blindfold him till they reached the Deity. Vidyapati thought, “I will take some mustard seeds with me and go on dropping on the way &

after some days it will sprout & I can trace back again the path to Nila-madhava.” When they entered the temple, Visvvasu removed the blindfold and Vidyapati saw the most beautiful deity Nila-madhava. Vidyapati became very happy and thought, “I have been searching for Him for such a long time so many months and now I must go back to Avanti & inform this to the king.” Saying this Vidyapati left for Avanti and to inform the King Indradyumna.

When King Indradyumna heard about the location of Nila-madhava, he decided to go to Neelachal in Orissa and worship Him. However, when King Indradyumna was informed by the king of Orrisa that there was a massive cyclone which destroyed the entire kingdom and the deity of lord Nila-madhava disappeared. A heart broken King Indradyumna on the advice of Narada Muni performed 1000 ashwamedha sacrifice to please the Lord. Soon enough Lord Krishna appeared in his dream and He told the king that the time for His advent as Lord Jagannatha had come. He directed the King to go to a sandy beach where the Lord would arrive as a great log floating down. Truly enough a sacred wooden log marked with four symbols of Lord Vishnu, appeared there. The Lord had manifested Himself as the tree-Daru Brahma.

The King requested Visvakarma, the celestial architect to carve the log. Visvakarma promised the king to finish carving the deity within 15 days on condition that he should not be interrupted under any circumstances. As no sounds were heard and only 7 days were left, King Indradyumna, grew impatient and opened the door. There he found the deities of Lord Jagannatha, Subhadra, and Balarama, in the unfinished form. Visvakarma-celestial architect had disappeared.

Seeing the incomplete forms of deities' king Indradyumna lamented. He thought that the carving of the deities could not be completed because he opened the door and disturbed Visvakarma.

The King was extremely upset as he held himself responsible for disfiguring the divine form of Lord. At that time Narada muni told the King that he should not get disheartened. It is the completed forms of the Lords who has appeared in His mahaprakash forms as Jagannath, Baladev and Subadra. Please arrange to worship them. King Indradyumna then performed the sacred installation of the Deities of Lord Jagannatha, Lord Balarama and Subhadra, painted and decorated in black, white and saffron colours respectively, and gorgeously dressed in pure white silks.

King Indradyumna also performed grand installation ceremony of the processional chariots of Lord Jagannatha, Lord Balarama and Subhadra which is known as the "Rath Yatra".

Moral's of the story:

1. Jagannath literally means 'The Lord of the universe'. He is worshipped in a wooden Deity form, even today at Jagannath Puri (one of the four famous Char Dhams)
2. One may ask, "How can a wooden statue be accepted and worshipped as the Supreme Lord?"
3. The answer is, "Just as the paper in a Rs. 1000/- note and a newspaper may be the same their value is different. Why? Because the government has authorized the Rs. 1000/- note. Similarly, the wood in a tree or furniture and the Deity may be the same, but the Lord is worshipped as the Deity because a pure devotee has done 'prana pratishtha' to welcome Him.
4. Srila Prabhupada said, "Just as a letter put in a real post box reaches it's destination, similarly service performed to the Deity of Jagannath directly reaches the Supreme Lord, Sri Krishna." So we should all strive to worship the Deity of Lord Jagannath.

Value Story for J - Joyful living



Once upon a time a spiritual teacher was explaining to a class of young students, that devotees who have love for God can be joyful in all situations of life. In Bhagavad GIta (6.22,23) Lord Krishna says 'When a devotee develops love of God, he experiences unlimited spiritual happiness, through his spiritual senses. Upon gaining this he thinks there is no greater gain. Being situated in such a position, one is never shaken, even in the midst of greatest calamity.'

The students were very eager to know how one can reach a state where one is peaceful within, inspite of difficulties and challenges all around. The spiritual teacher thought of an idea to teach them the quality of joyful living. He told the students, 'The best person to answer this question is the old man living in the small cottage at the bank of the river.'

The spiritual teacher then explained to the students that the old man had lost his parents when he was a child. He had to work everyday, to pay for his and his younger brother's school fees. His brother become an engineer, went abroad, married an American girl and completely forgot this old man's gifts and sacrifices. When he was about 35 yrs he lost both his legs in an accident, so his wife divorced him, took both the children, never to return. Since then he has been on a wheel chair, living in this small cottage and worshipping the Supreme Lord with whatever little money he had. The children were moved to hear this story.

The next day all the students went to the river for a picnic. After much searching they found the small cottage of the old man. When they knocked on the cottage door, the elderly gentleman on a wheel chair opened it and welcomed the students with a beaming smile!

They asked their question to the old man, 'How can one remain peaceful and happy inspite of problems and challenges all around? Our teacher has said that you've had many, many difficulties your whole life, so you are the best person to answer this question.'

The old man with smiling lips and sparkling eyes, now had a surprise on his face. He said, 'My dear children, I think you have got the wrong address. There were no problems in my life! I only had so many, many opportunities to learn lessons to enrich my life. For this reason I'm deeply grateful to my Lord for these life shaping events which have brought me closer to HIs lotus feet.'

Seeing the genuine devotion of the old man, the students were stunned in disbelief. In his brief answer he had spoken volumes of wisdom. Carrying the deep impression, of the old man's love for Krishna, in their hearts they returned home. From that day, instead of cribbing, crying and complaining they were more patient of others, tolerant, grateful to the lord for his every blessing and shared HIS compassionate affection with everyone they met.

VALUES LEARNT

- 1) Material comforts can give us temporary pleasures whereas values like gratitude and devotion to the lord is the secret to joyful living.
- 2) Why do possessing material comforts do not satisfy us for long?
 - a) Just like pouring butter into fire only increases the fire, similarly getting the things we desire only increases the fire of desires which burn us more and more. It becomes a game of endless addiction.
 - b) Anything that has a beginning will have an end. The things we get in time will be lost in time.
 - c) Getting materialistic pleasures is compared to licking honey off the edge of a sword. The honey is tasty but the sword cuts the tongue! So initially the things give us joy and we become attached to them. Then we begin to worry about looking after them or losing them.
- 3) Does it mean we should not buy or enjoy things and comforts? We all need certain comforts to live well and we should surely get them. However we should understand that comfort is one thing and happiness another.
- 4) There are many rich people who are unhappy though they are surrounded by flatterers, mansions, yachts and everything money can buy. The true joy of living, beyond simply having things is to use them in the service of the Supreme Lord.
- 5) Such devotional service to the Supreme Lord with a grateful heart awakens our eternal nature of joyful living.

K - Krishna

Appearance of Lord Krishna



Once upon a time, the Goddess of Earth, Bhumi, took the form of a cow and went to ask Lord Brahma for help while crying. She said, "The whole world is upset because of the demoniac kings." So Lord Brahma, the father of the universe, along with Bhumi and all other demigods went to the ocean of milk to see Lord Vishnu on His planet of Svetadvipa and prayed sincerely by reciting nice prayers.

Lord Vishnu conveyed the message in the heart of Lord Brahma, "Soon, I will come down to the earth as the son of Vasudeva, along with My brother and sister, Balaram and Yogamaya. All of you demigods should take birth on earth,



in the Yadu family. Then, I will come Myself as the Supreme Lord Krishna, to save all the devotees and to kill all the demons.” Lord Brahma conveyed that message to the other demigods.

Some time later, Vasudeva, the son of the Yadu King Surasena, married Devaki, the beautiful daughter of Ugrasena. After the wedding, Devaki's brother Kamsa drove them home on a wonderful golden chariot. There were hundreds of other gold decorated chariots, horses and elephants, along with wonderful music.

Suddenly, a great voice was heard from the sky: “Kamsa, you are such a fool, the eighth son of you sister will kill you.” Kamsa became afraid. Immediately he caught Devaki's hair and raised his sword to kill her. Vasudeva, her husband, stopped him and said, “My dear brother-in-law, please do not kill your own sister. She will never give you trouble. Right now you are safe. I promise to give you all the children born to her.” Kamsa knew that Vasudeva would keep his

promise, so he did not kill her.

But he locked up Vasudeva and Devaki and his own father Ugrasena inside the prison. Then Kamsa made himself the king. He began to disturb all the Yadu family, and even killed all the baby boys born to Devaki and Vasudev, one after another.

Krishna's sister Yogamaya took Devaki's seventh baby, Balarama, away and put Him safely in the womb of Rohini, one of the wives of Vasudeva, when she was staying in the house of Nanda and Yashoda. Then Lord Krishna entered Devaki's womb. As the days went by, an ocean of hate grew in Kamsa's heart. He waited for the child to be born; hoping to kill Him as he had killed Devaki's other six sons. He was always thinking of Krishna twenty-four hours a day. While sleeping, eating, working while talking, sitting or walking, all Kamsa could see around him was Krishna.

At the time of Krishna's birth, there were good signs everywhere.

Then in the darkness of night, during a heavy rain storm, Lord Vishnu appeared as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, before Devaki. Vasudeva saw his wonderful baby son with four hands holding a conch shell, club, disc and lotus flower, and flashing His bright effulgence within the room. He had the special mark of Srivatsa in His chest and the jeweled necklace with the Kaustubha stone around His neck. He was dressed in yellow silk, valuable golden bracelets, bangles, earrings and other ornaments all over His body. He had hair on his head and wore a helmet with the Vaidurya stone. Vasudev prayed and bowed down with folded hands to offer prayers, “My Lord, You are the Supreme



Personality of Godhead and You have so kindly appeared in my home to kill the demoniac kings of the world like Kamsa. Knowing that You will kill him and his followers, Kamsa has already killed Your six baby brothers before You. As soon as he hears that You took birth, he will try to kill You, too.”

Devaki was very afraid of her brother and prayed, “My dear Krishna. Please save me from the cruel hands of Kamsa. As soon as he knows that You have taken birth, he may hurt You. So please hide Your four-armed form our eyes.”

Krishna answered, “I know you are thinking about Me out of great love and are afraid of Kamsa. Therefore, take Me now to Gokul Vrindavan and exchange Me with the daughter who has just been born to Yashoda.”

Then the Lord turned Himself into a small baby. Vasudeva quietly took his little son out of prison. Because of Krishna’s power, everyone in Kamsa’s palace including the doorkeepers,

were in deep sleep and all the doors automatically opened. The night was very dark and it was thundering and raining. While Vasudeva carried little Krishna in the heavy rain, Lord Ananta Sesa spread His serpent hood over the head of Vasudeva like an umbrella. Yamuna was roaring with big waves and foam. But Vasudeva could cross it by Krishna’s mercy. On the other side, he went to the home of Nanda Maharaj in Gokul Vrindavan, where everyone was in deep sleep because of Krishna’s power. He walked inside quietly and put Krishna down next to Mother Yashoda. Then he picked up Yashoda’s baby girl and went back with her to the prison of Kamsa, where he put her next to Devaki. Prison doors closed on their own because of Krishna’s power.

Later the gatekeepers woke up and heard the new baby crying. They informed Kamsa. Kamsa was so afraid that his hair stood on end. He jumped out of bed and cried; “Now the cruel death of my life is born!” Then he hurried to the prison.

Devaki said, “My brother, Kamsa, please do not kill this baby girl. You won’t be killed by a girl.” Cruel Kamsa grabbed the new born child, to throw her down hard on the stone. But that baby girl slipped right out of his hands and went into the sky! Actually she was Goddess Durga. She wore a beautiful dress, flower garlands and shining jewels and ornaments. In her eight hands she held a bow, spear, arrows, bell, conch shell, disc, club and shield. Goddess Durga shouted at Kamsa, “You rascal, you cannot kill me! The child, who will kill you, is already born before me somewhere within this world. Don’t be cruel to your poor sister.” Then she disappeared.

Kamsa became more afraid. He said, "My dear Vasudeva and Devaki, I have been just like a demon to kill your six babies. Please excuse my terrible behaviour." He unlocked them personally and set them free.

But the next day, he had change of heart. Kamsa, who was the greatest rascal, ordered his demon friends to disturb all kinds of saintly persons and to kill all the children born in the last ten days.

In Vrindavan it was declared that a baby boy was born to Yashoda. On this occasion Nanda Maharaj gave away 2,00,000 well-decorated cows, mountains of grains, golden-bordered cloth and ornaments to the brahmanas, musicians and singers. The brahmanas chanted different Sanskrit hymns for the good fortune of the child. All the cowherd men and their wives, the gopis, dressed up nicely and brought gifts for the new baby. When they visited Nanda Maharaj and Yashoda's house, the gopis gave their blessings to Krishna by mixing turmeric powder, oil, yogurt, milk and water and sprinkling it on baby Krishna and on everyone there. The cowherd men saw the fun and they in turn, joyfully threw yogurt, milk, ghee and water on the gopis! Then everyone began to throw butter on each other! Nanda Maharaj was very happy to see everyone enjoying Krishna's birth ceremony and prayed to the Supreme Personality of Godhead to protect his child.

Moral's of The Story

1) Religion means to follow the laws of God. When most religious people are asked, 'Who is God?' They answer vaguely, 'God is some Force, Supreme Power or some Spirituallight.' However they fail to explain what kind of light is God. Is He tube light, bulb light, sunlight etc?!

2) God has a Supreme Spiritual Form and He has His formless energy, just like the sun has a form and the formless sunlight is spread everywhere.

3) Just like the same sun is called as 'surya', 'sooraj', 'ravi'

etc in different languages, similarly the same Supreme Lord is called as Allah (all merciful), Jehovah (Supreme father), or Krishna (All attractive).

4) Why does the Supreme Lord come into this world? Just as the President of a country comes into the jail and is beyond the rules of the jail, similarly Krishna is beyond the laws of this world-like HE picked up the Govardhan hill. The President comes to pardon the prisoner, similarly the Lord comes to attract His devotees back Home, back to Godhead.

Value Story for K-KARMA

God of the mountains



Once upon a time a boy was inspired to go to the Valley of the Gods, where he heard that the God of the mountains lived and spoke to people. Reaching his destination, he waited for God of the mountains to speak. But he was met with silence.

Becoming impatient he shouted, "Are you dumb? Can't you say something?" The God of the mountains replied, "Are you

dumb, can't you say something?"

Getting angry, he shouted loudly, "How rude of you to shout!" The reply came again, even louder, "How rude of you to shout!"

The boy got so angry that he yelled, "I hate you" Immediately came the response, "I hate you". The boy turned around and walked out of the valley never to return.

Days later a great sage came from the Valley of Gods and described it as a very sacred and beautiful place. This boy spoke angrily about his bitter experience. The sage understood the problem and requested the boy to come there again.

This time the sage led the boy and shouted, "Greetings to you." The God of the mountains replied at once, "Greetings to you!"

The sage then shouted back, "I love you." The reply came back loud and clear, "I love you."

The sage turned to his surprised companion and said, "Just see, life is like this. If you are respectful, good and spread love, kindness and cheer, you will receive the same. If you are disrespectful, bad and have only hate, hurt and rudeness to offer to the world, again you receive the same. So, if you want to be happy, give happiness to others. That is the advice of the God of the mountains!"

VALUES LEARNT

- 1) Just as there are laws of gravity, physics, chemistry and the state, similarly there are laws of life.
- 2) Newton's law of motion says "For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction." This is true in life also and is called the law of karma.
- 3) Then, someone may ask, "Even if I'm good to people and have not harmed anyone then why are people still rude to me. Why bad things happen to good people?" The answer is that there are instant reactions and delayed reactions to our karmas.
- 4) Karma can be compared to sowing seeds. Mustard seeds take a week to grow and mango seeds take years to give fruits. Then someone may ask, "We don't remember what we have done in the past. So why don't we get all the karma in the same lifetime?"
- 5) Just like Dhritarashtra, as a hunter had poked the 2 eyes of a bird and burnt hundreds of eggs, was cursed to be born blind and have his 100 sons killed before him. For 50 lifetimes he was doing good karma to be born as a king and have 100 sons. Then the bad karma done 50 lifetimes back acted on him. So good karma and bad karma don't cancel each other. We have to suffer for them individually.
- 6) Law of karma is like seeing in a mirror. When you see a black spot on your reflection in the mirror do you clean yourself or the reflection?
- 7) Many of us make the same mistake the village boy did. When we have problems we fail to look inside and take responsibility to transform ourselves. Instead we blame the world - our family, friends, home, school, society, and even little things like traffic, weather and the population or ultimately God! Better to change ourselves and the reflection will automatically change.

L - LAXMANA



Laxmana, the younger brother of Lord Rama is considered to be an 'Avatara' (incarnation) of Ananta Shesha - the thousand-headed Naga (snake) upon whom rests Lord Vishnu in the ocean of milk.

LaxmanawasborntoSumitra,the second wife of King Dashratha and also had a twin brother called Shatrughna. However, despite being the twin of Shatrughna, Laxmana was specially attached to Lord Rama, and was inseparable from Him right since he was a little baby. Unless Laxmana was present, Lord Rama would neither sleep nor eat. Whenever Lord Rama went out to the forest to hunt, Laxmana would follow Him, guarding Him on all sides. When Lord Rama married Sita Devi, Laxmana married the younger sister of Sita Devi named Urmila.

Lord Rama, Laxmana, Bharat and Shatrughna were the four sons of King Dashratha. These princes were tigers among men yet they were modest, wise, far-sighted and glorious in every way. They were attached to Their studies and soon became well versed in all aspects of kingship.

Some years later, Kaikeyi the mother of Bharata being influenced by Mantara a maid servant, desired to King Dashratha that Lord Rama be sent to exile of 14 years and that her son Bharat should become the king instead. Accordingly accepting Kaikeyi's wish, Lord Rama left for exile with his wife Sita Devi. At that time, Laxmana went along with Lord Rama and Sita

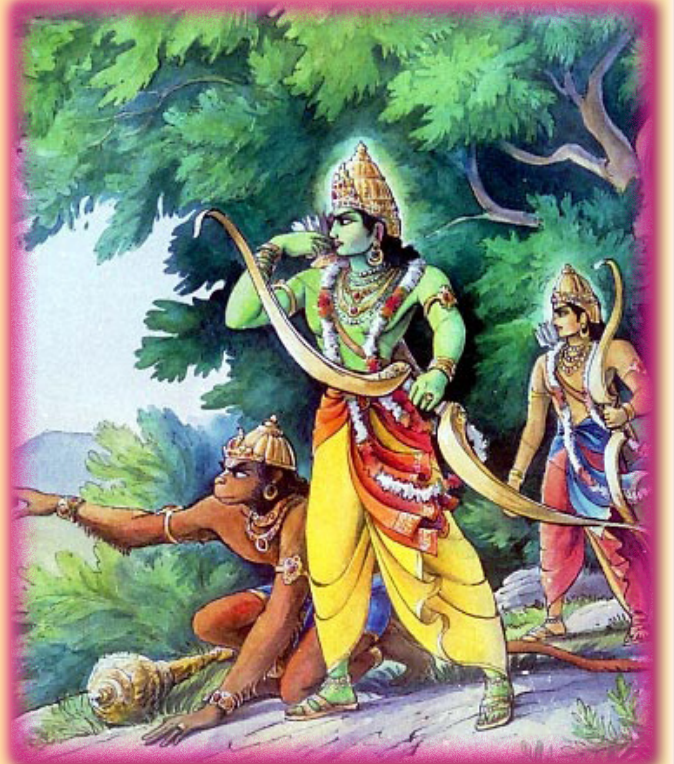
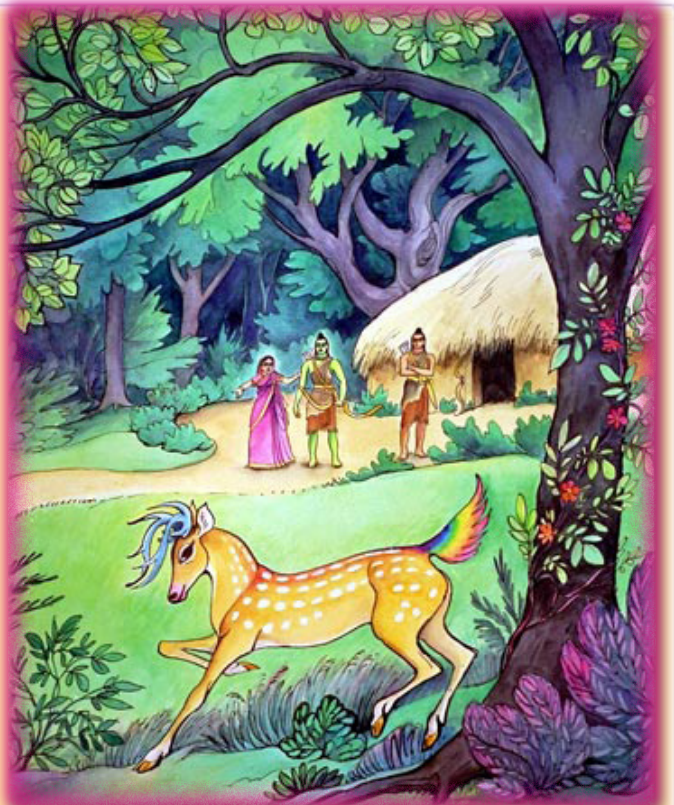


Devi to serve them inspite of Lord Rama asking him not to come, and live a hard life in the forest with Him.

Throughout all the 14 years of exile Laxmana served Lord Rama and Sita Devi sincerely, building them a home in the forest and devotedly standing guard during the night, accompanying them on tiring journeys and long passages of lonely forest life without any complaint or care for Himself.

Once, while they were in exile Shurpanakha the sister of Ravana, got attracted to Lord Rama's beauty and she approached Lord Rama, disguised as a beautiful girl asking Him to marry her. Lord Rama refused to marry Shurpanakha saying He has only one wife which is Sita Devi. Shurpanakha then approached Laxmana forcing him to marry her. Laxmana refused saying that he cannot take care of her as he is a servant to Lord Rama and has duties to fulfill towards his brother. Shurpanakha felt extremely angry and insulted by Laxmana's refusal tried to harm Sita Devi. Laxmana in order to protect Sita Devi, cut off the nose of Shurpanakha in anger.

Laxmana himself was a powerful warrior and he always protected Lord Rama and Sita Devi by fighting with demons. During the battle to rescue Sita Devi, Laxmana was badly injured by a mystical weapon fired by Indrajit – son of Ravana, which made Laxmana unconscious. His body was covered in blood and he was in great pain. Lord Rama immediately called the doctor who told him that only with the special herb 'sanjivani' that grows on the Dronagiri mountain in the Himalayas can Laxmana be revived and brought back to life. At that time, Hanuman flew all the way across to reach the mountain in the Himalayan ranges. But Hanuman was unable to find the magical herb and since he did not have time to search for it. Hanuman used





his strength and lifted the entire mountain and brought it to Lanka, where Laxmana was lying unconscious. The magical herb was found by the doctor, and Laxmana was cured and revived. Later in the battle, Laxmana fought and killed Indrajit. His killing of Indrajit was considered to be an important turning point of the war, as Indrajit had a boon from Indra that he could not be defeated by anyone. Later, alongwith Lord Rama, Laxmana also killed Kumbhakarna, the great giant demon and brother of Ravana.

Lakshmana is known for his absolute devotion to Lord Rama, as he was ready to perform any service for the pleasure of Lord Rama, such as leaving behind His wife, to come serve Lord Rama and living in the forest, constructing cottages for Lord Rama and Sita Devi, fighting with demons and protecting Lord Rama and Sita Devi. Laxmana did all, this as a service to Lord Rama.

The performance of his duties as a younger brother is considered to be a great sacrifice and greatness of Laxmana, character since such duties are very difficult to perform, in difficult conditions. Laxmana's life is an example, of the duties that one should do to their elders.



Moral's of the story:

1. The service attitude, sacrifice and devotion to Lord Rama are the lesson we learn from the life of Laxman.
2. We should also imbibe the service attitude of Laxaman to get the best results in our own lives.

Value Story for L - Love In Action

Mohan's Parrot



Mohan went to a pet store to buy a parrot. Two of them were sitting together in a cage, priced at Rs. 500 each. Then there was one sitting alone in a corner in another cage. The boy asked if it was for sale, and why it was sitting alone. The store owner replied, "This is from the same parents but is deformed and so not for sale." The boy asked what the deformity was. The store owner replied, "The parrot was born without a wing and had a leg missing." The boy asked, "What will you do with this one?" The reply was that it would be put to sleep. The boy asked if he could play with the parrot. The store owner said, "Sure." The boy went to the parrot and spoke some sweet words. Immediately the parrot jumped closer to him and repeated those words. Instantly, the boy decided that this was the parrot that he wanted to buy.

The store owner said, "That one is not for sale!" The boy insisted. The store owner agreed. The boy pulled out Rs. 100 from his pocket and ran to get Rs. 400 from his mother. As he reached the door the store owner shouted at him, "I don't understand why you would pay full money for this one when you could buy a good one for the same price." The boy did not say a word. He just lifted his trouser—he had one leg less and was wearing a brace there. The pet store owner said, I understand. Go ahead, take this one. May God bless you!"

VALUES LEARNT

- 1) Love is a universal principle and the most fundamental need of the human heart. To receive and to give love.
- 2) In fact, one can be happy only when we love something, someone or some situation.
- 3) In fact, happiness increases with increase in loving capacity. First a child loves only it's tongue (puts everything in the mouth), then the parents, then school, friends, city, state, country, humanity, nature, world and finally God.
- 4) That is true love in action. Those who receive true and unlimited love of God can offer it to others. Otherwise we see that the very same people whom we love, we start hating them after sometime!

So, let us develop our love of God by chanting the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra.

HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE
HARE HARE RAMA HARE
RAMA RAMA RAMA HARE
HARE





Prasadam Prayers



mahā-prasāde govinde nāma-brahmaṇi vaiṣṇave
svalpa-puṇya-vatām rājan viśvāso naiva jāyate
śarīra avidyā-jāl, joḍendriya tāhe kāl,
jīve phele viṣaya-sāgore
tā'ra madhye jihvā ati, lobhamoy sudurmati,
tā'ke jetā kaṭhina saṁsāre
kṛṣṇa baḍo doyāmay, karibāre jihvā jay,
sva-prasād-anna dila bhāi
sei annāmṛta pāo, rādhā-kṛṣṇa-guṇa gāo,
preme ḍāko caitanya-nitāi



O king, for those with little pious credit, faith in mahā-prasāda, Śrī Govinda, the holy name, and the Vaiṣṇavas never arises.

O Lord, this material body is a place of ignorance, and the senses are a network of paths leading to death. Somehow we have fallen into this ocean of material sense enjoyment, and of all the senses the tongue is the most voracious and uncontrollable. It is very difficult to conquer the tongue in this world. But You, dear Kṛṣṇa, are very kind to us and have given us such nice prasādam just to control the tongue. Now we take this prasādam to our full satisfaction and glorify You-Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa- and in love call for the help of Lord Caitanya and Nityānanda.