Narada Muni and Snake

Instructive Stories from teachings of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Founder Acharya of International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Once in a village there used to be a huge venomous cobra. The cobra took great pleasure in harassing the villagers.

Run! Run! Run! The great cobra has come!
Once Narada Muni was passing by the village.
He saw the huge venomous cobra

Hiss!

Hiss!

Hisss!

Hisssss!
He took pity on him and bestowed causeless mercy of Bhakti. He taught the principles of sanatana dharma and made him realize that he was a spirit soul trapped in this material world.

You are so merciful. Even in this snake body you have given me a chance of liberation to me. Please instruct me.
From this day onwards chant the holy names of Lord Krishna constantly.
Please accept me as your disciple
The cobra returned to his home in the village and started to practice devotional service.
The villagers saw that the cobra had suddenly changed his nature and was chanting the holy name constantly. They came near him and still he did not harm anyone.
Seeing this the villagers started troubling the cobra. They would attack him with sticks and stones.
The cobra escaped to the forest in search of Narada Muni

Oh my spiritual master! Please help me!
At last he meet Narada Muni

What's wrong with you?
By chanting the holy names my nature has changed and I don’t feel like troubling anyone. Seeing this, the villagers have started to beat me. Please help me!
Whenever the villagers come to harass him, you should expand your hood and raise your head as if prepared to strike.
MORAL:
It is sometimes not necessary that devotees retaliate if the atheists are harassing, but one can just scare them off. However, if they attack then one should defend Krishna's temple and His devotees properly.

-Srila Prabhupada