

Animal's In The Vedas



International Society For Krishna Consciousness
Founder Acharya : His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

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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 sārasvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviśeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe



Sri Caitanya
Mahaprabhu

Nityananda
Prabhu

Gadadhara
Pandit

Advaita
Acarya

Srivas
Thakur

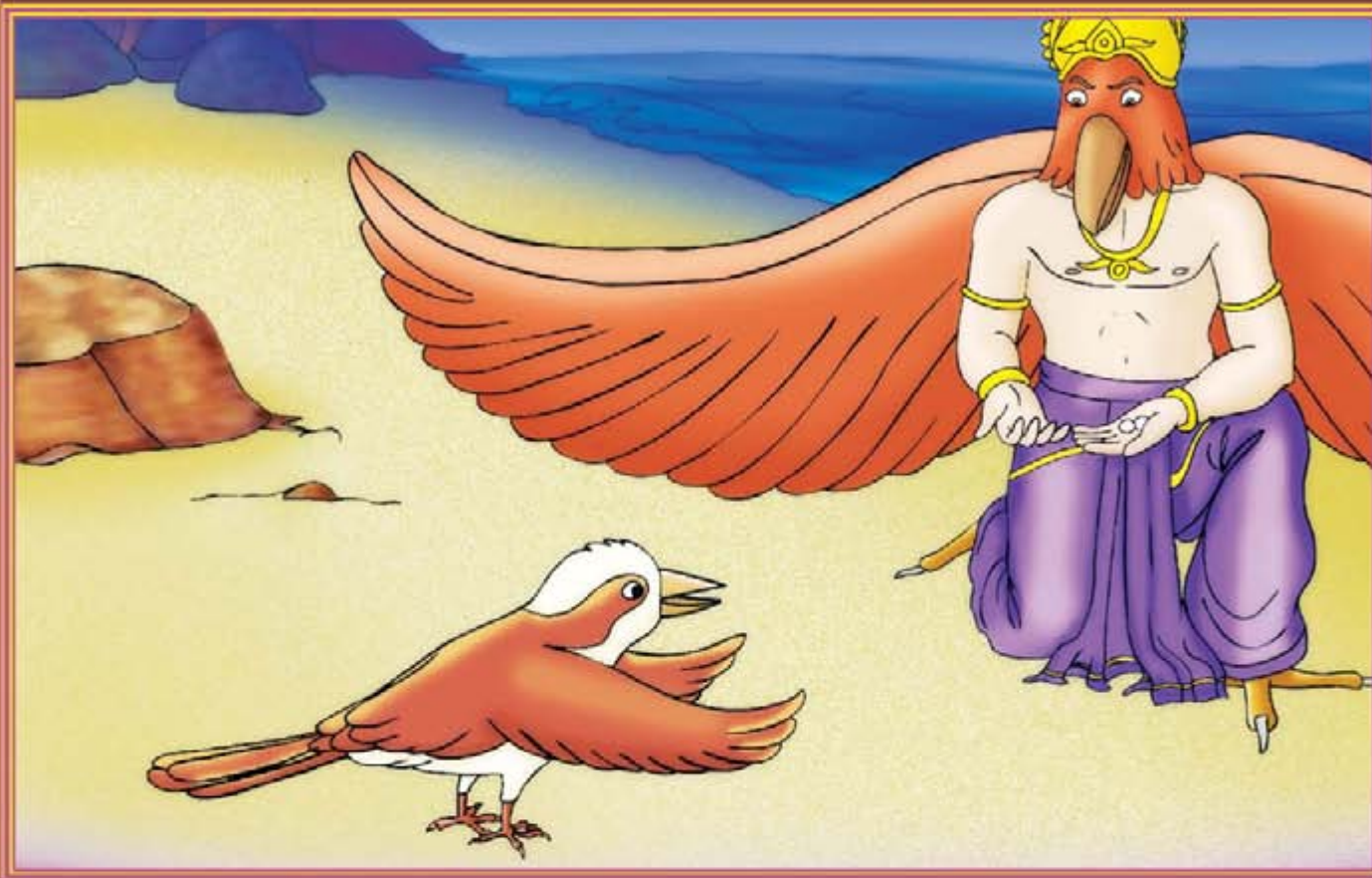
Śrī Pañca-tattva prañāma

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

Garuda and the Sparrow



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.

A 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.



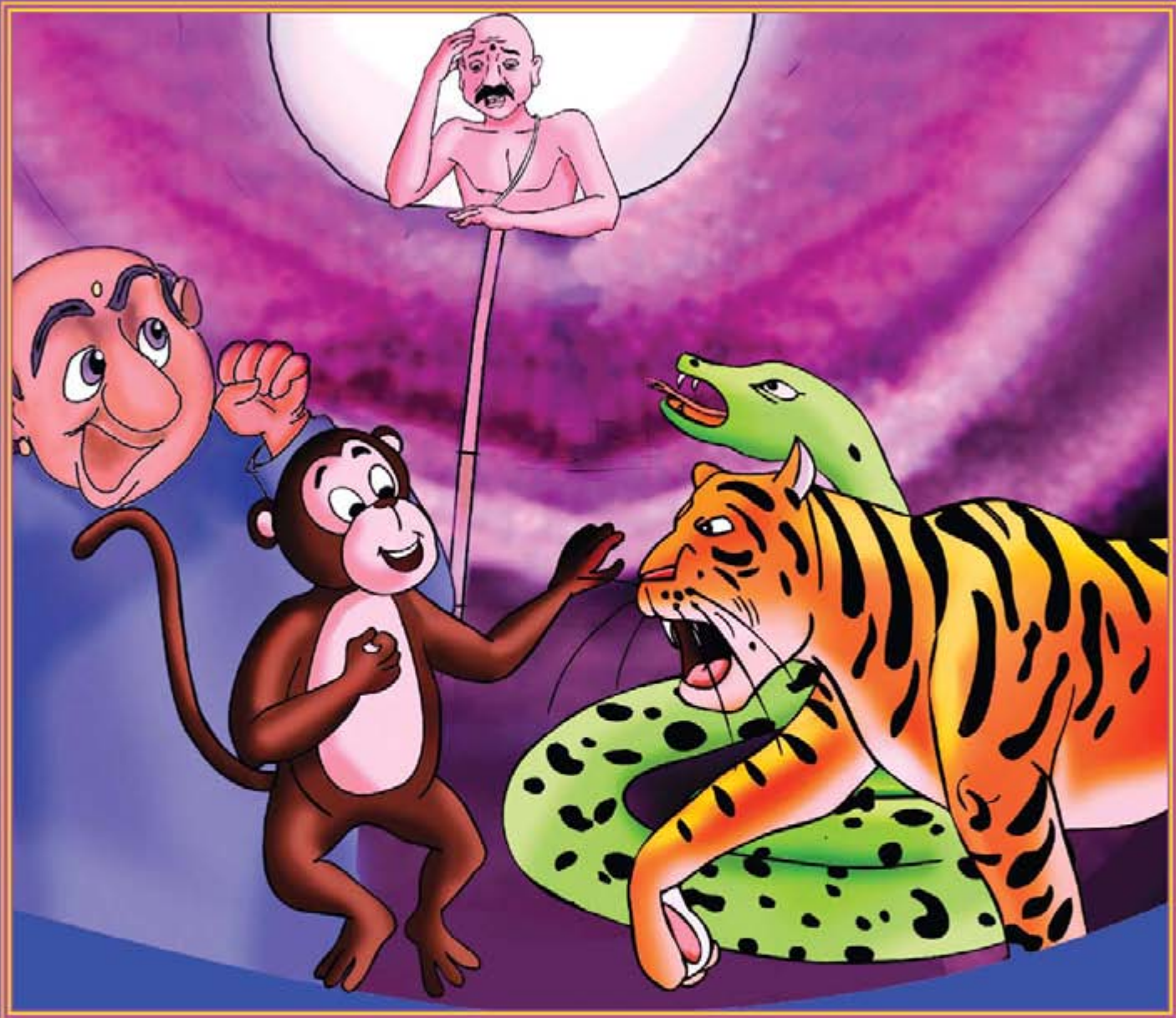
The sparrow was very joyful on getting her eggs back by the grace of Garuda and Lord Sri Krishna. Then she flew away with her eggs to build a nest far away from the waves.



Moral's of the Story

- 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!

The Ungrateful Goldsmith



Many years ago, a poor Brahmana lived in a small village in India. He was looking for a job, but could not find suitable work. He decided he might be able to find work if he traveled outside the village.

He roamed here and there until he reached a thick jungle. He was very hungry and thirsty. "If only I could get some water," he thought, as he looked around. Suddenly he saw a well. He went near it and looked inside. The Brahmana was shocked at what he saw, a tiger, a monkey, a snake and a man lay inside the well. Seeing the Brahmana, the tiger shouted, "Oh, kind sir! Please take me out of this well. My wife and children are waiting for me at home. They must be very worried."



"Take a tiger out?" the Brahmana asked. "Do you think I am crazy? If I pull you out, you will kill me and eat me!" "Dear Brahmana, do not be afraid," the tiger said. "I promise I will not harm you. Take pity on me, Sir. Please save me." The Brahmana was a good and kind man. He stood on the edge of the well and pulled the tiger out of the well.

The tiger thanked the Brahmana and said, "May the Lord bless you!" Then he pointed to a mountain far away. "I live in a cave over there," the tiger said. "Come to me if you every need my help." At that moment the monkey called out. "Good sir!" the monkey shouted. "I cannot jump out of the well. Please pull me out as well." "You monkeys are known to steal even the shoes from a man," the Brahmana said, "If I save you, then you will surely steal the only pair of shoes I have." "I promise not to take anything from you," the monkey said. "Please help me."



So, the Brahmana being a very saintly and kind man pulled the monkey out of the well. Jumping up and down with joy, the monkey said, "Thank you very much, Kind Sir. I live in a mango tree near the hill. If you ever need food, just let me know. I will get some tasty fruit for you to eat." Then the snakes also called out. "Oh, Saintly Brahmana," the snake shouted. "Please save my life, too."

"Save your life?" the Brahmana asked. "Do you think I am a fool? For if I save you, you will bite me at once and kill me." "No, No," the snake replied. "I will never bite the man who saves my life. I promise you." The kind Brahmana believed the snake and pulled him out. "Good sir," the snake said. "Thank you so very much for saving my life. Just call me if you are ever in trouble. I may be small, but I will come to you at once and help you."



Before leaving, the animals warned the Brahmana about the man in the well. "Do not help that man inside the well," they said. "He cannot be trusted. You will be in trouble if you save him." After the three animals left, the man inside the well shouted to the Brahmana. "Oh Brahmana," he yelled. "You have helped the others. Now take me out, as well." Filled with pity, the Brahmana pulled the man out of the well. "Thank you so much!" The man said "I am a poor goldsmith. I live in the town nearby. If there is anything I can do for you, just let me know."



Then the goldsmith went away. The Brahmana continued with his journey. He roamed around for many days, but could not find any work. He felt very sad. Suddenly, he remembered the promises made by the tiger, the monkey, the snake and the goldsmith. He decided to take their help. First, he went to the monkey. "Welcome, dear Brahmana," the monkey said. "What can I do for you?"

"I am very hungry," the Brahmana said. "I have not eaten for many days. Please can you give me some food?" "Yes, of course," the monkey said. The monkey immediately brought the Brahmana, fresh fruit from the mango tree. He also collected grapes, apples and bananas, too. After offering the fruit to the Lord, the Brahmana quickly ate the delicious snack. He thanked the monkey and left. Next, the Brahmana went to the tiger. The tiger rushed out of his cave to greet the Brahmana. He gave him some old ornaments.

"I took these ornaments from a prince," the tiger said. "You can sell them at a good price. Please accept them as a gift." The Brahmana was very happy with the gift. "Dear tiger, you kept your promise to help me someday," the Brahmana said. "Thank you very much."

Then he walked away carrying the gold ornaments with him. The Brahmana was very thoughtful. "I will sell the gold ornaments so I can build a home for my family." The Brahmana thought. "But, who will I sell them to?" Suddenly, he remembered the goldsmith's promise to someday help him. He went to the goldsmith's home. "What can I do for you?" the goldsmith asked, smiling. "Can you sell these ornaments for me?" The Brahmana asked. The goldsmith saw the ornaments and was surprised.



"I will do my best," he told the Brahmana. "But first let me show it to another goldsmith. Please wait here. I will be back soon." The tricky goldsmith took the gold ornaments to the king. "I had these ornaments made for your son, the prince," the goldsmith said. "The poor prince was killed and ornaments were taken away. A Brahmana brought them to me. He is still waiting at my house. Surely, he is the one who killed your son and stole these jewels."

Filled with anger, the king called his guards. "Arrest this wicked Brahmana at once," the king shouted. "He killed my son and stole his ornaments. He shall be punished." The Brahmana was then arrested and locked up in jail. He was very

unhappy. "Why have you brought me here?" he asked the guards. "I have done nothing wrong."



The guards told him about his crime. The poor Brahmana was shocked. Suddenly, he remembered the snake's promise. "Oh snake!" he shouted. "Please help me!" The snake crawled into the jail. "How can I help you, dear friend?" snake asked. The Brahmana told him the whole story. "If you do not save me, I shall be hanged tomorrow," he said.

"I have a plan," the clever snake said. "Tonight I will bite the queen. She will then faint. No one will be able to save her, but you." "How will I save her?" the Brahmana asked. "Only when you touch her forehead will she wake up," the snake explained. Then he crawled away. That night the snake bit the queen. She fell into a deep sleep. The news of the snake bite spread all over the kingdom. Doctors from far and wide tried to cure her. All of their medicines failed. "I can save the queen," the Brahmana told the guards. "Please take me to her."

The Brahmana was taken to the queen's room. She lay there in a deep sleep. The Brahmana placed his hand on her forehead. The poison left her body and she immediately woke up! The king was very happy and grateful to the Brahmana. The Brahmana then told the king how he was tricked by the goldsmith. The king became very angry. "That wicked and ungrateful goldsmith shall be punished," the king said.

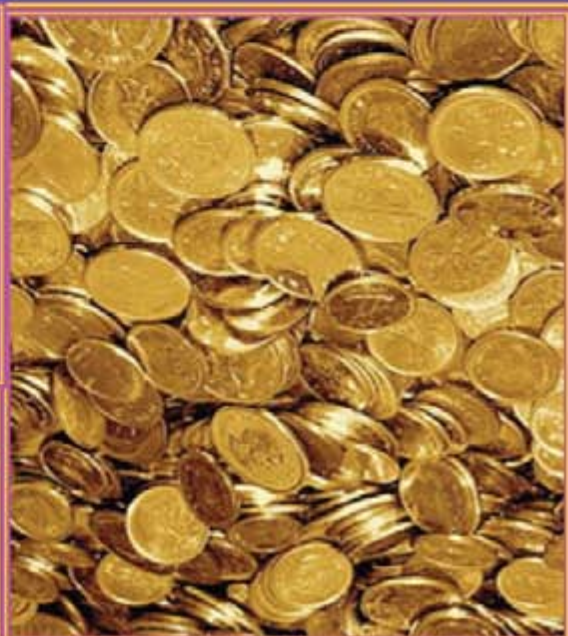


He ordered the guards to arrest the goldsmith. He then thanked the Brahmana and gave him a large bag of gold coins and a new house for his family. "Please, live in peace," the king told the Brahmana. And he did.



Moral's of the Story

1. As you sow so shall you reap.
2. Friend in need is a friend indeed.



Garuda - The Lords Carrier



A Change of Heart



Once upon a time, there was a very poisonous snake. He was not at all nice and everyone was afraid of him. But, by good fortune, he met the holy sage Narada Muni who can travel anywhere in the three worlds. The snake was lucky to get the mercy of such a great sage as Narada Muni because he was a pure devotee of the Lord. He could transform even the snake's dark and evil heart. By receiving instructions from Narada Muni about Lord Krishna, the snake became a devotee of the Lord, and surrendered to the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Usually, snakes bite and sometimes kill others. But, the snake had become a devotee of Lord Krishna and did not behave like that anymore. He was now very humble and sorry for his past misdeeds. Unfortu-

nately, many people were taking advantage of the snake's humility. Now that he had become peaceful and harmless, people started to treat him badly. Even children were throwing stones at him, but the snake did not bite them. His only desire was to follow the instructions of his beloved spiritual master, Narada Muni, who had told him that a devotee is always kind to everyone.

However, the people continued to throw stones and hurt him. After a while, the snake again desired to meet his spiritual master. "My Dear Gurudeva," the snake said to Narada Muni. "I gave up biting innocent living beings, but what happened! Now, they are treating me badly by throwing stones at me." The great sage patiently listened. "Do not bite anyone, but do not forget to raise your head as if you were going to bite them," Narada Muni instructed. "Then those who disturb you will disappear without your ever having to hurt them, for a devotee never causes harm to any living being."

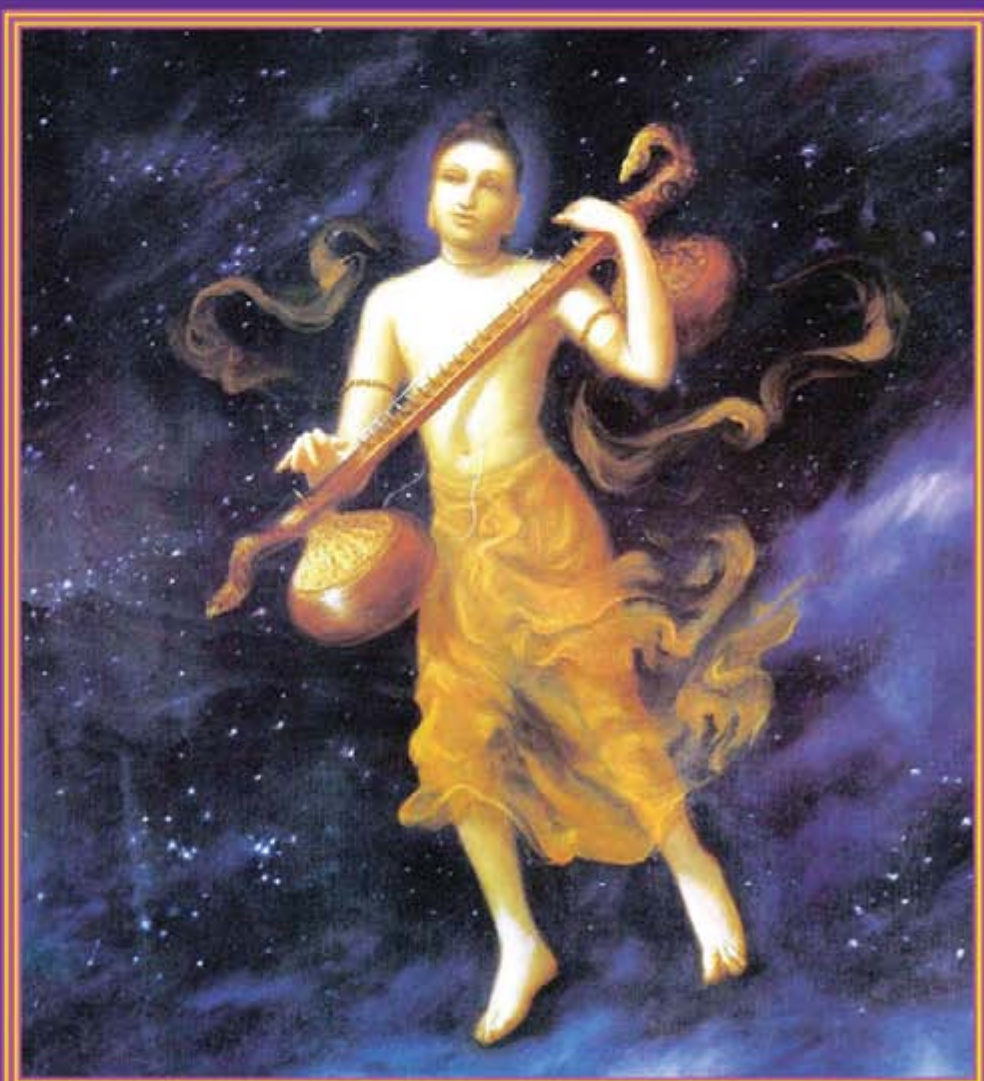


The snake followed the advice of his guru. In this way he tricked the rascals who were throwing stones at him, but never bit anyone again. The snake passed his days chanting the Hare Krishna mantra and meditating on the pastimes of Lord Krishna. At the end of his life he chanted the names of the Lord and returned to the spiritual world forever.



Moral of the Story

Only a pure devotee of the Lord has the power to transform our impure hearts, if we listen to him and follow his instructions carefully.



The Snake and the Crows



There once stood a big banyan tree on the edge of a forest. A crow built his nest on one of its branches. He lived there with his wife, Mrs. Crow.

One day, a long, black snake crawled to the banyan tree. He saw a hole in the ground just below the tree. He decided to make it his home. The crows were afraid of the snake. They did not want him to live so close to them because snakes were known to eat baby crows. "Alas! We cannot make the snake move his home somewhere else," Mrs. Crow said. "But, we should be very careful."

In a few days, Mrs. Crow laid some eggs. In time, tiny baby crows hatched from the eggs. Mr. and Mrs. Crow were very happy. They loved their children and took great care of them.

hole where he lives. Then wait and watch."



The two crows agreed with the fox's plan. They thanked him and flew away. The next morning Mr. and Mrs. Crow flew to the river bank. Just as the fox had said, the two princes arrived. They left their clothes and jewelry with their servants and went to bathe in the river.

"Look at that beautiful necklace," Mrs. Crow shouted. Swooping down, she quickly picked up the necklace in her beak. Flapping her black wings, she flew away. Mr. Crow followed her, cawing loudly. "Stop," the servants shouted. "Give us that necklace at once."

Mrs. Crow did not stop. The servants ran after the two crows. Soon Mrs. Crow reached the banyan tree. She dropped the necklace in the snake's hole. The servants saw Mrs. Crow drop the necklace. They tried to take the necklace out of the hole with a long stick. The snake was sleeping inside the hole. He awoke and got very angry. He crawled out of the hole. At once, the servants surrounded him. They hit him and killed him with their long stick. Then they took the necklace and went back to the river.



Mr. and Mrs. Crow were very happy. "We do not have to worry about the wicked snake anymore," said Mr. Crow. They were soon blessed with more children. They all lived peacefully in their nest for many years.

Moral's of the Story

1. One must do our best and leave the rest to GOD.
2. Lord helps those who help themselves.



Narad Muni - The Transcendental Space Man



Nimai's Puppy



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 puppies 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 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.

***H**e 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".*

***S**he 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.*

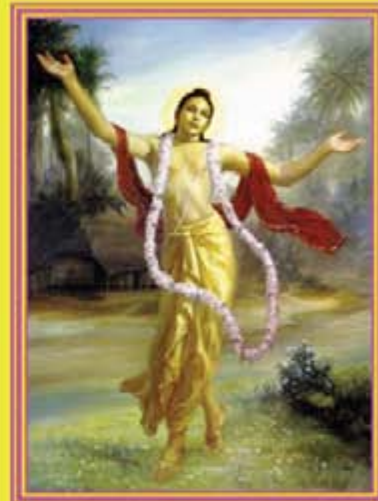
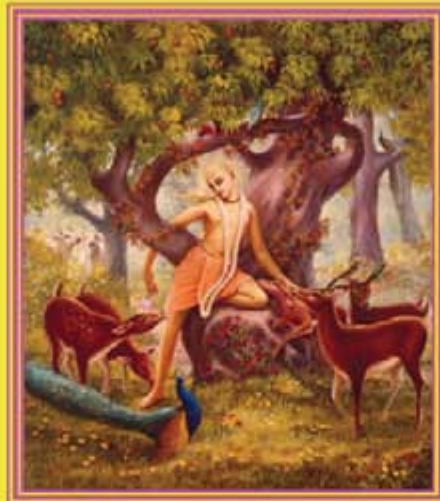
***T**hey did not know that Nimai had touched the dog and given him love of Krishna. For a few days the puppy kept on dancing and singing Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare". Then one day while singing and dancing the puppy suddenly fell down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



Moral's of the Story

- 1) Lord Caitanya 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 Caitanya defeats the demons and makes them into devotees, by giving them the HARE KRISHNA MAHA MANTRA, Mahaprasad and His loving mercy.

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.

Nimai and the Puppy



Jatayu, the Most Loyal Friend



Long ago, the kingdom of Kosala was ruled by a most excellent king named Dasaratha. The kingdom's capital city, Ayodhya, was a place of unbelievable splendor. Magnificent palaces made of coral and jewels lined its well-paved roads. The beautiful gardens were full of scented flowers, fruit bearing trees and crystal clear lakes. Grand building towered over the houses which were decorated with flags. Surrounded by huge walls and protected by a mighty army, no enemy could attack this wonderful city.



The people were all happy and content under the rules of their king, Dasaratha. He was an ideal ruler who was so valiant that the Devas themselves sought his help to fight their enemies. He was as firm as he was gracious. He was fair, brave and learned. The queens of King Dasaratha bore him four good sons. The eldest was Rama, the incarnation of Lord Krishna, Himself, who was loved by everyone. When Dasaratha became too old to rule the kingdom, all the citizens welcomed Rama as their new king. All that is, except an evil, hunched-back palace maid named Manthara and Dasaratha's favorite queen, Kaikeyi, who had long before saved the life of her husband. When King Dasaratha had recovered, he promised Kaikeyi two wishes to be fulfilled at any time. "Now is the time to remind Dasaratha of his promise," Manthara told Kaikeyi. "He must banish Rama to the forest and make your son, Bharata, the King instead."

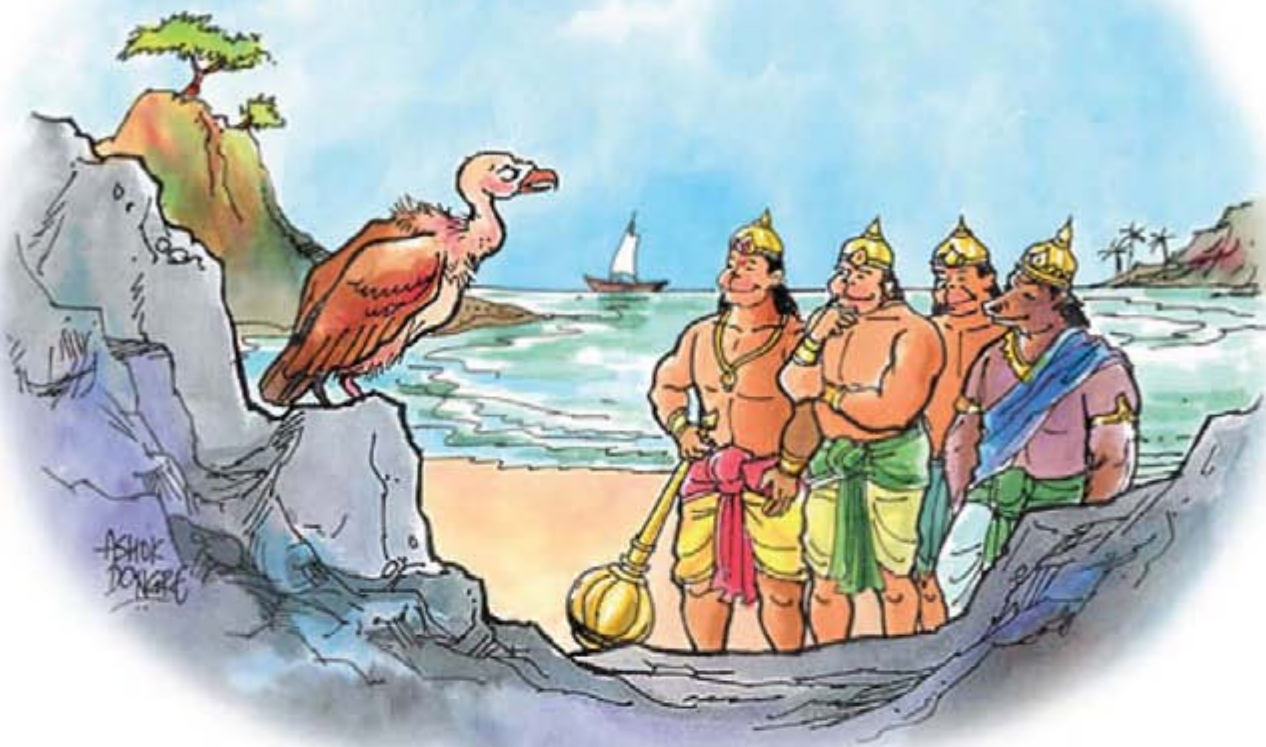
As a result of their evil plotting, King Dasaratha was forced to exile Rama to the forest for 14 years so Kaikeyi's son, Bharata, could be crowned King. Obeying His father, Rama left for the forest with His wife, Sita, and His brother Laksmana. The citizen's became grief-stricken to lose their beloved Rama and soon Dasaratha became so distressed that he died.

Arriving in the forest, Rama, Sita and Laksmana decided to travel South. On Their way, They came across an enormous eagle. Rama took him to be demon. "Laksmana, take care!" Rama said. "Demon, beware of the power of My invincible bow!" "My dear child," the eagle said. "Do not kill me, for I am an aged friend of your father, Dasaratha. I am Jatayu, born of Aruna. Sampati is my elder brother. I am your well-wisher. Please allow me to help you in your stay in the forest. Panchavati proved to be truly beautiful and Rama, Sita and Laksmana were pleased to make Their own home there.

One day, while gathering flowers, Sita spotted a beautiful golden deer dancing through the forest. It was actually the magician, Mareecha, who had plotted with the wicked ten-headed demon, Ravana, King of Lanka, to steal Sita away from Rama. Leaving Laksmana to guard Sita, Rama went into the forest to capture the deer for His wife, Sita. Suddenly, Laksmana and Sita heard a voice which sounded like Rama. "Laksmana, help me," the voice yelled. "Please, help me." Sita became anxious and requested Laksmana to go and find Rama. Against his better judgement, Laksmana did as he was told by Sita. Before he left, however, he drew a magical circle in the dirt which would protect Sita as long as she stayed within the circle.



While she was alone, Ravana, dressed as a holy man, approached the cottage. Sita, out of respect, offered to get him some food and water. When she returned, Ravana, pretending to be old and weak, coaxed her to bring the refreshments to him. She crossed the circle. Now she was unprotected at the hands of the King of Demons! "My dear beautiful



lady, why are you living in the forest?" Ravana asked. "You belong in a palace filled with thousands of maidservants. Do not stay with this Rama. Come with me, Ravana. Come with me and be my bride."



While You are staying in Panchavati, I shall be close at hand, keeping a protective eye on You. Perhaps I can protect Sita whenever you must leave her alone." Rama remembered that His father used to mention the name of Jatayu. He was pleased to meet his father's friend in such a faraway place. "Dear Jatayu," Rama said. "I thank you for your offer and look forward to a long and lasting friendship with you. Come now to the place where we will build our new home. You can live in a tree nearby." "Thank you, Rama. Thank you," Jatayu said.



As much as Sita resisted, she could not fight off Ravana. He forced her into his chariot and flew into the air. Sita screamed for Rama's help. Jatayu, Rama's old eagle friend, heard Sita's cry. He soared toward Ravana's chariot and attacked the demon king. His sharp talons cut Ravana's back. The furious demon shot arrows at Jatayu and pierced his whole body. Although badly wounded, Jatayu attacked Ravana again and again. Smashing the chariot into a thousand pieces, Jatayu made the demon fall to the ground. This was too much for Ravana. With a piercing cry he chopped off Jatayu's wings and talons. Sita cried as she watched her old friend fall injured on the ground. By his powers, Ravana lifted both himself and Sita into the air and

flew towards his palace in Lanka.



Meanwhile, Rama discovered that the golden deer was simply a trick of the demons. Rushing back to the cottage, Rama met Lakshmana who told Him he had left Sita alone within a magical circle to protect her. Fearing the worst, They ran to find Sita. The cottage was empty. The two brothers ran in all directions searching for Sita, but she was nowhere to be found. They came upon some pieces of Ravana's smashed chariot and saw that a tremendous fight had taken place. Then they saw the dying Jatayu crying out in distress. "Jatayu, who has done this to you?" Rama asked. "It was the wicked demon, Ravana, King of Lanka," Jatayu slowly said. "He flew South, taking Sita with him. She was screaming for your help. Do not worry, Rama. You will find her and be happy once again. Now I beg your leave. Now I will depart.....Rama."



Jatayu gave up his life uttering the Holy Name of Rama. It was by the assistance of His loyal friend Jatayu, that Lord Rama later found His beloved Sita in Lanka. Being a great devotee of Lord Rama, Jatayu returned to the spiritual world, having taken part in a wonderful pastime of the Lord.

Moral's of the Story

1. Man sees the results and God (Krishna) sees the efforts.
2. Any work begun in the material plane has to be completed; otherwise the whole attempt becomes a failure. But any work begun in Krishna consciousness has a permanent effect, even though not finished.



The Lion and the Rabbit



Deep in a forest there lived a big and strong lion. He loved hunting and used his strength to kill many innocent animals who also lived in the forest. All of the forest creatures were terrified of the lion. They were afraid that one day not a single animal would be left in the forest except for the lion. They had to think of a plan to stop this cruel beast. One day, all of the animals had a meeting.

“What shall we do?” the deer asked. “We should go to the lion and talk to him about this,” the wild pig replied. So the frightened animals slowly marched towards the lion’s den. Then lion was surprised to see them. “Why have you all come here to see me?” The lion roared “Oh, king of the jungle!” the monkey said, trembling. “everyday you hunt more animals in fact, you hunt more animals than you need. Sometimes you do not even eat them. Do you real-

ize the danger in this?"



"What danger?" the lion asked. "If you continue to do this," the monkey said, "you will soon be the only one left in the jungle. If we all die, who will you rule over? What will you eat? We do not want our king to be without food."

"Of course not," the selfish lion said. "I cannot be without food." Then the wise old owl came forward. "Sir, we plan so you will never have to worry about getting food" the owl said. "Everyday, we shall send you an animal to eat. You will never have to hunt. We can all live in peace." The lion agreed with the plan, but warned the poor animals that if they failed to keep their word, he would kill all of them. They felt they had no choice. They agreed and went away. From that day, an animal was chosen and sent to the lion. After a few days, it was the rabbit's turn to be sent to the hungry lion. The rabbit was small, but very clever.

"I am not a fool. I will never allow the lion to eat me," he thought. "I must think of a way to save my life. If I pray really hard to the Lord, then I can think of a way to help the other animals too. They will never again have to be sent to that evil beast. I may be small, but I will get rid of this lion once and for all."

The young rabbit walked slowly to the lion's den. It was late afternoon when he finally reached the home of the lion. By now the lion was very hungry. When he saw the tiny rabbit, he became very angry. "Which fool has dared to send you here?" the lion roared. "Not only are you small in size, but are late as well. You are not enough for my meal. After I have killed you, I will kill every animal in this forest!" The little rabbit bowed and said, "Oh great king, I have something to tell you. Do not be angry with the other animals. They knew I would be too small for you. So they sent five rabbits for your meal." "Then where are the other four?" the lion asked. "On our way, we met a big, big lion," the rabbit explained. "He killed and ate up the other four rabbits. Luckily, I ran away."



The lion became even angrier. Growling fiercely, he asked, "Another lion? In my forest? Who is he? Where did you see him?" The rabbit shook with fear. "Oh king, that lion is very big. He lives in a cave, deep inside the ground. He wanted to kill me too, but I told him, 'Sir, you have eaten the rabbits which our king was supposed to eat. When he finds out, he will be very angry and kill you.' Then that big, big lion asked me who our king was and I told him our king was the biggest lion in the jungle."



"You fool!" the lion roared. "There is only one king in this jungle. And I am that king. Bring this lion here at once and I will show him who is the real king!" "But he has ordered me to fetch you," the rabbit said. When he heard this, the lion turned red with anger. His loud roar shook the forest. It could be heard for miles. All the animals stood still with fright.

"Where does this fool live?" the lion said. "Take me to him and I will kill him on the spot." "Yes, my king," the rabbit answered. The rabbit took the lion to a deep well. "The other lion lives in deep cave in the ground," the rabbit said. "Be careful. He might attack you." "Where is he?" the lion said, looking in the well. "I cannot see him." "He is hiding inside the well because he is now afraid of you." The rabbit said. "Please come closer to see him." The rabbit shook with fear.

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"What a clever and brave rabbit," the other animals said, when they heard the news. "Sometimes, even someone small can still be a hero!"



Moral's of the Story

* Sometimes, even someone small can still be a hero!





*Jatayu-
The Brave*

A Bridge for Lord Ram



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 upto Lanka. A monkey called Nala, an expert in building, headed the task.



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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.

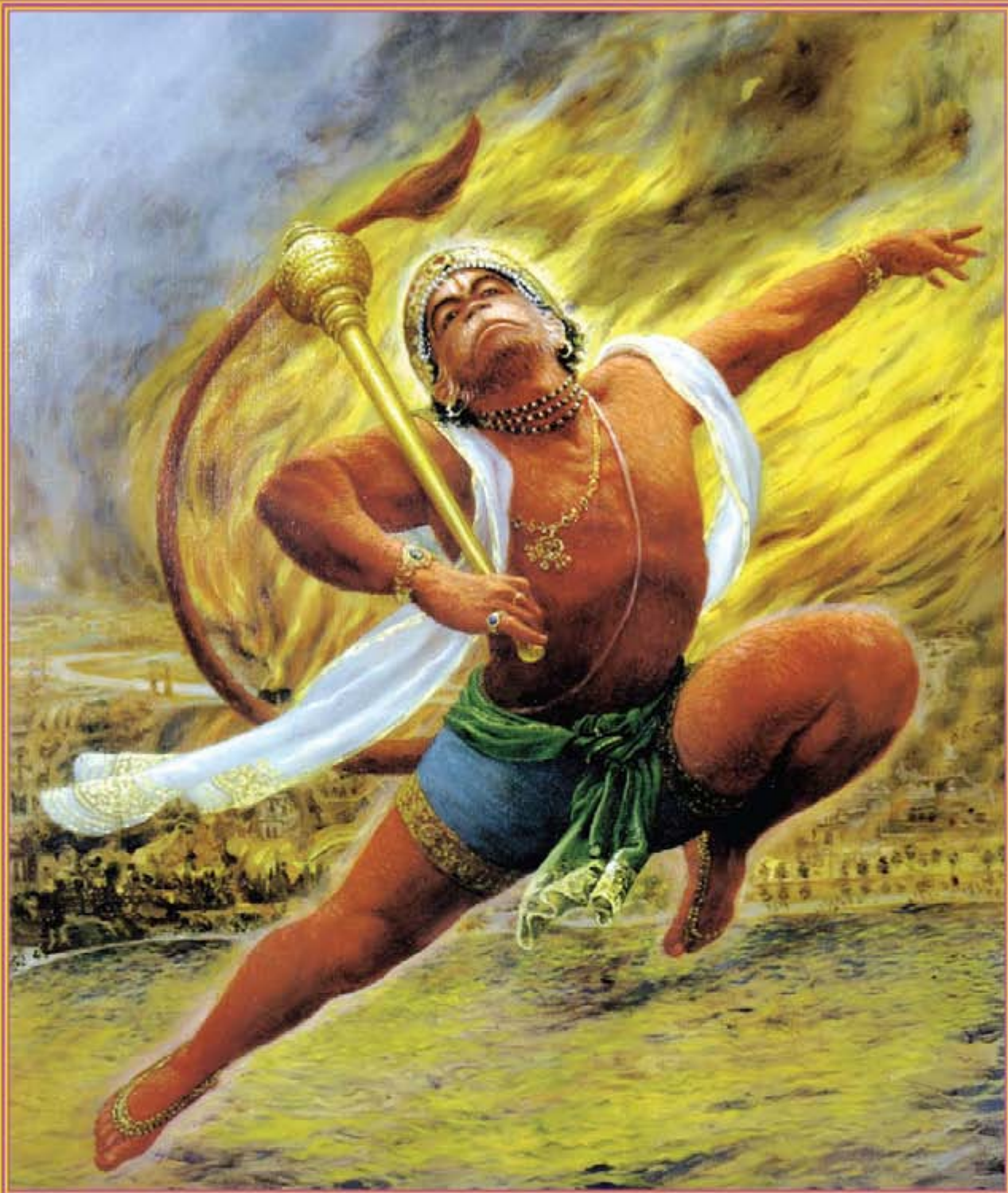
Hanuman, led a group of other monkeys who decided to build the bridge with stones. So, they pushed, pulled and shoved the stones into the water. However, the stones sunk in the water. Suddenly, an idea struck Hanuman. He started writing the word 'Rama' on each stone. Miraculously, the stones with the 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) The Supreme Personality of Godhead Krishna always values our endeavour, people value only the result of the work.
- 2) Because people are attached only to getting the best results, they lie, cheat, compete and even kill to become the best.
- 3) We, must also see others' endeavor (like Lord Rama saw the squirrel endeavor) and appreciate them.
- 4) Any devotional service whether tiny or great which is performed with love and devotion is of equal value to the Lord.

The Pigeon's Unity



In the early morning, a flock of pigeons flew around the jungle looking for food. "I am hungry," said the white pigeon. "When will we have some food?" "Be patient," said the old pigeon. "We will soon find something to eat." "Oh look!" cried the white pigeon. "I can see a lot of grains scattered about on the grass below." "Let us be a little careful," said the black pigeon. "It looks like a trap to me." "Do not be silly," said the yellow pigeon. "Let us fly down and see for ourselves."

The flock of pigeons landed on the grass and began to peck at the grains. They were all so busy eating that they did not notice a bird hunter hiding behind the branches of a tree. Suddenly a big net fell on all of the pigeons.



They were trapped! "Oh, no. we are all trapped," cried the pigeons. "I knew all along that something was wrong," said the black pigeon. "It is the white pigeon's fault that we were all trapped like this." "It is not my fault," cried the white pigeon. "I only wanted us to have a good meal." "Please be quiet, all of you," said the wise old pigeon. "This is not the time to fight. If we act with unity and work hard together we may be able to save ourselves from the hunter." "But how? The hunter is coming towards us. Now we will surely die!" the pigeons cried. "Now listen carefully," said the wise old pigeon. "I have an idea. As I say 'ready, steady, go' all of us will fly away together carrying the net with us."

Just then the hunter was climbing down a tree. "It is my lucky day," said the hunter. "I have never caught so many birds." "Ready, steady, go!" cried the old pigeon.



Acting together, all of the pigeons flapped their wings and flew away carrying the net with them. The hunter was very angry to see all the pigeons fly away with his large net. He chased after them, but could not catch them. They flew high into the sky. "It is no use," said the hunter. "The pigeons have worked together to outwit me." "Now you see, my friends," said the wise old pigeon. "United we stand and divided we fall." "United we stand and divided we fall," all the pigeons shouted.

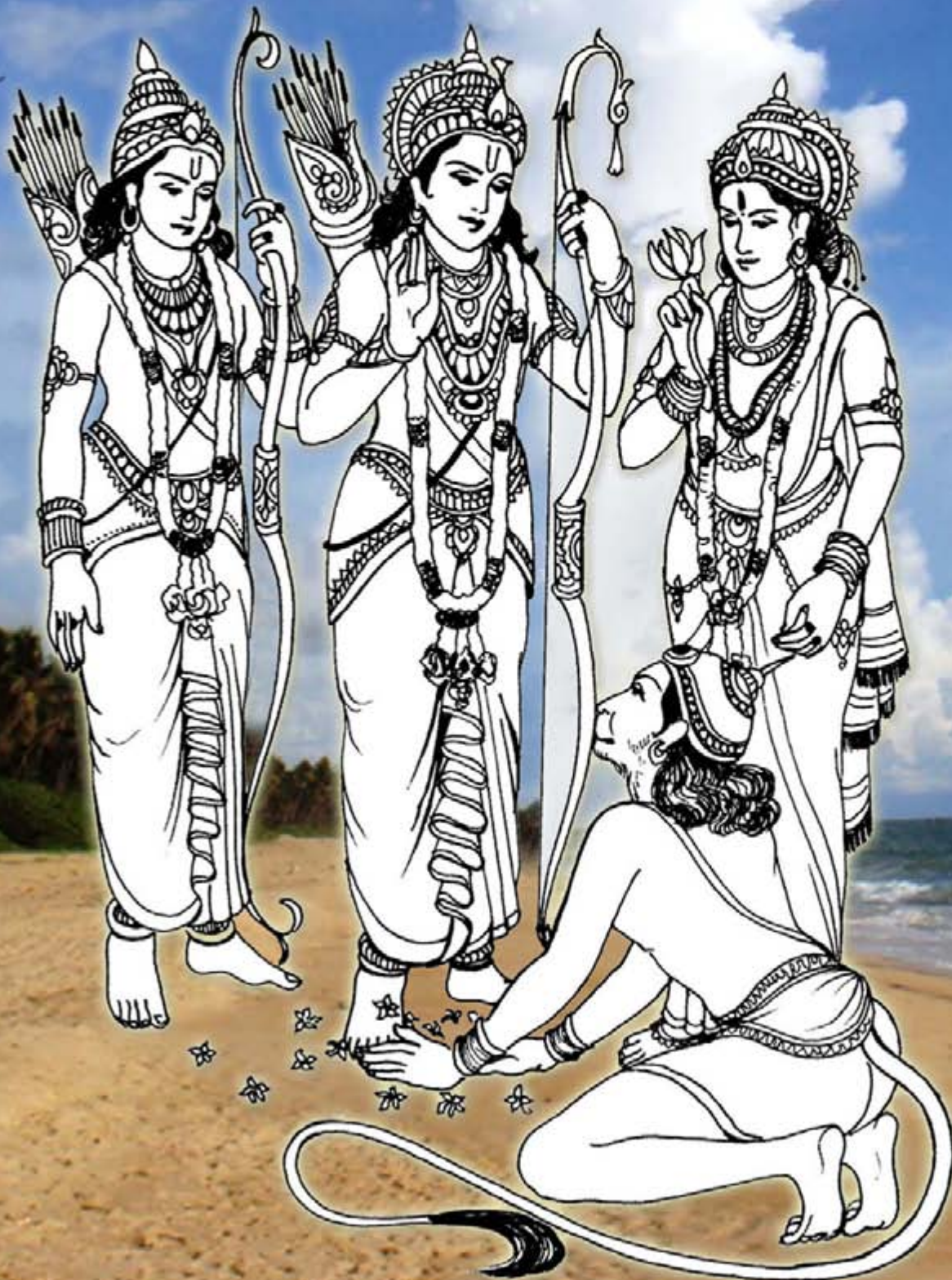


Moral's of the Story

- 1) United we stand and divided we fall.
- 2) Unity is Strength.



Ram Laxman Sita & Hanuman



Gajendra, The King of the Elephants



Gajendra, The King of the 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, deers 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.

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.



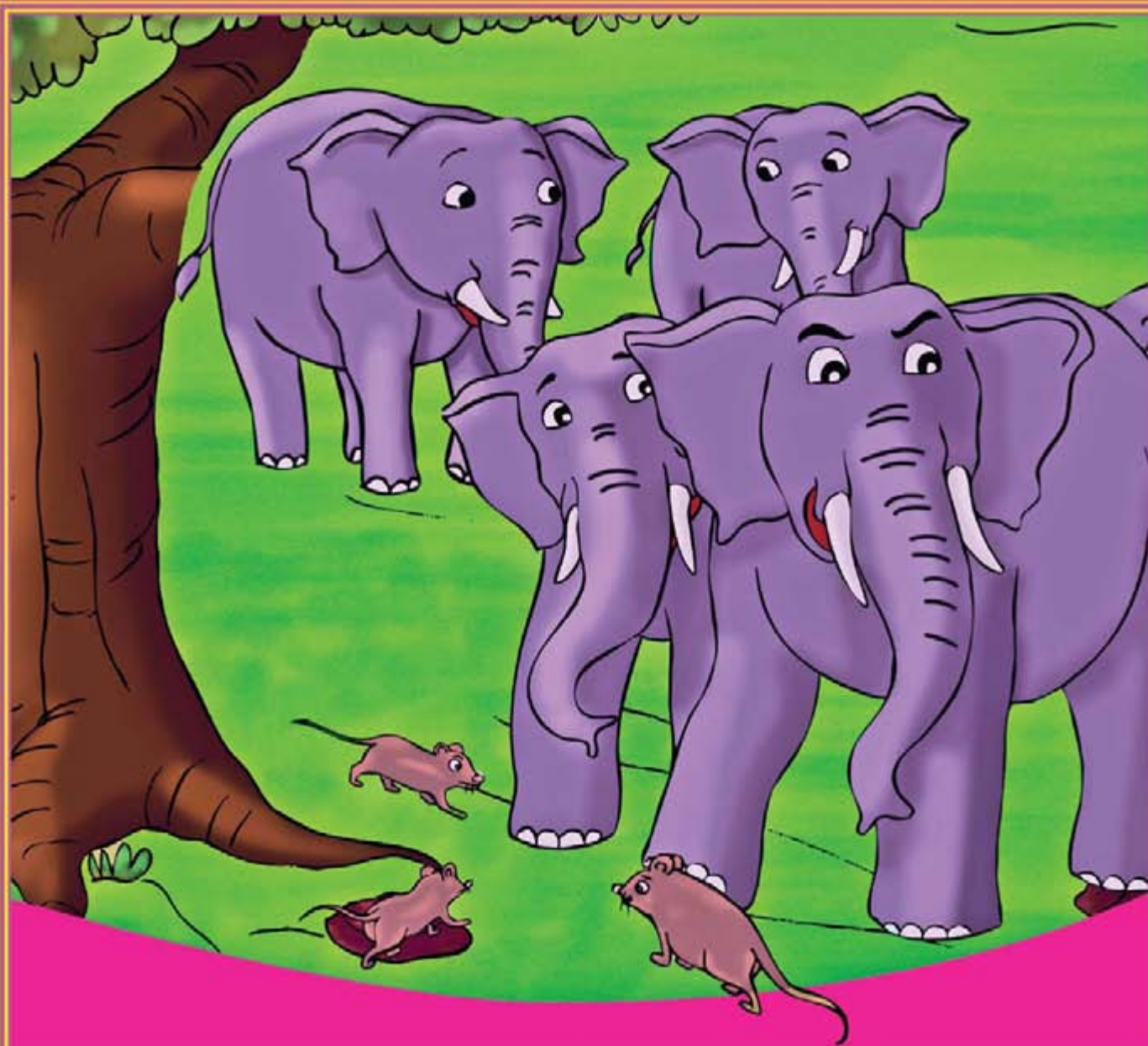
In this way, the Lord saved Gajendra. Because the hands of the Lord directly touched him, Gajendra was immediately freed from his material body and assumed his spiritual form. By turning to Lord Vishnu for help, Gajendra returned home back to the spiritual world.

Moral's of the Story

- 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!



The Elephant and The Mice



Many years ago, there was a large town on the banks of a lake. It was a beautiful town with many temples and grand buildings. The people were rich and happy. As time went on, they fell on hard times, though. All of the people left the town and moved away. All that remained were the mice who started living in the large, old buildings. Soon there were many mice. Hundreds of mice could be seen running and jumping and living a very good life. The town had many different kinds of mice. There were brown mice, grey mice, fat mice, thin mice and young mice. There were grandmother mice, grandfather mice, uncle, aunt mice and brother and sister mice. They all lived in peace and were very happy.



Far from town there was a thick forest where a herd of elephants lived. The largest was the king who was very kind and was loved by all. The elephants lived peacefully for many years. Then came hard times. It did not rain for several years. When the lakes, ponds and streams dried up, the king of the elephants sent many elephants in search of water. After a few days, they returned looking very happy. "Your Majesty," they said. "There is a big lake on the other side of an old town. It has plenty of water." "Let us go there at once," the king said. The herd of elephants then marched towards the lake. Their king was in front. Because they were very thirsty, they walked very fast. Soon they reached the town where the mice lived. "We will have to walk through this town to reach the lake," the elephant king said.



So they marched on. They were in a hurry to drink water so they walked very quickly. Without realizing, they crushed hundreds of mice on their way. The remaining mice were in deep trouble. They all got together to talk about their problem. "We must do something fast or we will all die," said the big, brown mouse. "I have heard that the elephant king is very kind," said the wise old mouse. "Let us

go to him. He will surely help us." The other mice agreed. Two brave mice were sent to the forest. Bowing low before the elephant king, they said. "Oh, Mighty King! You are big and strong. But, we are small and helpless. Everyday you and your elephants pass through our town. Hundreds of mice get killed under your feet. If this continues, not one mouse will remain alive."

The king looked sad. "We are sorry," he said. "We did not know this. What can we do?" "Sir, please do not go through our town," the mice said. "Please take another path to the lake." The elephant king agreed. "We will never pass through your town and disturb you," the elephant king said. "Thank you," the mice said. "Please let us know if we can ever do anything for you."

After some years, a group of hunters came to the forest. They had to catch many elephants for their king's army. They dug deep holes in the ground throughout the forest. They covered the holes with branches and leaves to trick the elephants. Then they went away. The next day, many elephants fell into the holes. They could not climb out. Soon the hunters returned. They pulled the elephants out with thick ropes and tied the animals to trees. After doing this, the hunters went home, but planned to return soon. The trapped elephants were very worried. "What shall we do?" they said. "How shall we escape?"



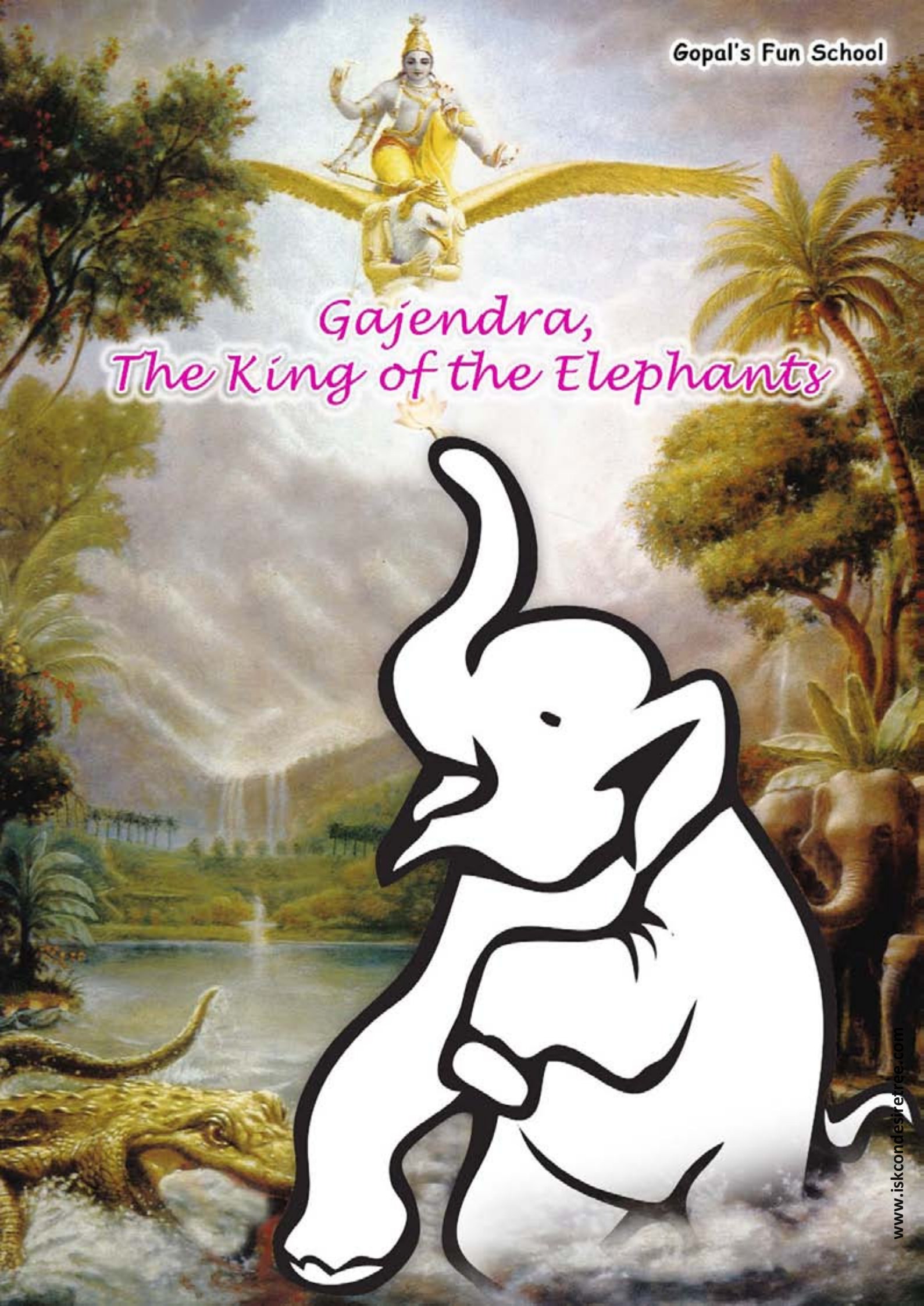
Suddenly their king said, "The mice once promised to help us. Let us call them here at once." He sent one of the elephants who had not yet been caught to the old town. "Of course we will save your friends," shouted the mice. Hundreds of mice ran to the forest. They chewed off the ropes with their sharp teeth. The elephants were free at last! "Thanks you for saving us," said the happy king. "You once saved our lives, too," smiled the mice. The elephants and the mice remained friends for many years.



Moral's of the Story

- 1) Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- 2) A friend in need is a friend in deed.

Gajendra, The King of the Elephants





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.