

Story Telling

The following are outlines of selected stories from the Srimad Bhagavatam provided for your reference. Participants may use these outlines as a guide or refer directly to the Srimad Bhagavatam for the full narratives, and are encouraged to present the stories in an expressive and engaging manner.

INDEX			
Class	Pages	Sl.no	Story
I-II	2- 4	1	Gajendra Moksha
		2	Matsya Avatar
		3	Advent of Lord Krishna
		4	Narada Muni
III-IV	5- 8	1	Ganga
		2	Dhruva Maharaj
		3	Parikshith Maharaj
		4	Jaya Vijaya
V-VII	9-15	1	Churning of the milk ocean
		2	Lord Vamanadev
		3	Ambarish Maharaj
		4	Prahlad Maharaj

Gajendra Moksha

This story is about elephant Gajendra who was King Indradyumna in his past life and was cursed by Agastya rishi to become an elephant.

Once, Gajendra, the leader of the elephants, frolicked in a lake near Trikuta Mountain with his female elephants. A crocodile in the lake caught Gajendra's leg. Gajendra struggled for many years to free himself. Finally, he prayed to Lord Vishnu for help.

Gajendra offered a lotus flower to Lord Vishnu and offered many prayers. Pleased with Gajendra's prayers, Lord Visnu appeared on the back of Garuda. Lord Visnu, immediately cut the crocodile's head with His disc pulled Gajendra out of the lake. Touched by Lord Visnu's disc, the crocodile regained his previous Gandharva body. The crocodile was King Huhu in his past life and was cursed by Devala rishi to become a crocodile. Gajendra who received a spiritual body returned back to Godhead.

Matsya Avatar

This is the story of how Lord Krishna once incarnated as a fish.

This happened when a demon named Hayagriva stole the Vedas from Lord Brahma. At around the same time there lived a King named Satyavrata Maharaj. King Satyavrata, performed great austerities on the bank of the Krtamala River. While offering oblations of water with the palm of his hand, he found a small fish. The fish grew bigger and bigger, so the King put the fish into the sea. The fish was none other than Lord Vishnu.

In due course of time, annihilation took place, and the King saw a large golden fish. Appeared in the ocean of inundation. The King and the learned brahmanas and saintly persons saw a boat coming near and they

all boarded it. The King anchored the boat to the horn of the fish and offered prayers to the Supreme Lord in the form of a fish.

The Supreme Lord is situated in everyone's heart and thus Lord taught the King all about Vedic knowledge from the core of the heart. When the flood was over, the Lord killed the demon Hayagriva. Then the Lord returned the Vedas to Brahma.

Narada Muni

Narada Muni in his previous birth was the son of a maidservant. He was then engaged in the service of brahmanas and thus received their blessing. Due to his devotional service, at the end of that life, he got a spiritual body. He was then born as son of Lord Brahma. The Supreme Lord personally gifted a vina to Narada Muni. Narada Muni received the knowledge of Srimad Bhagavatam from Lord Brahma. Narada Muni, the transcendental preacher travels all over the world singing the glories of the Supreme Lord Hari. Narada Muni instructed Vyasadeva to compile Srimad Bhagavatam. Narada Muni also instructed Dhruva Maharaj,..... Prahlada Maharaj in his mother's womb Mrigari, the hunterMaharaj Yudhistira ... King Chitraketu and others.

Advent of Sri Krishna

Once when the entire world was overburdened by the demons, devatas prayed to Lord Vishnu for help. Lord Vishnu informed them He would soon appear as the son of Vasudeva and Devaki.

After the marriage of Vasudeva and Devaki, while returning home on a chariot driven by Kamsa, an ominous voice addressed Kamsa, warning him that Devaki's eighth son would kill him. Hearing the omens, Kamsa took

up a sword to kill Devaki. Then, Vasudeva pacified Kamsa. Kamsa did not kill Devaki but imprisoned both Vasudeva and Devaki.

As foretold by the Lord, He entered the womb of Mother Devaki and all the devatas came to offer their prayers. Lord Krishna took His birth as the eighth son of Vasudeva and Devaki. He appeared in His four-handed Vishnu form. Vasudeva and Devaki offered their prayers to Lord Krishna.

Then, the Lord ordered Vasudeva to take Him to Gokula and exchange Him with the daughter born to Mother Yashoda. At that time all the doorkeepers were in deep sleep and the doors automatically opened. Vasudeva carried Krishna to Gokula. Lord Anantasesha spread His hoods to give the Lord shelter.

Reaching Gokula, Vasudeva exchanged Krishna with the daughter born to Mother Yashoda and returned back to the prison in Mathura. Kamsa tried to kill the newborn child of Mother Devaki, but the child rose above his head and appeared as the eight-armed form of Durga. Mother Durga then told Kamsa that the Lord had taken birth somewhere else. Hearing this, Kamsa ordered his men to kill all children who were born within ten days.

In Gokula, Nanda Maharaja arranged for a magnificent birth ceremony. Fearing Kamsa, Nanda Maharaj secretly performed the name giving ceremony of Krishna and Balarama by Garga Muni. Garga Muni said that the child would have power, beauty, and opulence, all on the level of Narayana, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Krishna became the darling of Vrindavan because of His uncommon activities.

Ganga

Once, King Sagara performed a horse sacrifice to satisfy Lord Vishnu. Being envious of King Sagara, Indra stole the horse meant to be offered at the sacrifice. The sons of King Sagara, searched for the lost horse. While doing so, they dug into the earth very extensively. They saw the horse near the ashrama of Kapila Muni. Thinking that the sage had stolen the horse, the sixty thousand sons all together, raised their weapons. When they approached the sage, the sage opened His eyes and immediately burned them all to ashes.

Thereafter, King Sagara ordered his grandson, Amshuman to search for the horse. Following the same path traversed by his uncles, he reached the stack of ashes, where he also found the horse. He saw Kapila Muni, sitting there by the horse. Offering Kapila Muni obeisances, he prayed to Him. Kapila Muni gave the horse and said that his forefathers, who have been burnt to ashes, can be delivered only by Ganges water.

Amshumana could not bring the Ganges to this material world, and thereafter, in due course of time, he died. Dilipa, Amshuman's son, was also unable to bring the Ganges to this material world.

Then Dilipa's son, Bhagiratha, performed very severe austerities to bring the Ganges to this material world. Pleased with Bhagiratha, Mother Ganga agreed to descend on earth. Bhagiratha also satisfied Lord Shiva by performing austerities and requested him to sustain the forceful waves of the Ganges.

Accepting Bhagiratha's request, Lord Shiva with great attention sustained the Ganges on His head. The sons of King Sagara had offended Kapila Muni, and they were burnt to ashes. But simply by being sprinkled with water from the Ganges, all of them became eligible to go to the heavenly planets. Because mother Ganges emanates from the lotus toe of the Lord Anantadeva, she is able to liberate one from material bondage.

Dhruva Maharaj

Dhruva Maharaj was the son of King Uttanapada. Once, Dhruva Maharaj, was trying to get on the lap of his father. Suruci, his stepmother, became very envious of him and said that he was not qualified to sit on his father's lap. Dhruva Maharaj, became very angry because of the strong words of his stepmother. He immediately went to his mother who also advised him to worship the Supreme Lord by going to the forest.

On the way to the forest, Dhruva met Narada Muni. Dhruva told Narada muni of his desire to achieve a kingdom more exalted than his father and grandfather. Narada Muni tried to dissuade Dhruva but then seeing his determination, He instructed Dhruva.

Dhruva requested Narada Muni to advise him of an honest path to follow by which he could achieve his life goal. Dhruva meditated as instructed by Narada Muni. Dhruva completely controlled his senses and their objects, and fixed his mind, upon the Supreme Lord. Due to Dhruva's intense meditation the living beings felt suffocation. So the devatas took shelter of Lord Vishnu. On the plea of the devatas, the Lord Vishnu got on the back of Garuda, who carried Him to the forest to see His servant Dhruva.

Dhruva saw his Lord just in front of him. Seeing Lord Vishnu, Dhruva immediately offered Him obeisance and respect. Lord Vishnu touched His conchshell to the forehead of Dhruva, who stood before Him with folded hands. At that time Dhruva became perfectly aware of the Absolute Truth. Dhruva offered his prayers to the Lord and then returned to his father's kingdom.

Later, when King Uttanapada saw that Dhruva was suitably mature to take charge of the kingdom, he enthroned Dhruva as emperor. Dhruva Maharaj

waged a battle against the Yakshas for having killed his brother. Dhruva Maharaja ruled over this planet for thirty-six thousand years. In due course,

Dhruva Maharaj retired to the forest and meditated on the Supreme Lord. A beautiful airplane carried Dhruva Maharaj and his mother, Suniti, to the spiritual world.

Parkishit Maharaj

After the battle of Kurushetra, when Lord Krishna was preparing to leave Hastinapura, Uttara, the mother of Parikshit Maharaj, hurried toward Lord Krishna in fear of the brahmastra released by Ashvathama. To protect the progeny of the Kuru dynasty, Lord Krishna covered the embryo of Uttara by His personal energy.

After the disappearance of Lord Krishna from the material world, Yudhisthira Maharaj enthroned Parikshit Maharaj as the King of the world and retired to the forest. As the emperor of the world, Parikshit Maharaj was a powerful ruler and even chastised Kali. Once when Parikshit Maharaj was hunting, he became extremely fatigued, hungry and thirsty. While searching for a reservoir of water, he entered Shamika Rishi's hermitage.

When Parikshit Maharaj was not received by any formal welcome, he picked up a lifeless snake and angrily placed it on the shoulder of the sage. When the Rishi's son heard of his father's distress, he cursed Parikshit Maharaj to die in seven days. Hearing about the curse, Parikshit Maharaj left for forest to fast till death and accepted Sukhdeva Goswami as his spiritual master and inquired from him submissively. Sukhdeva Goswami instructed the Srimad Bhagavatam to Parikshit Maharaj.

Parikshit Maharaj attained perfection by hearing the Srimad Bhagavatam. After hearing the Srimad Bhagavatam, Parikshit Maharaj passed away while meditating on Lord Krishna.

Jaya Vijaya

Once, Jaya and Vijaya, the two doorkeepers of Vaikuntha stopped the four Kumaras at the gate of Vaikuntha. In anger, the four Kumaras cursed Jaya and Vijaya to fall from Vaikuntha. Hearing the curse Lord Vishnu immediately went there. Lord Vishnu said to Jaya and Vijaya that it was with His consent that such a curse happened. Jaya and Vijaya, took birth as Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakashipu in the womb of Mother Diti. Later, Lord Varahadeva killed Hiranyaksha.

To become immortal Hiranyakashipu practiced severe types of austerity and meditation. He satisfied Lord Brahma and obtained the benedictions he desired. Fearful and disturbed by Hiranyakashipu's atrocities, devatas surrendered to Lord Visnu for protection. Hiranyakashipu tortured his son Prahlada, who was a devotee of Lord Vishnu. To save Prahlada, Lord Narsimhadeva appeared from a pillar and fought with Hiranyakashipu. Lord Narsimhadeva then killed Hiranyakashipu with His nails.

Jaya and Vijaya took their second birth as Ravana and Kumbhakarana. Later, Lord Rama killed Ravana and Kumbhakarana. Jaya and Vijaya took their third birth as Dantavakra and Shishupala. Lord Krishna killed Dantavakra and Shishupala. Thus, after three births Jaya and Vijaya returned back to Vaikunthaloka.

Churning of Milk Ocean

Once upon a time, the devatas, having been cursed by Durvasa Muni, were defeated in battle by the demons. When the devatas were deprived of their heavenly kingdom, they went to Lord Brahma. Then Brahma, along with all the devatas, went to the shore of the ocean of milk and offered prayers to Lord Visnu. Pleased with the devatas, Lord Vishnu appeared and advised them to make a truce with the demons and churn

the ocean of milk. Following the instructions of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the devatas established a peace with the demons. Then both the demons and the devatas started for the ocean, taking Mandara Mountain with them. Because of the great heaviness of the mountain, the devatas and demons became fatigued, and some of them actually died.

Then the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Vishnu, appeared there on Garuda, and by His mercy He brought these devatas and demons back to life. The Lord then lifted the mountain with one of His hands and placed it on the back of Garuda. The Lord was carried to the spot of the churning by Garuda, who placed the mountain in the middle of the sea.

Then devatas and the demons brought Vasuki to be used as the rope for the churning rod. The demons held the snake near the mouth, whereas the devatas held the tail of the great snake. Then, with great endeavor, they began pulling the snake in both directions. Because the churning rod, Mandara Mountain, was very heavy and was not held by any support in the water, it sank into the ocean. Then Lord Vishnu appeared in the form of a tortoise, Lord Kurma. Lord Kurma supported Mandara Mountain on His back. Then the churning resumed with great force. The Lord then appeared on the summit of Mandara Mountain.

As a result of the churning, a huge amount of poison was produced. The prajapatis, seeing no one else to save them, approached Lord Shiva and offered him prayers. Then Lord Shiva gathered the devastating poison in his hand and drank it. Because of the churning, first a surabhi cow was produced. Thereafter a horse named Uccaihsrava, Airavata and other elephants. Next came Kaustubha gem and Lord Vishnu took it and placed it on His chest. Thereafter, a parijataa flower and the Apsaras appeared from the milk ocean. As the churning continued Goddess Lakshmi appeared. She selected Lord Vishnu to be her master. Lord Vishnu gave her a place to stay everlastingly on His chest. As the churning continued,

Dhanvantari appeared. He was very beautiful and carried a jug containing nectar.

The demons snatched the pot of nectar from Dhanvantari. Then Lord Vishnu appeared as Mohini Murti. Lord Vishnu as Mohini Murti enchanted the demons and gave the nectar to the devatas. When Rahu demon tried to drink the nectar, Mohini-Murti beheaded him. Later, King Indra with the help of Lord Vishnu defeated the demon and regained the heavenly planet.

Ambarish Maharaj

Ambarish Maharaj was the emperor of the entire world and also a great devotee of Lord Narayana. He performed devotional service with great opulence. Once, Ambarish Maharaj was worshiping the Supreme Personality of Godhead in Vrindavana. On Dwadashi, the day after Ekadashi, when he was about to break his Ekadashi fast, the great mystic yogi Durvasa Muni appeared in his house and became his guest. Ambarish Maharaja respectfully received Durvasa Muni. Durvasa Muni, after

accepting the King's invitation to eat there, went to bathe in the Yamuna River at noon.

Ambrish Maharaj upon seeing that the time to break the fast was passing drank a little water, in accordance with the advice of learned brahman as.

By mystic power, Durvasa Muni could understand this and he was very angry. When he returned he began to chastise Ambrish Maharaj, and created from his hair a demon appearing like the fire of death. The Supreme Personality of Godhead, to protect Ambrish Maharaja sent His disc, the Sudarshana chakra, which immediately vanquished the fiery demon. Upon seeing that his

own attempt had failed and that the Sudarshana chakra was moving toward him, Durvasa Muni became very frightened and began to run in all directions to save his life.

When Durvasa Muni could find no shelter, he approached Lord Brahma, but Lord Brahma refused to give shelter to Durvasa Muni. Then Durvasa Muni tried to take shelter of Lord Shiva, who always resides on his planet, known as Kailasa. Lord Shiva also could not give him any shelter and asked the muni to approach Lord Narayana. Finally Durvasa Muni went to the spiritual world and surrendered to Lord Narayana.

But Lord Narayana could not excuse a person who had offended a Vaishnava. To be excused from such an offense, one must submit to the Vaishnava whom he has offended. There is no other way to be excused. Thus Lord Narayana advised Durvasa Muni to return to Ambrish Maharaja and beg his pardon. Following the order of Lord Narayana, Durvasa Muni immediately went to Ambarisha Maharaja and fell at his lotus feet. Seeing Durvasa Muni at his feet, Ambarish Maharaj prayed that the Sudarshan chakra be merciful to the muni. Sudarshan chakra, being

appeased,refrained from killing Durvasa Muni. After this incident, Ambrish Maharaja gave Durvasa Muni sumptuous food to eat, and then the

King, who had been standing in the same place for one year without eating anything, also took prasada.

Lord Vamanadev

After churning of the milk ocean, a war broke between the demons and the devatas and King Indra was victorious and Bali Maharaj was killed. By the grace of Shukracharya, Bali Maharaj was brought back to life. Then, Bali Maharaj, engaged himself in the service of Shukracharya.

Bali Maharaj performed a fire sacrifice. Prahlada Maharaj, Bali Maharaj's grandfather, gave him an eternal garland of flowers, and Shukracharya gave him a conchshell. Bali Maharaj, after offering obeisances to Prahlada Maharaj, the brahmanas and his spiritual master, Shukracarya, equipped himself to fight with Indra and went to Indrapuri with his soldiers.

Seeing Bali Maharaj's prowess, Indra went to his own spiritual master, Brahaspati, who advised the devatas to leave the heavenly planets. Lamenting for her son's misfortune, Mother Aditi prayed to Lord Visnu for a son who could regain Indra's heavenly planet.

Pleased with Aditi, Lord Vishnu agreed to become her son by incarnating as a plenary expansion. Lord Vishnu appeared from the womb of Aditi completely equipped with conchshell, disc, club and lotus. Then the Lord assumed the form of a dwarf. All the great sages expressed their jubilation, and they performed the birthday ceremony of Lord Vamanadeva.

Lord Vamanadeva then visited the sacrificial arena of Bali Maharaj. Because of His transcendently effulgent presence, all the priests stood from their seats and offered prayers to Him. Lord Vamanadeva begged Bali Maharaj for three paces of land and Bali Maharaj agreed to give this land in charity. Shukracharya advised Bali Maharaj to withdraw his

promise. When Bali Maharaj did not follow Shukracharya's advice, he cursed Bali Maharaj. Lord Vamanadeva then immediately extended

Himself into a universal body. By extending His body, Lord Vamanadeva covered the entire sky. With His hands He covered all directions, and with His second footstep He covered the entire upper planetary system. There was no vacant place where Lord Vamanadeva could place His third footstep. When Bali Maharaj was unable to fulfill his promise, Lord Vamanadeva, ascertained that the place for him would be the planet Sutala. Understanding Lord's purpose, Garuda, immediately arrested Bali Maharaj. When Bali Maharaj was reduced to a helpless position, Lord Vamanadeva asked him for the third step of land. Bali Maharaj gave his head in charity as the place for the third step. Being pleased with Bali Maharaj, the Supreme Lord Vamanadeva offered His disc to protect Bali Maharaj and promised to remain with him.

Prahlad Maharaj

Hiranyakashipu, father of Prahlada Maharaj, wanted to become immortal. Thus, he practiced a severe type of austerity and meditation. Hiranyakashipu satisfied Lord Brahma and obtained the benedictions he desired. When Hiranyakashipu was away to execute austerities, his wife, Kayadhu, was pregnant. The devatas, mistakenly thinking that she carried another demon in her womb arrested her.

While the devatas were taking her to the heavenly planets, Narada Muni stopped them and took her to his ashrama. There Narada Muni instructed Kayadu on spiritual knowledge. Taking advantage of those instructions,

Prahlada Maharaj, although within the womb, listened very carefully. Due to Narada Muni's instructions, Prahlada Maharaj becomes a great devotee of Lord Vishnu.

When Prahlada Maharaj was five years old, he preached to his school friends about Lord Vishnu. Hearing Prahlada Maharaj speak of Lord Vishnu, Hiranyakashipu threw him from his lap. As Prahlada Maharaj was a

devotee of Lord Vishnu, Hiranyakashipu tried to have his son, Prahlada, killed in many ways.

Prahlada was thrown beneath the feet of big elephants. After the wild elephant failed to kill Prahlada, his father, Hiranyakashipu, locked him in a room full of poisonous snakes. The snakes would not bite Prahlada due his full surrender to Lord Krishna. Prahlada was forced to sit in boiling oil. The rakshas has began striking Prahlada with tridents. Prahlada, due to his complete faith in the Supreme Personality of Godhead, was fearless, and he sat silently, meditating on the Lord Krishna. The great demon Hiranyakashipu, fed poison to Prahlada, exposed him to severe cold, winds, and fire, but nothing could harm Prahlada, who was completely sinless. Prahlada was even thrown from a cliff, but he was completely protected by the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

To save Prahlada Maharaj, Lord Narsimhadeva appeared from a pillar and battled with Hiranyakashipu. To protect Prahlada, Narsimhadeva killed Hiranyakashipu with His nails. After killing Hiranyakashipu, the faithful soldiers of Hiranyakashipu came to fight with Lord Nrsimhadeva, but the Lord killed all of them.

After Hiranyakashipu was killed, Lord Narsimhdeva continued to be angry and all the devatas could not pacify Him. Then Lord Brahma asked

Prahlada Maharaj to pacify the Lord. Pleased with Prahlada Maharaj's prayers, Lord Narsimhadeva seated him on His lap. Lord Narsimhadeva assured Prahlada Maharaj, that in the family of such a pure devotee as he, not only the devotee's father but his forefathers for twenty-one generations are liberated. After Lord Narsimha disappeared, Prahlada Maharaj was installed on the throne of the world by Lord Brahma and Shukracharya.