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SRI
NARASIMHA
CHATURDASHI

Narasimha Dev - The Ultimate Protector

Narasimha Chaturdashi is the celebration of the divine appearance of Lord Narasimha, the half-man, half-lion incarnation of Lord Vishnu. He appeared at dusk on Shukla Chaturdashi in the month of Vaishakha.

The Lord manifested in this powerful form to protect His dear devotee Prahlada Maharaja from the cruel persecutions of his demoniac father, Hiranyakashipu. The Lord always protects those who take sincere shelter of Him.



“Although Krishna is the original person, one without a second, He assumes different forms just to satisfy His devotees or to execute a specific purpose.”

(Srimad Bhagavatam 5.18.7)

Protection through devotees association:

When Hiranyakashipu left for austerities, his pregnant wife Kayadhu was arrested by the demigods. Narada Muni intervened and took her to his ashrama, where he instructed her in spiritual knowledge. Though in the womb, Prahlada Maharaja attentively heard these teachings and received devotional service. This shows that by the mercy of a pure devotee and proper guidance; one can attain devotion and become free from ignorance in any condition.



The fact is that anyone who associates with a pure devotee and follows his instructions becomes fixed in Krishna consciousness and is not disturbed by materialistic consciousness.

(Srimad Bhagavatam 7.8.2)

Prahlada offered below prayer to Lord Narasimha Dev:

“My dear Lord, O Supreme Personality of Godhead, because of my association with material desires, one after another, I was gradually falling into a blind well full of snakes, following the general populace. But Your servant Narada Muni kindly accepted me as his disciple and instructed me how to achieve this transcendental position. Therefore, my first duty is to serve him. How could I leave his service?”

(Srimad Bhagavatam 7.9.28)



Protection from material desires:



Material desires bind the soul and keep one away from true peace. But by taking shelter of the Lord and engaging in devotional service, one becomes free from these desires.

The life of Prahlada Maharaja shows this perfectly. Even in difficult circumstances, he remained untouched by material desires because of his deep devotion and constant remembrance of Lord.

By following the guidance of a bona fide spiritual master and staying in devotional service, one is protected from the influence of material desires

“Therefore we should always offer our prayers to Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva, who killed Hiraṇyakaśipu, the personification of material desire. Hiraṇya means “gold,” and kaśipu means “a soft cushion or bed.” Materialistic persons always desire to make the body comfortable, and for this they require huge amounts of gold.



Thus Hiraṇyakaśipu was the perfect representative of materialistic life. He was therefore the cause of great disturbance to the topmost devotee, Prahlada Mahārāja, until Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva killed him. Any devotee aspiring to be free of material desires should offer his respectful prayers to Nṛsiṃhadeva as Prahlada Mahārāja did in this verse.”

(Srimad Bhagavatam 5.18.8)

Protection from all fears:

The boons granted by Lord Brahma could not make Hiraṇyakashipu fearless. Yet, Narada Muni, out of compassion, blessed his son Prahlada Maharaja with devotion by guiding him to the shelter of the Supreme Lord.



While Brahma only sanctioned material boons, Narada Muni bestowed bhakti. Thus, despite facing repeated threats from his father, Prahlada remained completely fearless.

“In this material world, everyone is in fearful consciousness (śadā samudvigna-dhiyām), and the only means to make everyone fearless is Kṛṣṇa consciousness. When Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva appeared, all the devotees became fearless. The devotee’s hope of becoming fearless is to chant the holy name of Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva. Yato yato yāmi tato nṛsiṃhaḥ: wherever we go, we must always think of Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva. Thus there will be no fear for the devotee of the Lord.”

(Srimad Bhagavatam 7.9.5)



Through this wonderful pastime, the Supreme Lord shows that He is the Supreme protector. No one can surpass His intelligence or cheat Him. If He decides to protect someone, no one can harm them; and if He decides otherwise, no one can save them—no matter how powerful or intelligent they may be.

On this auspicious day of Narasimha Chaturdashi, let us sincerely pray to Lord Narasimha to protect us from all fears, obstacles, and material desires. May He bless us with strong faith, steady devotion, and the strength to always remember Him, just like Prahlada Maharaja.

Devotees observe fasting till dusk and offer heartfelt prayers to Lord Narasimha, seeking His mercy and protection from all dangers and obstacles on the spiritual path.

When Krishna Appears in dreams- The story of Madhavendra Puri



Around 1420 AD, a great devotee of Krishna, Madhavendra Puri lived in constant remembrance of Krishna. He never asked anyone for food—if something was offered, he accepted it; otherwise, he fasted, absorbed in kirtan and bhajan.

Once in Vrindavan, while meditating under a tree near Govardhan Hill, a beautiful dark-complexioned cowherd boy appeared before him with a pot of milk. The boy said that in His village no one remained hungry and quickly left, saying He had to milk His cows. Madhavendra Puri drank the milk and waited for the boy to return.

First dream – Instruction for locating Gopal's deity:



All night he chanted the Hare Krishna Mahamantra, and later, when he dozed for a while, the cowherd boy appeared in his dream. In the dream, the boy took Madhavendra Puri to a spot on Giriraj and said,

“Baba, I have been waiting for you all these years. My name is Gopal, the lifter of Govardhan and the Lord of this place. I have been buried here for many years, exposed to the harsh weather. Please get Me out and bathe Me, for I am feeling very hot. Install Me nicely on top of the hill, construct a temple for Me, and serve Me.”

The next morning, the villagers helped Madhavendra Puri uncover Gopal, the beautiful deity form of Krishna. A grand abhishek followed with hundreds of pots of water, kirtan, dancing, and many food offerings. Madhavendra Puri dressed Gopal in beautiful clothes and jewellery.

From that day, different villages took turns serving Gopal opulently with love and devotion.



Second dream – Instruction for getting sandalwood from Jagannath Puri:

Two years passed in this way, and one night, Gopal again appeared in Madhavendra Puri's dream and told him that the heat in His body was not subsiding. The only way He could be relieved was if a paste of Malayan sandalwood from Jagannath Puri were applied to His body.

Puri Maharaja was greatly pleased to receive such an order from Gopal and immediately embarked on his journey to Puri, nearly 1,000 miles away.



Kheer Chora Gopinath:

On the way, he stopped at Remuna for darshan of Gopinath. There he saw the opulent offering of condensed milk called Amritakeli. He desired to taste it only so he could prepare the same offering for Gopal. At once he felt ashamed and left the temple.



That night, Gopinath appeared in the head priest's dream and said:

“Open the temple door. I have hidden one pot of Amritakeli under My cloth. Take it to My devotee, Madhavendra Puri, who is sitting in the market-place.”

The priest found the pot exactly where Gopinath had said and rushed to the market calling, “Madhavendra Puri! Gopinath has stolen this kheer for you!”



Hearing this, Madhavendra Puri came forward. With tears of affection, he honoured the Amritakeli. He carefully kept the empty pot, and every day he would eat one small piece of it in remembrance of Gopinath's mercy.

From that day, Gopinath became famous as Kheer Chora Gopinath.

Third dream – Sandalwood for Gopinath



After reaching Puri, devotees helped Madhavendra Puri collect sandalwood and arrange everything needed for the journey back to Govardhan.

On his return, he again stopped at Remuna. That night, Gopal appeared in his dream and said:

“Baba, I have already accepted the sandalwood you collected for Me. Make a paste of it and apply it to the body of Gopinath, who is non-different from Me. My fever will then automatically subside.”

Madhavendra Puri engaged the local devotees to grind the sandalwood into a paste, which was smeared daily on the body of Gopinath until all the sandalwood was used.

The beginning of Chandan Yatra:

Since then, in temples of Krishna around the world, the festival of Chandan Yatra is celebrated every summer, beginning on Akshaya Tritiya. Devotees lovingly prepare sandalwood paste each day, and the pujaris apply it to the Lord for His pleasure.

Krishna's loving reciprocation:



Madhavendra Puri loved Krishna so deeply that he was ready to risk anything for His pleasure. Though old and penniless, he undertook the difficult task of bringing sandalwood all the way from Puri to Vrindavan only for Gopal's sake.

Krishna, in turn, wonderfully reciprocated with His devotee's love. He spoke to him, guided him, and provided all facilities for His service.

If we also practice bhakti with sincerity, Krishna personally reciprocates. When we make earnest efforts to satisfy Him, He gives us the strength, intelligence, and joy to serve Him beyond our own capacity.

The joy of serving Krishna:

If we too practice bhakti, or devotional service to Krishna, the Lord will reciprocate with us in a personal way. When we make earnest efforts to satisfy Him, the Lord also personally helps us and grants not only the perfect happiness we seek but also full credit for the service.

New Annadaan Mega Kitchen

Food for life at ISKCON Bhiwandi:

ISKCON Bhiwandi launched the Food for Life (Annadaan) initiative in March 2020, at a time when the nation came to a complete standstill due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through this program, nutritious and hygienically prepared meals were served daily from the ISKCON Bhiwandi Kitchen to daily wage workers, migrant laborers, nursing homes, homeless shelters, pregnant women, and residents of nearby slum communities.

The Annadaan initiative began with 200 meals per day. With growing support and efficient operations, the distribution increased to 1,000 meals daily by the end of 2021, and further scaled up to an average of 2,000+ meals per day by the end of 2022.

On auspicious festivals such as Makar Sankranti, Ram Navami, Janmashtami, and Diwali, mega food distribution drives were conducted, serving 75,000 to 1,00,000 meals per event.

Over the past six years, the Food for Life program has successfully distributed 43.90 lakh nutritious meals, directly benefiting 43.90 lakh individuals, reaffirming ISKCON Bhiwandi's commitment to compassion, service, and community welfare.

New mega kitchen:

ISKCON Bhiwandi is initiating to expand the existing kitchen to new mega kitchen equipped with two community dining halls, designed to cook and distribute up to 15,000 nutritious meals per day in a hygienic and efficient manner.

At present, ISKCON Bhiwandi distributes approximately 2,000 meals daily, translating to nearly 9 lakh meals annually. While the existing kitchen operates at full capacity, the demand for free, nutritious meals among vulnerable communities continues to significantly exceed current infrastructure capabilities.

Since a large number of people in Bhiwandi struggle to afford basic food, this new kitchen aims to fill that gap by creating a permanent setup that can cook and serve a large number of meals every day.

Very soon we will give an update on the construction plans and we expect to inaugurate within 1 year.

Verse of the Month
I Desire No Desire SB 7.10.7
Prahlada Maharaja to
Narsimhadev



Verse:

**yadi dāsyasi me kāmān
varāms tvaṁ varadarṣabha
kāmānām hṛdy asaṁrohaṁ
bhavatas tu vṛṇe varam**

Translation:

O my Lord, best of the givers of benediction, if You at all want to bestow a desirable benediction upon me, then I pray from Your Lordship that within the core of my heart there be no material desires.

Quiz Corner

Q 1. Prahlad is the epitome of ?

- A. Archanam
- B. Vandanam

- C. Vishnu smaranam
- B. Padasevanam

Q 2. Why did Lord Narasimha appear?

- A. To destroy Hiranyakashipu
- B. To end adharma

- C. To protect the devatas
- D. To protect Prahlad Maharaj

Q 3. Lord Narasimha is significant for?

- A. Removing obstacles in devotional life
- B. Protecting devotees

- C. Loving his devotees
- D. All of the above

Q 4. Prahlad Maharaj pleased the Lord by?

- A. Always remembering him
- B. Worshipping His lotus feet

- C. Offering prayers to Him
- D. Doing Tapasya

Q 5. What boon did Hiranyakashipu ask from Lord Brahma?

- A. No death at all
- B. Not killed by man/animal, inside/outside, day/night

- C. Supreme power over all
- D. Wealth and immortality

Answers to March-April quiz corner

1) C; 2) A; 3) B; 4) B; 5) C

Winners:- 1. Sravanthi Vanguri
2. Swarnalakshmi Ravi
3. Sree Vathsala J

Mail your answers to email id support@iskconbhiwandi.org with "April-May Quiz Corner" in the subject.

Names of the first three people who gave correct answers shall be published in the next month's newsletter.

Words of Wisdom by His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada
May 5th, 1974, Bombay



Janma-mṛtyu-jarā-vyādhī-duḥkha-doṣānu-darśanam
[Bg. 13.9].

Wherever you go within this material world, either in the Brahmaloka or in the Pātāla-loka, you have to die. That is the problem. Kṛṣṇa says in the Bhagavad-gītā, "Real problem is janma-mṛtyu-jarā-vyādhī, birth, death, old age and disease." Just try to... So Hiraṇyakaśipu wanted to solve these in a materialistic way, but that is not possible. So in a negative way he wanted that "I shall not die on the land. I shall not die in the air. I shall not die in the water. I shall not be killed by any man-made weapon." In so many ways, negatively he thought that he has become immortal.

But Kṛṣṇa is so intelligent that keeping all the words or the blessings given by Lord Brahmā to Hiraṇyakaśipu, He killed him. Just like Hiraṇyakaśipu wanted that he would not be killed either at day or in night. So Hiraṇyakaśipu was killed neither at day, neither in night, but just in the beginning of evening, which is neither day nor night. Then he wanted that he shall not be killed in the air, in the water or in the land. So Hiraṇyakaśipu was killed on the lap of the Lord. So he wanted that he would not be killed by any weapons made by man, so Lord killed him with His nails. Yes.

tava kara-kamala-vare nakham adbhu-
ta-śṛṅgaṁ
dalita-hiraṇyakaśipu-tanu-bhṛṅgaṁ
keśava dhr̥ta-narahari-rūpa jaya jagadīśa
hare
[Gītā Govinda, Śrī Daśāvatāra Stotra 4]

So we cannot cheat God. That is not possible. However scientifically you may be advanced, God is always more intelligent than ourself. We should always remember. So that is the difference between demon and devotee. Devotee knows that "God is great. I am His eternal servant," so he remains a humble servant of Kṛṣṇa.

Therefore he has no danger. Even if he has danger, he will be saved. Kṛṣṇa says in the Bhagavad-gītā, kaunteya pratijānīhi na me bhaktaḥ praṇaśyati [Bg. 9.31]. Kaunteya pratijānīhi: "Arjuna, you can declare it all over the world that anyone who has taken shelter at My lotus feet, become devotee, he will never be vanquished." Ahaṁ tvāṁ sarva-pāpēbhyo mokṣayiṣyāmi mā śucaḥ [Bg. 18.66]. So these are the assurances.

But the atheist class of men like Hiraṇyakaśipu cannot understand this. That is the defect. They challenge always God. The dissension between the father and the son was that the son was believer in God, Kṛṣṇa, and the father was not. So at the end, the father saw what is God in the form of death. At that time he could not save him. So that is the difference between theist and atheist. The atheist always challenges, "Where is God? Can you show me?" Well, you will see. Not now. Just at the maturation of your all sinful activities, when death will come, you will see Him. This is

Upcoming Events & Self-Help:

Events:

Date	Event
13th May	Apara Ekadashi
14th May	Paran time – 06:04 am to 10:25 am
17th May	Purushottama (Adhika) Masa starts
27th May	Padmini Ekadashi
28th May	Paran time – 06:01 am to 07:59 am

Self-Help:

Online
Everyday morning
Japa Session
(Mahamantra
Meditation)

Online
Everyday Srimad
Bhagvatam
(Reading) &
CHAD Bhagavad Gita
(Recitation and
Discussion)

Online/Live
Saturday Sanga on
Systematic study of
Srimad Bhagavatam

Online/Live
Sunday class on
Systematic
study of
Bhagavad Gita

Online
Saturday & Sunday
Children class on
Systematic study of
Bhagavad Gita
(5yrs - 15yrs)

Feel free to connect with us and share your experiences.

We are delighted to be of service to you.

For more information about our activities, please visit www.iskconbhiwandi.org

You can reach us at +91 9175263178 or drop us an email at support@iskconbhiwandi.org