



My dear and respected devotees Jai Seeta Ram Radhe Radhe,

Today we are talking about Narsingha Avataar or The Half Lion and the Half Man Avataar– the fourth incarnation of Bhagwan Vishnu on Earth.

After the destruction of Hiranaksh there was rejoicing in the heavenly regions as the Devtas and all godly individuals were very happy.

But the joy did not last long as Hiranyakashap the elder brother of Hiranaksh, was very disappointed and upset about the death of his brother. When he saw his mother Diti and his sister in law crying he made a promise to them that they will soon see the end of Lord Vishnu.

He turned to the Asuras and ordered them to go to Earth and to destroy the auspicious activities of the Brahmins and Kshatrayas who are performing activities of Tapasyas, Yagnas, Havan, fastings, donations and studying of religious texts as these activities were the strength and the real aspects of Maha Vishnu, who is the protector of the deities, the saints, of the cows, the departed souls and all living things and to destroy the four orders of society – The Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishya and Shudras

As Vyass jee says in Shree Mad Bhagwat Puran SK 7 Chapter 2 Verses 11 and 12

**Tavadyaat Bhuvanm Yooyam Vipra Kshatra Samedhitaam
Sood Yodhvam Tapo Yagya Swadhaya Vrat Daaninahi
Vishnu Vishnur Dwij kriya moola yagyo Dharmayah Pumaan
Dev-Rishi Pitri Bhutanaam Dharmasya Cha Parayan am
Yatra Yatra Dvija Gaawo Veda Vamasramaah Kriyah
Tam Tam Janpadam Yaata Sandeepoyat Vrischat**

At the same time Hiranyakshap went into the valley of Mount Mandarachal and began a long penance to seek the Blessings of Brahma Jee by standing on his toes, watching towards the sky while raising his hands upwards for

years. His penance was so intense that ant hill and grasses grew on him. His mediation was so intense that rivers and oceans moved fiercely , earth and mountains moved, stars and planets moved in panic and the fiery smoke which came from his head began to burn everything in its wake.

The Devtas, overcome with fear went to Brahma Jee and ask that something be done before the smoke from Hiranyakashap's head destroyed everything that Brahma Jee had created.

Lord Brahma reassured them that he will attend to their requests and then went to visit Hiranyakshap and asked him to open his eyes. Brahma Jee told him that He was so pleased, with the severe penance that any wish of his will be fulfilled. After Braham Jee sprinkled Hiranyakshap with water and he returned to a normal state, Hiranyakshap asked for immortality.

Brahma Jee told Hiranyakashap that he could not grant any such boon as all living things have to die as this is a mortal world referred to as Mrituloak in Hindi.

Hiranyakashap then asked for a few conditions as his death wish and they were that No man or beast, nor devil nor Gods shall cause his death, and he will die neither at the day time or at night and that he will not die, inside nor outside of a building, by wood or stone or metal and that he be granted undisputed Lordship over the universe.

Lord Brahma said Tatha Ashtu meaning that his wishes will be fulfilled. After securing such a wish Hiranyakashap wasted no time in conquering earth and heavenly regions and he became very powerful and practically immortal declaring that none should ever worship Maha Vishnu because no one is greater than him not even Maha Vishnu.

The Devtas approached Lord Vishnu and pleaded for his Help and the Lord told them “ to be patient as soon Hiranyakashap will have a son who will be a great devotees of Mine” and when he tries to kill his own son I will be there to defend him and end the life of Hiranyakashap . Sri Mad Bhawad Puran says in Sk 7 Chapter 4 vs 27 and 28th

Yada Dvashu Vedeshu GoshuVipreshuSaadhusu
Dharme maye Mayi Cha Vidveshah sa vaa aashu Vinasyati

Nirvairaaaye Prshantaaye swasutaaye Mahaatmane

Prahalad AAYE Yada Druyet Hanisyapi Varor jitam

Unknowingly to Hiranyakashap, while he was performing his penance, Lord Indra had kidnapped his wife, Kayaadhoo and while taking her to the heavenly regions, met with Narad Muni who enquired what he was doing. Narad Muni scolded Lord Indra for his action and told him that it was a grave sin to kidnap another person's wife and also told him that she was pregnant with a great devotee of Lord Vishnu. Narad Muni then took Kayaadhoo to his hermitage and taught her the knowledge of the Vedas, the Puranas and the Glory of Maha Vishnu. Consequently a great devotee of the Lord was born in the home of an Asura.

When Prahalad was five years old he was sent to Gurukul to be taught by Sand and Amark , his two gurus, who were the sons of Guru Shrukracharaya, with the intent that he will be taught the philosophy of the demons as dictated by his father.

One day while visiting his son at the gurukul, Hiranyakashap asked his son what was the best thing in life and Prahalad said to renounce the world and seek refuge at the Lotus feet of Maha Vishnu. This made him furious as he was expecting his son to behave as an asura prince.

Another day Hiranyakashap asked his son, Prahalad what he had learned from his Gurus and Prahalad replied there are nine forms of devotion to Lord Vishnu.

**Sravanam Keertanaam Chaiva smaranaam paada sewanaam
Aarchanam Vandanaam Daasyam Sakhyam aatma nivedhanaam.**

Repulsed by such words Hiranyakashap ordered Prahalad to never repeat such words and ordered the gurus to court to find out what they were teaching his son. Both Gurus pleaded their case and said that Prahalad Jee was always telling them that the essence of all learning lies in the Names of Lord Vishnu.

Prahalad's devotion intensified with time and after his father criticized him Prahalad Jee said to his father to repent and to adore Lord Vishnu. Getting more enraged by hearing these words Hiranyakashap ordered his soldiers to take Prahalad away and have him killed but they failed at this and many other attempts including throwing Prahalad off a mountain peak, poisoning his food, dropping him in the ocean, having a mad elephant attack him and

placed him with poisonous snakes. But every attempt fail and finally asked his sister Holika to sit with him in a fire to burn him to death but that also failed.

Hiranyakashap decided to end his son's life by taking a sword and asking if His Lord Vishnu was present and Prahalad said that Maha Vishnu was Omnipresent. Hiranyakashap then showed him a pillar and asked Prahalad if Vishnu Bhagwan was present in a red hot Pillar to which Prahalad jee said yes. Hiranyakashap jumped from his seat and hit the pillar with his mace

To Hiranyakashap's surprise a large crack opened with a loud thundering noise and Lord Vishnu appeared as Narsingha Bhagwan, the top half of the body was a lion and the bottom half as a man. His hair was matted and with a large Moustache, terrible teeth and sharp nails on his paws.

Seeing this Hiranyakashap pulled his sword and began to battle with Narsingha Bhagwan but the mighty Lord caught hold of him and placed him on his thighs, while sitting on the threshold of his courtroom. As he reminded Hiranyakashap about the boons from Lord Brahma, Narsingha Bhagwan pierced Hiranyakashap's chest and he died instantly.

This story teaches us not to be arrogant, never challenge Almighty God and practice daily most if not all of the nine forms of devotion to Bhagwan but especially show Bhakti to The Lotus feet of Lord Vishnu

May Lord Vishnu and Mother Lakshmi bless us all with theirs Grace always and may He provide us freedom from sufferings in our life as we try to get closer to HIM

Jai Seeta Ram Radhe Radhe and Thank you.