

Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy

Lord Narashima is one of the ten Avatars of MahaVishnu. He is a "Great Protector" being a form of Vishnu Avatar who specifically defends and protects devotees at the time of need.

In the Bagavad Gita, one of India's most sacred scriptures Lord Vishnu in the form of Krishna discloses something of this cosmic process:

"Whenever the world declineth in virtue and righteousness; and vice and injustice mount the throne, then cometh I, the Lord and revisit my world in visible form, and mingleth as a man with men, and by my influence and teachings do I destroy the evil and injustice and reestablish virtue and righteousness. Many times have I thus appeared, and many times hereafter shall I come again?"

*yada yada hi dharmasya
glanir bhavati bhārata
abhyutthanam adharmasya
tadatmanam srijamy aham*

TRANSLATION

Whenever and wherever there is a decline in religious practice, O descendant of Bharata, and a predominant rise of irreligion--at that time I descend Myself.

Nrusimha (in Sanskrit), popularly called by devotees as "Narasimha", denotes the divine form of half man and half lion. Lord Vishnu in the form of Lord Narashima came to destroy an Asura King Hiranyakashipu who claimed himself as God and threatened the real existence of God.

The Asura King Hiranyakashipu on the advice of his guru Shukracharya, undertook severe penance on Lord Brahma and when the God appeared before him, he requested immortality as a reward for his years of penance. Brahma, however, declined, saying "all living beings must face death however you can choose your death wish". Hiranyakashipu then asked for three conditions as his death wish, "O Brahma, let not death come to me either by man or beast, nor God shall cause my death by day or by night with steel or stone or wood, indoors or outdoors, or earth or in sky. Grant me undisputed lordship over the world". Brahma agreed and Hiranyakashipu got his death wishes granted. Thus he became practically immortal.

He banned all pujas to Lord Vishnu and declared himself a God. Those who refused to accept him as their God were either killed or driven out of his country. Meanwhile, his wife Kayadhu, was pregnant and she used to hear the Bhagavatha from Naradha Maharishi. She gave birth to a male child Prahlada. Since Prahlada heard Bhagavatha during his pre-natal stage, he was devoted to Narayana.

Prahlada would always chant 'Om Namo Bhagavathe Vasudevaya'. Hiranyakashipu tried his best to coerce his child to worship him but everytime he failed.

One day Hiranyakashipu, tired of converting his son, decided to make it final and asked to show him his God. If he failed, he will be his God. In Alwar's verses, this scene is beautifully described as the God waiting in every atom of that palace so that he can prove his devotee.

Prahlada proclaimed that his God Narayana is everywhere, present in Pillar and tiny particle. When Hiranyakashipu broke one of the pillars to check His existence, God came out in the form of Narasimha (to honor the Boon) with fearsome roaring, caught hold of Hiranya, sat on the door step of the palace with Hiranya on His lap, and killed him.

Prahlada sung in praise of the Lord Narasimha with Lakshmi and got their blessings.

BOON GIVEN TO HIRANYAKASHIPU

1. No human or animal can kill him and therefore Vishnu took the form of half lion and half man.
2. Death should not occur in his palace and outside and therefore Vishnu killed the Asura on the Door step of his palace
3. Death should not occur during day time or night and therefore Vishnu (Narashima) choose Sandhya Kala i.e., when day and night meets and neither in space or on ground, hence Lord Vishnu in the form of Narshima put Hiranyakashipu on his lap and killed him.

In Human life we encounter inner conflicts.

We are constantly fighting evil which may take in many forms. By accepting Lord Narashima (Lord Vishnu) one can enhance ones spiritual enlightenment and can easily win over the evil influence that we encounter and take God-like qualities like love, compassion, empathy and kindness.

Lakshmi Narasimha Avatar is described in the Bhagavatham. Worshipping Lord Narashimha along with Mahalakshmi endows the devotee with wealth, health, prosperity, longevity and protects the devotees from disease and malefic effects of planets.

SRI NARASIMHA BHEEJAMALA STHOTRAM:

*Ugram Veeram Mahavishnum Jwalantham Sarvathomugam ;
Narashimham bheeshanam patram Mruthyu mrutyu Namamyaham.*



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