

## The Appearance day of Lord Nrsimha-deva

On the **28<sup>th</sup> April** is the Appearance day of the half man (nara) - half lion (simha) avatar (incarnation) of Lord Shree Krsna called LORD NRSIMHADEVA.



### The Katha of the appearance of Lord Nrsimhadeva from the 7<sup>th</sup> canto Srimad Bhagavatam

The powerful asura (demon) Hiranyakashipu the king of the demons, his brother, another demon Hiranyaksha who had been creating lots of disturbances, had been killed by Lord Varaha, an incarnation of Lord Krsna. Hiranyakashipu also was creating disturbances by harassing the sages and the devas. Hiranyakashipu wanted to get revenge upon Lord Vishnu for the killing of his brother so he performed severe austerities:

"Seeing Hiranyakashipu engaged in this austerity, the devas returned to their respective homes, but while Hiranyakashipu was thus engaged, a kind of fire began blazing from his head, disturbing the entire universe and its inhabitants, including the birds, beasts and devas. When all the higher and lower planets became too hot to live on, the devas, being disturbed, left their abodes in the higher

planets and went to see Lord Brahma, praying to him that he curtail this unnecessary heat. The devas disclosed to Lord Brahma Hiranyakashipu's ambition to become immortal, overcoming his short duration of life, and to be the master of all the planetary systems, even Dhruva loka." (Srimad Bhagavatam. 7.3. Intro)

Finally, Lord Brahma appeared before Hiranyakashipu but could not give him the boon of immortality for even Lord Brahma is not immortal. Therefore, Hiranyakashipu tried to ask for benedictions that would make him almost as good as immortal. Hiranyakashipu asked that he not meet death in any of the following conditions: (a) By any living entity created by Lord Brahma, (b) within any residence or outside any residence, (c) during the daytime or at night, (d) on the ground or in the sky (e) by any weapon, human being, or any animal, (h) by anything living or nonliving etc.

Once having attained the powers from Lord Brahma, Hiranyakashipu began to harass all the living entities within the universe: "All the devas but Lord Vishnu, Lord Brahma and Lord Shiva came under his control and began serving him, but despite all his material power he was dissatisfied because he was always puffed up, proud of transgressing the Vedic regulations. All the brahmanas were dissatisfied with him, and they cursed him with determination. Eventually, all the living entities within the universe, represented by the devas and sages, prayed to the Supreme Lord for relief from Hiranyakashipu's rule. Lord Vishnu informed the devas that they and the other living entities would be saved from the fearful conditions created by Hiranyakashipu. Since Hiranyakashipu was the oppressor of all the devas, the followers of the Vedas, the cows, the brahmanas and the religious, saintly persons, and since he was envious of the Supreme Lord, he would naturally be killed very soon. Hiranyakashipu's last exploit would be to torment his own son Prahlada, who was a maha-Bhagavata, an exalted Vaishnava. Then his life would end." (Srimad Bhagavatam. 7.4. Intro)

Prahlada Maharaja, the son of Hiranyakashipu, was a great devotee and he received initiation while within the womb of his mother: "This transcendental knowledge is devotional service, and Prahlada Maharaja, while living in the womb of his mother, received instructions in devotional service from Narada Muni. Any person engaged in the service of the Lord through the instructions of a bona fide spiritual master is immediately liberated, and being free from the clutches of Maya, he is relieved of all ignorance and material desires." (Srimad Bhagavatam. 7.7. Intro)

"Regardless of the material condition in which one is situated, one can achieve this perfection. Devotional service is not dependent on the material activities of austerity, penance, mystic yoga or piety. **EVEN WITHOUT SUCH ASSETS**, one can achieve devotional service through the mercy of a pure devotee." (Srimad Bhagavatam 7.7.intro)

"Progress in spiritual life cannot be obstructed by any material condition. This is called ahaituky apratihata." (Srimad Bhagavatam 7.7.1)

Just see how Prahlada stayed fixed in his service despite the impediments, which were much heavier than the impediments of today: "The assistants of Hiranyakashipu struck Prahlada with sharp weapons, threw him under the feet of elephants, subjected him to hellish conditions, threw him from the peak of a mountain and tried to kill him in thousands of other ways, but they were unsuccessful. Hiranyakashipu therefore became increasingly afraid of his son Prahlada Maharaja and arrested him. The sons of Hiranyakashipu's spiritual master, Shukracharaya, began teaching Prahlada in their own way, but Prahlada Maharaja did not accept their instructions. While the teachers were absent from the classroom, Prahlada Maharaja began to preach Krsna consciousness in the school, and by his instructions all his class friends, the sons of the demons, became devotees like him." (Srimad Bhagavatam. 7.5. Intro)

The teachers of Prahlada, Sanda and Amarka, became afraid that the students would become more and more devoted to the Lord so they informed Hiranyakashipu about Prahlada's preaching. So Hiranyakashipu decided to kill his son himself. Prahlada tried to instruct him: "Prahlada Maharaja continued: My dear father, please give up your demoniac mentality. Do not discriminate in your heart between enemies and friends; make your mind equipoised toward everyone. Except for the uncontrolled and misguided mind, there is no enemy within this world. When one sees everyone on the platform of equality, one then comes to the position of worshipping the Lord perfectly." (Srimad Bhagavatam. 7.8.9)

Controlling the mind is essential in spiritual life and is easily accomplished by becoming fixed in one's devotional service: "The only bona fide process for controlling the mind is to fix the mind by service to the Lord." (Srimad Bhagavatam. 7.8.9)

Although Prahlada tried to instruct Hiranyakashipu, he was not about take the bonafide instructions because he was not interested in devotional service: "Hiranyakashipu replied: You rascal, you are trying to minimize my value, as if you were better than me at controlling the senses. This is over-intelligent. I can therefore understand that you desire to die at my hands, for this kind of nonsensical talk is indulged in by those about to die." (Srimad Bhagavatam. 7.8.11)

**Hiranyakashipu: "WHERE IS YOUR GOD?"**

Prahlada replied that He is everywhere.

**Hiranyakashipu: "IS HE IN THIS PILLAR, PRAHLADA???"**

Prahlada: "Yes, He's everywhere."

Hiranyakashipu struck the pillar with his fists not believing Prahlada's statement; however Lord Nrsimhadeva, half-man and half-lion incarnation of the Supreme Lord, appeared with A ROAR! A great fight ensued and Lord Nrsimhadeva killed Hiranyakashipu with his nails.

Lord Nrsimhadeva killed Hiranyakashipu without violating any of the boons Hiranyakashipu had received from Lord Brahma:

- (a) Hiranyakashipu was killed by Lord Nrsimhadeva who is not a living entity created by Lord Brahma nor anyone else for He is eternal and unborn.
- (b) Hiranyakashipu was killed in the doorway, which is neither within any residence nor outside any residence.
- (c) Hiranyakashipu was killed in the evening, which is neither daytime nor night.
- (d) Hiranyakashipu was killed on the lap of Lord Nrsimhadeva, which is neither on the ground nor in the sky.
- (e) Hiranyakashipu was killed by a half-man and half-lion which is neither a human nor an animal.
- (f) Hiranyakashipu was killed by the nails, which are neither living nor dead nor count as weapons. Etc.

Lord Nrsimhadeva appeared in Ahovalam in South India... due to space I have not elaborated on this most auspicious holy place... please click on the link below to have a virtual tour with pictures of this Dham and how to visit this holy Dham. Included on this site the pictures of a pond where Lord Nrsimhadeva washed His hands after killing Hiranyakashipu and up to today the water remains red; the pillar from which the Lord emerged; the 9 temples of Lord Nrsimhadeva in His various forms and so forth. It's worth a look.

These are a few mantras of Lord Nrsimhadeva that you can chant daily.

**Shree Nrsimha Maha Mantra (From the Nrsimha Tapaani Upanishad)**

Om Ugra veeram mahaa vishnum  
Jvalantam sarvato mukham/  
Nrsingham bheesanam bhadram  
Mrityur mritya namaam yaham//

"I bow down to Lord Nrsimha who is ferocious and heroic like Lord Vishnu. He is burning from every side. He is terrific, auspicious and the death of death personified."

**Shree Nrsimha Gayatri**

Vajra nakhaaya vidmahe  
Teekshna dang straaya dheemahi  
Tan no narasinghah pracodayaat (e)

"Let us meditate on He who is known as the possessor of nails as hard as thunderbolts and sharp teeth. Let us be enthused by Lord Nrsimhadeva.

This very famous mantra was chanted by Shree Caitanya Mahaprabhu to Lord Nrsimhadeva in the famous Jagannatha temple in Orissa, East India

Om namas te nara-singhaaya  
Prahlaada ahlaada-daayine/  
Hiranyakashipor vakshah  
Shilaa-tanka-nakhaalaye//

I offer my respectful obeisance's unto You, Lord Nrsimhadeva. You are the giver of pleasure to Prahlada Maharaja, and Your nails cut the chest of Hiranyakashipu like a chisel cutting stone.

Ito nrsinghah parato nrsingho  
Yato yato yaami tato nrsinghah/  
Bahir nrsingho hridaye nrsingho  
Nrsingham aading sharanang prapadye//

Lord Nrsimhadeva is here, and He is also there on the opposite side. Wherever I go, there I see Lord Nrsimhadeva. He is outside and within my heart. Therefore I take shelter of Lord Nrsimhadeva, the Original Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Free downloads of pictures, mp3's and mantras of Lord Nrsimhadeva from the net:

<http://www.salagram.net/nrsimha-page.htm> A very good friend of mine (Jaya Tirtha Charan dasa) from New Zealand hosts this very informative site. On this site one can download stotras, stuti's like Nrsimha Kavacha (both by Lord Brahma and by Prahlada Maharaja, thousands of mantras including the thousand names of Lord Nrsimha and His 108 names as well...and pictures of Lord Nrsimhadeva). I cannot add them on this article due to space. If one has no access to the Internet and cannot download the information then I will email them to you upon request...

<http://srimadbhagavatam.org/images/pictures/picturesc7-2.html>

<http://www.prapatti.com/slokas/mp3.html>

### **Lord Nrsimhadeva's feast.**

Lord Nrsimhadeva did not spend much time on this planet like the other Avatars did. So for us to get an idea of what the Lord liked is difficult to say (the Lord appeared many millions of years ago) hence we would humbly suggest it's best to make offerings that "embodies the spirit and mood" of the Lord's appearance day. The point is that one can offer whatever one wants as Lord Nrsimhadeva is truly merciful, but this feast is just a suggestion to offer something truly meaningful and captures the pastime of the Lord and the spirit of this most holy day. The purpose of the extra info is to think of it in a fresh light, in addition the more time you spend contemplating offerings that could please Lord Nrsimhadeva the better, so hopefully it will generate even more ideas.

From the Bhakti Rasamrta Sindhu chapter 4 states "The purport of this statement by Lord Indra is that beginning from Lord Brahma down to the insignificant ant, no living entities are meant for enjoying the material opulences. They are simply meant for offering everything to the supreme proprietor, the Personality of Godhead. By doing so, they automatically enjoy the benefit. The example can be cited again of the different parts of the body collecting foodstuffs and cooking them so that ultimately a meal may be offered to the stomach. After it has gone to the stomach, all the parts of the body equally enjoy the benefit of the meal. So,

similarly, everyone's duty is to satisfy the Supreme Lord, and then automatically everyone will become satisfied”.

The following offerings are all indicative of the mood of the Lord on His appearance day. The offering is sour rice and potato curry. The rice is yellow in colour and represents the Lords golden complexion. The curry is red and represents His fiery and ferocious nature. Chilli bites are also included which are hot.



The fruit is passion fruit (Granadilla) and represents the Lord's victory of the demonic and passionate/lustful nature of Hiranyakashipu.

Tulsi leaves are offered to the feet of the Lord.

The marigolds represent the Garland of flowers that Prahlada Maharaja placed around the neck of the Lord to placate and soothe Him. Also the golden coloured marigolds represent the beautiful golden complexion of the Lord, or the Red ones mixed with Gold represent the blood of the defeated demon.

Of course this menu is traditionally South Indian and is a nod to the area (Ahobilam) where the Lord appeared.

The offering of milk is for the sweet and innocent nature of Lord Prahlada Maharaja. Some people also put crushed lotus seeds as a reminder to Lakshmi devi. But Lord Nrsimhadeva's favourite drink is called Panakam (which is given below as well).

## **The Recipes - Step by Step.**

**Panakam:-** On this day we prepare Panakam (Telugu) or Panaka (Hindi), a festive sweet drink and a summer cooler prepared with jaggery and flavored with dry ginger, cardamom and pepper. This is Lord Nrsimhadeva favorite drink... The hill temple of Mangalagiri enshrines Pankala Narasimha and is located at an easily accessible distance from Vijayawada (South East India). Pankala - a solution of jaggery (unrefined sugar) in water, is the offering made to the presiding deity Lord Nrsimha. This offering is actually poured into the mouth of the rock cut image of the Lord. Now what seems to defy most is that exactly half the amount of the liquid poured is regurgitated by Lord Nrsimhadeva. Also interestingly, despite the liberal use of sugar (unrefined), there are no ants in the temple premises. It should be noted that the only shrine in this temple is that of Lord Nrsimhadeva.

### **Panakam Recipe for Lord Nrsimhadeva**

2 Tablespoons grated jaggery  
2 glasses water  
a pinch of dry ginger powder  
1 coarsely crushed cardamom  
6-7 coarsely crushed pepper corns  
And lots and lots of love

Mix the grated jaggery in water and let it dissolve completely. Filter the jaggery water. Add dried ginger powder, crushed cardamom and crushed pepper. Mix well and serve it at room temperature or chilled.

### **Sour Rice Recipe:**

- 3 cups Rice
- 1/2 cup (100 gms) Tamarind made into a paste with about 6 cups of water
- 2 tsp Turmeric
- 2 tbsp Mustard seeds
- 1 tsp Jeera
- 1 tsp Hing
- 1 small bunch of Curry leaves
- 2 Green chillies
- 1/2 cup ghee
- Salt

### **How to make Tamarind Rice:**

Soak tamarind in water and extract thick juice out of it. Add the ghee and spices (turmeric, mustard seeds, jeera, hing, curry leaves and chillies) into a large pot and stir fry until the mustard seeds start to splatter. Add the rice and salt and stir fry for a few minutes in the ghee and spice mix until well coated. Add this cooked tamarind extract (according to taste) into the rice and mix well. Add the tamarind

water and simmer until the water is absorbed and the rice is cooked but not too dry. Now Tamarind Rice is ready.

### **Potato Curry Recipe**

Potatoes - 5 (boiled and cut in to bite size pieces)

Tomatoes - 4 (finely chopped)

Green chilly - 1 (Slit lengthwise)

Ginger 1tsp

Half a teaspoon of hing

Half a spoon of turmeric

Curry leaves - 6

Cinnamon - 2 sticks

2 tablespoons curry powder

Salt - as per taste

Ghee

**Directions:-** Heat ghee and fry the hing, cinnamon sticks with the chilli for a few seconds. Now add the ginger paste and turmeric and add the tomatoes, sauté for 3mins. Add the sliced potatoes, salt to taste and sauté till the masala nicely gets coated. Add enough water to just cover the potatoes and simmer gently until the gravy is thickened and the veggies are cooked.

### **Chilli Bites Recipe**

#### **Ingredients**

- 150 g Chickpea flour
- 15 ml Cake flour
- 1 Medium-sized potato, coarsely grated
- 10 ml Coarsely ground coriander (jeera) seeds
- 5 ml Coarsely ground cumin
- 3 Green chillies (finely pounded)
- 5 ml Fine salt
- 5 ml Paprika
- 5 ml Baking powder
- A handful fresh coriander leaves (finely chopped)
- Oil for frying (you can use Olive oil too)

#### **Method**

Sift all the dry ingredients into a large mixing bowl. Then add the remaining ingredients to the mixing bowl as well.

Mix in enough water to make a batter similar to the consistency of thick flapjack batter (sticky but not dry or runny).

Heat some oil in a large frying pan and then add spoonfuls of this mix to the oil.

Turn over when the fritters are golden brown. Once the other side is golden brown, remove the chilli bites and drain on absorbent paper towelling. Serve while still hot.



## **How to observe this auspicious day**

One should observe a Nirjala (no water) fast until the sunset of 28<sup>th</sup> April. After the Sun sets one can break one's fast with one's meals like the ones provided above. One should cook satwik food towards the evening and offer that food to Lord Nrsimhadeva. Keep the food near the picture of Lord Nrsimhadeva for about 10 minutes. Then offer incense, lamp and flowers to the picture of Lord Nrsimhadeva. Thereafter you can partake in the prasada (Nrsimhadeva prasada) that you have offered.

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