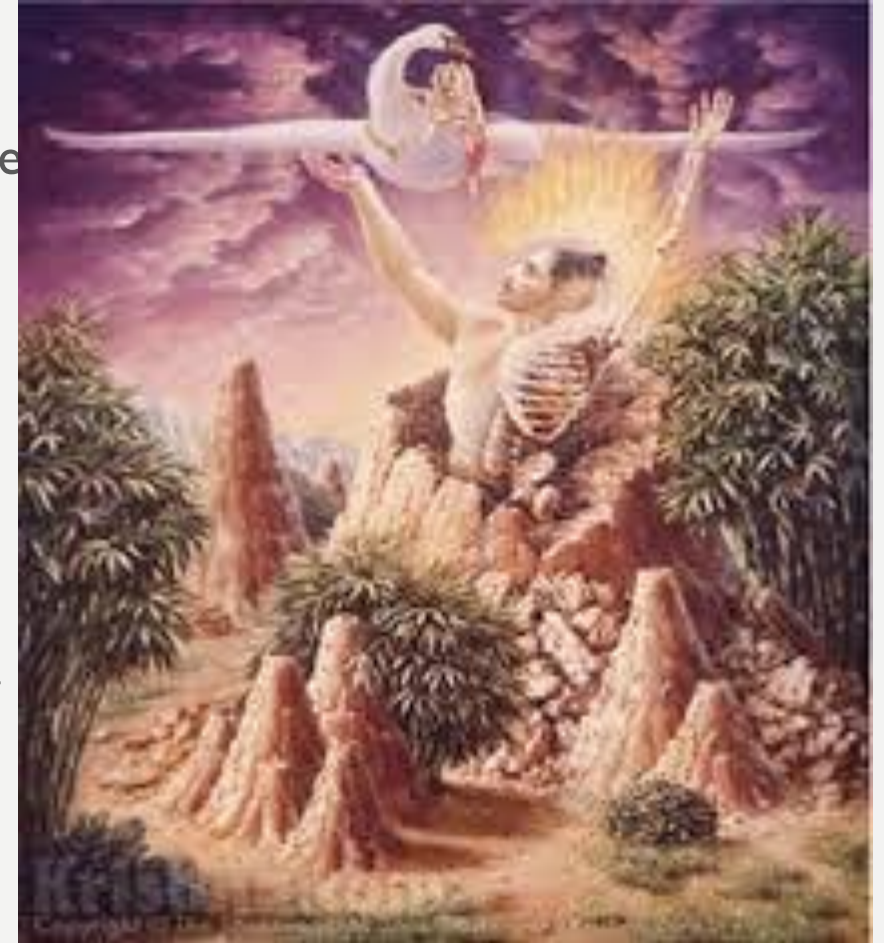


**INDIAN MYTHOLOGY & HISTORY**

**PRAHLADA**

# HIRANYAKASHIPU'S BOON FROM BRAHMA

- The history of the bonfire dates back to millennia, when the demon king Hiranyakashipu ruled and terrorized the universe and considered God, Vishnu, and His devotees to be his arch enemy.
- When his brother, Hiranyaksha was killed by Varaha, Hiranyakashapa vowed that he would take revenge on Vishnu, for killing his brother. For this, he did penance to Brahma. When Brahma appeared, Hiranyakashipu asks for a tricky boon.
- That he would not die either on earth or in space; nor in fire nor in water; neither during day nor at night; neither inside nor outside (of a home); nor by a human, animal or God; neither by inanimate nor by animate being.



# PRAHLADA'S DEVOTION TO VISHNU

- Meanwhile Indra attacks Asura and takes away Kayadu, wife of Hiranyakashipu.
- Narada saves her and narrates to her the greatness of Lord Vishnu.
- Prahlada, Hiranyakashipu's son becomes a devotee of Vishnu.
- When the demon saw that his own son, Prahlada, had become a devotee of Vishnu, he became enraged and decided to kill Prahlada. But Lord Vishnu protected Prahlada during all the assassination attempts.



# HOLIKA'S ATTEMPT TO BURN PRAHLADA

- In despair, Hiranyakashipu ordered his sister, Holika, who had been blessed with immunity from fire, to take Prahlada into fire and burn him to death. She complied, but to the dismay of the demon, Prahlada came out of the fire, unscathed, being protected by Lord Vishnu, whereas Holika was reduced to ashes.
- Why? Because she had been given that blessing by Brahma with the condition that it shouldn't be used to cause harm to others.
- This burning of Holika is commemorated by the bonfire and by the name 'Holi'.



# NARASIMHA AVATARA

- In anger, Hiranyakashipu is now ready to kill Prahlada himself and asks where is Vishnu?
- Prahalada says everywhere.
- So he breaks a pillar and out of that comes Narasimha.



# SIGNIFICANCE

- The significance of this historical narrative is immense.
- Prahlada signifies our godly, serving, selfless nature; Holika, the ungodly, exploitative, selfish tendency that covers our original nature.
- When gold is placed in fire, the impurities melt away and the purified gold emerges, shining brighter. Similarly, the purifying Holi bonfire signifies the burning away of our superficial, lower tendency and the re-emergence of our essential, higher nature.
- When our pure nature re-emerges, we realize our identity as spiritual beings, as souls, who are *sac-cid-ananda*, eternal, enlightened and ecstatic.
- If you are a true follower of God, He will help you when you need him.

# A VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGA6ltqSsXw>

# NARASIMHA AVATARA

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PT8HUzsw6M>



# FULL VIDEO

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRmP-QiqZCc>