



THE POWER OF
Devotion

Pralhad



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CREDITS:~

CONCEPTUALISED BY
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CREATED & DEVELOPED - VIMANIKA STUDIOS



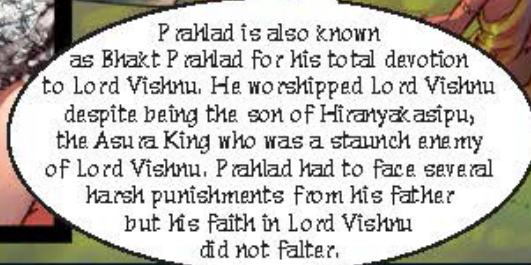
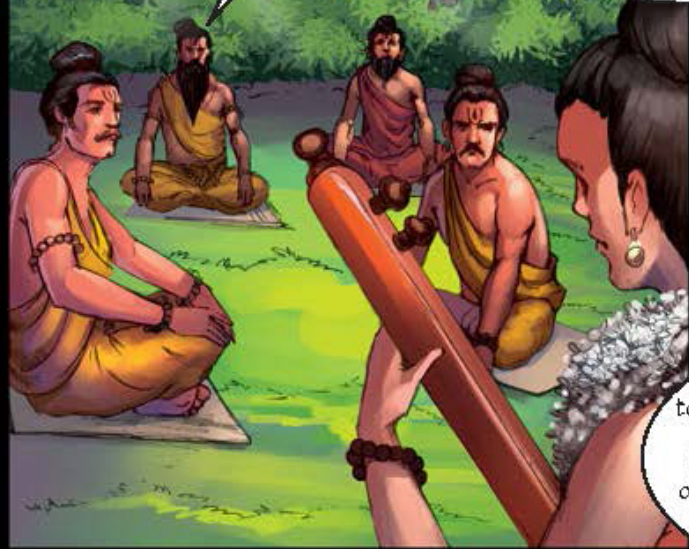
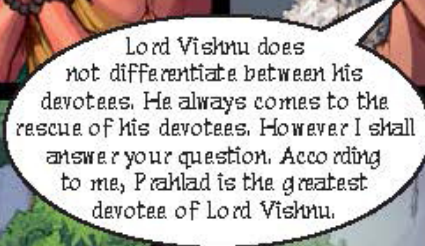
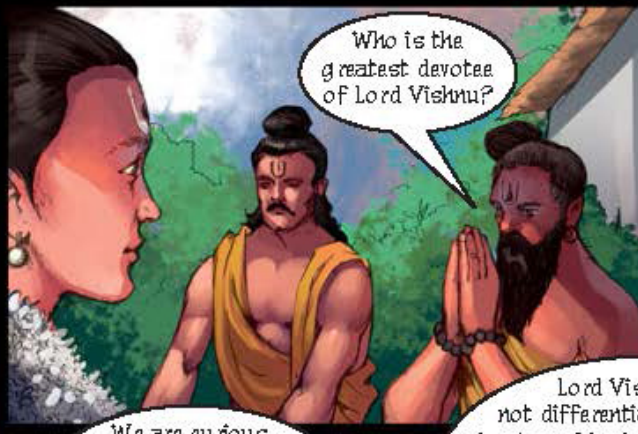
Narad, the Divine Storyteller, sits down to tell the story of the greatest devotee the world has ever seen - Prahlad.

When Hiranyakasipu, still burning with the need for revenge of his brother's death, finds out that it was Lord Vishnu who was responsible, he makes it his life purpose to slay down the Creator himself. But Prahlad, his son, is far from feeling hatred. To him, Vishnu is the ultimate God. Hiranyakasipu finds out and decides that it is time to turn things around. The ultimate test soon awaits them both; for Hiranyakasipu, it is destroying the devotion in his own son, even if that means killing him.

For Prahlad, it is the greatest test of faith of his devotion, and he knows that he has the Lord by his side.



Once upon a time, a group of sages visited Narad's ashram to listen to stories on the divinity of Lord Vishnu.



Once upon a time there lived a powerful asura King called Hiranyakasipu. He desired to rule the entire universe along with his younger brother Hiranyaksha.

I seek your permission to conquer our enemies and establish our supremacy throughout the universe.

You are the greatest warrior of my army. I wish you success in your quest.

So Hiranyaksha proceeded with his quest of absolute supremacy for his brother.

Accept the supremacy of my brother Hiranyakasipu. Worship him! He is the true ruler of this universe!

Lord Vishnu, protect us from the cruel monster.

Lord Vishnu took the form of Varaha, or a giant boar, to kill Hiranyakasipu when his atrocities had crossed their limits.

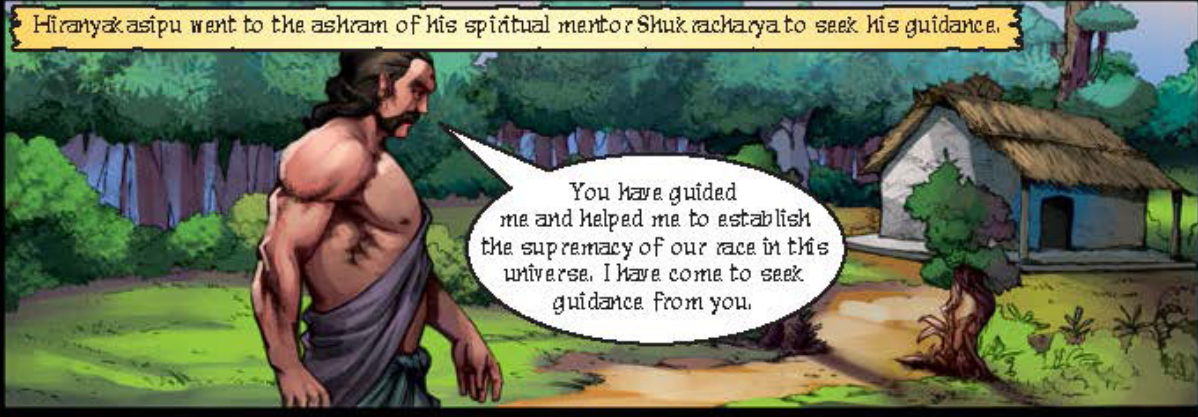
Hiranyakasipu was shattered to see the dead body of his brother.

Who killed my brother?


The brave Hiranyakasipu was killed by our arch enemy Vishnu!

I swear to extract revenge from Vishnu. I shall not rest until I humiliate him and force him to accept my superiority!

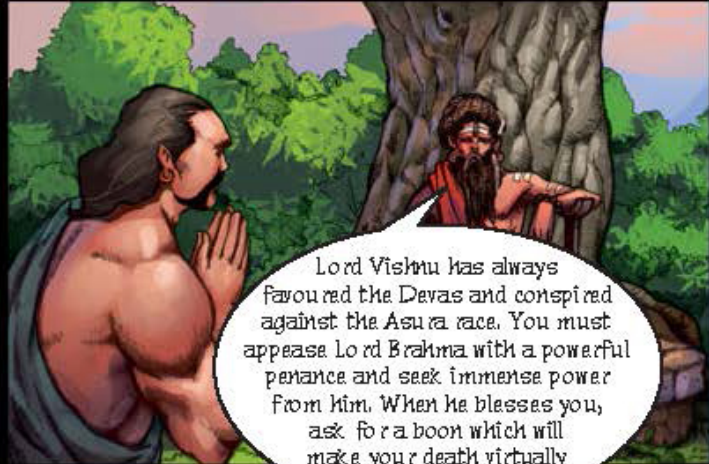
Hiranyakasipu went to the ashram of his spiritual mentor Shukracharya to seek his guidance.



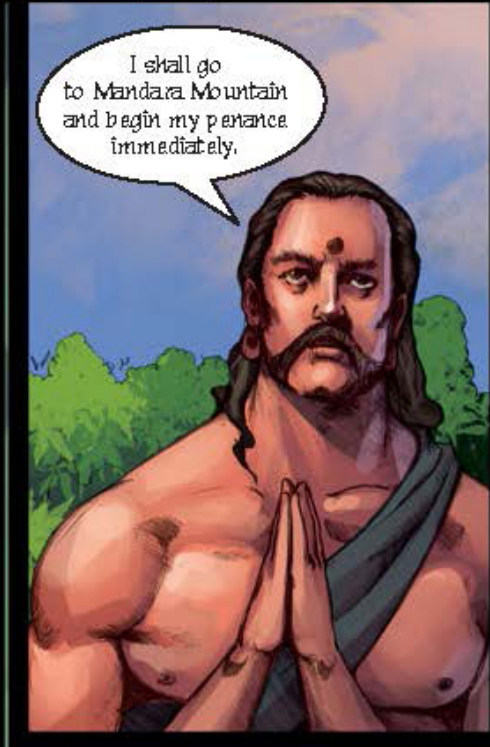
You have guided me and helped me to establish the supremacy of our race in this universe. I have come to seek guidance from you.




I am sorry for your loss O King. Please have a seat and we can discuss a future strategy.



Lord Vishnu has always favoured the Devas and conspired against the Asura race. You must appease Lord Brahma with a powerful penance and seek immense power from him. When he blesses you, ask for a boon which will make your death virtually impossible.



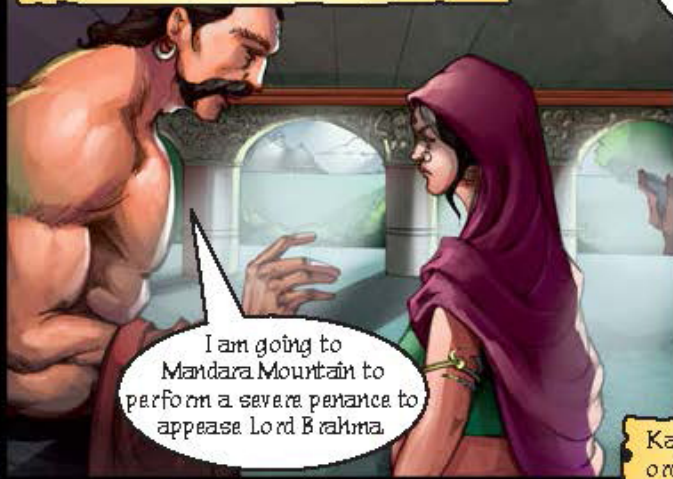
I shall go to Mandara Mountain and begin my penance immediately.



Bless me with success.

I wish you success in your efforts.

Hiranyakasipu went to the palace to inform his wife Kayadhu about his penance.

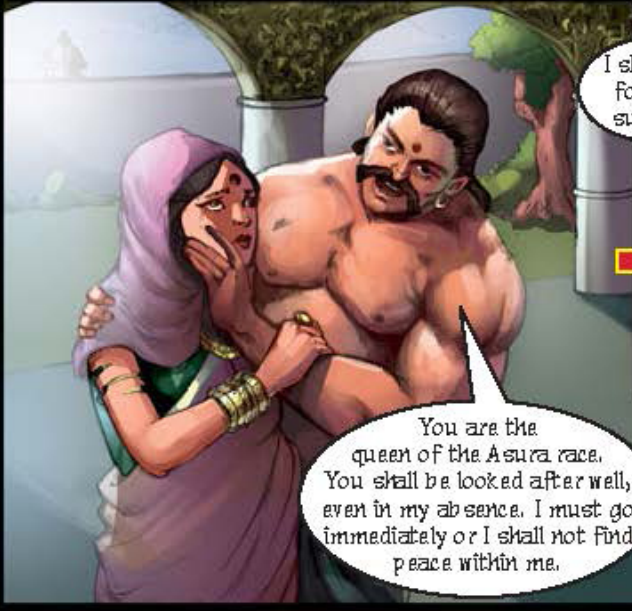


I am going to Mandara Mountain to perform a severe penance to appease Lord Brahma.

How can you leave me alone in such a condition? Are you not worried about your unborn child?



Kayadhu controlled her emotions and ordered the maids to bring her a tray with an earthen lamp and flowers in it.



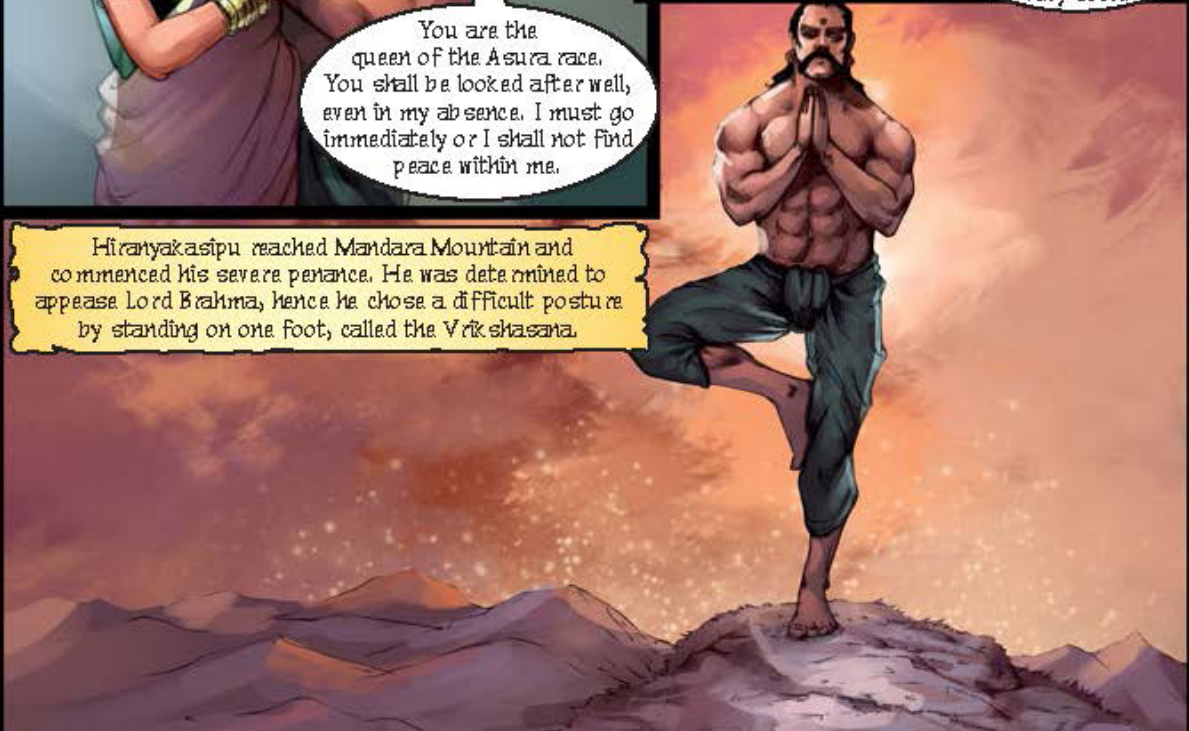
I shall pray for your success.

You are the queen of the Asura race. You shall be looked after well, even in my absence. I must go immediately or I shall not find peace within me.



I am proud of you. Look after our child in my absence. I shall be back very soon.

Hiranyakasipu reached Mandara Mountain and commenced his severe penance. He was determined to appease Lord Brahma, hence he chose a difficult posture by standing on one foot, called the Vrīkshasana.



I was summoned to Vaikunth by Lord Vishnu.

Narayan! Narayan!
Why did you summon me to Vaikunth my Lord?

Hiranyakasipu is performing a severe penance to appease Lord Brahma. Indra, the king of Devas is afraid of Hiranyakasipu and will try to kill his unborn child. You know that the child will be my devotee. I want you to protect Kayadhu and her unborn child. Give them shelter and act as a spiritual guide to the boy.

Your leela is divine. The son of your arch enemy shall become your greatest devotee. Narayan! Narayan! I shall follow your command and rush to the aid of Kayadhu immediately.

Instead of protecting their queen, the guards fled when Indra arrived at the palace.

Indra led an army of Devas and attacked Hiranyakasipu's kingdom. In the absence of Hiranyakasipu, the Asura army could not fight the Devas. Sensing defeat, many warriors fled the battlefield.

Where are the guards? How did you enter my palace? What do you want?

Take her prisoner and escort her to my palace!

I arrived in time to protect Kayadhu and her unborn child.



Stop *Devraj Indra.
This is no way to treat a queen. Kayadhu is innocent. You are committing a grave sin by taking an innocent woman as your prisoner in the absence of her husband.



She is the wife of my arch rival Hiranyakasipu. Her son will become a threat to me in the future. I shall kill him while he is still a little baby.



Set Kayadhu free or you shall regret your actions later.

Dev rishi Narad!
Today I shall not obey your orders or accept any advice from you. I shall kill the boy.



Indra left the palace after listening to Narad's prophecy.

I thank you Dev rishi Narad for protecting me and my son.

No person in this universe can harm the boy. Lord Vishnu is his protector. The boy shall become the greatest devotee of Lord Vishnu. So set Kayadhu free unless you wish to displease Lord Vishnu. Are you ready to face the consequences of your foolish actions?

You have nothing to fear my child. You and your son shall be safe in my ashram. You can wait until your husband arrives after completing his meditation.

Upon reaching Narad's ashram ...

Queen Kayadhu will stay with us until her husband Hiranyakshipu returns after completing his penance. Please look after her as she is about to give birth to a boy.

I promise to give birth to my son only when my husband comes back after finishing his penance.

Kayadhu lived in the ashram like an ordinary person and helped the other women in their daily duties.

Kayadhu also sat with the sages and their wives to listen to the stories of Narad who would tell them about the virtues of worshipping Lord Vishnu.

Narad's stories of Lord Vishnu were full of devotion and the boy in Kayadhu's womb absorbed his teachings.

A person who has dedicated his life to the service of Lord Vishnu should be treated as the most learned person as he has acquired divine knowledge.

NARAYAN!
NARAYAN!

Indra was worried about Hiranyakshipu's penance.

If Hiranyakshipu succeeds in his penance, he shall become the ruler of the three worlds and shall take over our kingdom.

We must ask Lord Brahma not to grant the boon to Hiranyakshipu.

Lord Brahma! I request you not to grant the boon to Hiranyakshipu. He shall destroy the entire Vedic religion and unleash a reign of terror.

I am bound by the rules of this universe. I have to grant the boon to Hiranyakshipu for his severe penance.

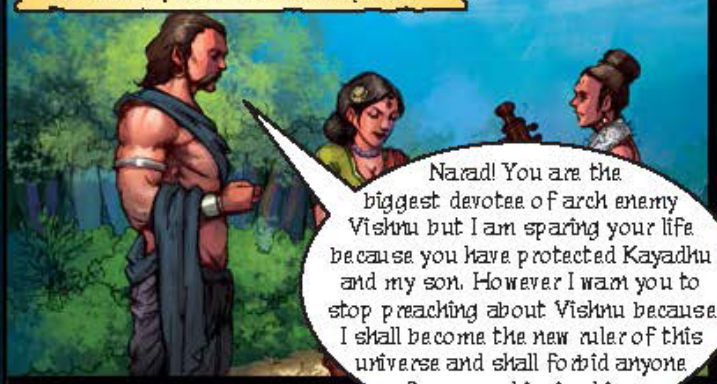
I am pleased with your devotion. Ask for a boon.

No weapon, human being, animal, God, Demon or any of the living entities created by you should be able to kill me. I should not die within any residence or outside of any residence, during the daytime or at night. I should die neither on the ground nor in the sky.

So be it!

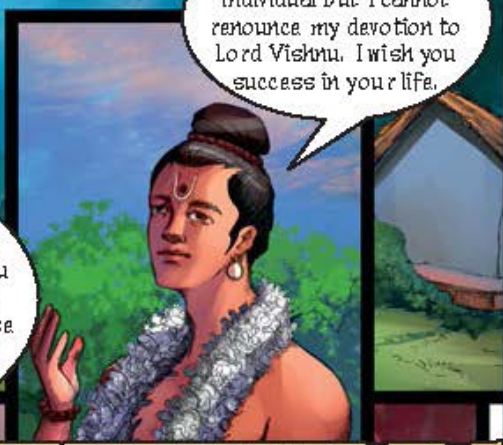
Lord Brahma was impressed by Hiranyakshipu's devotion and resurrected him by throwing holy water from his kamandalu.

Hiranyakshipu reached Narad's ashram to take Kayadhu back to his palace.



Narad! You are the biggest devotee of arch enemy Vishnu but I am sparing your life because you have protected Kayadhu and my son. However I want you to stop preaching about Vishnu because I shall become the new ruler of this universe and shall forbid anyone from worshipping him.

I bear no malice towards any race or individual but I cannot renounce my devotion to Lord Vishnu. I wish you success in your life.



Kayadhu gave birth to a handsome boy. Hiranyakshipu was very pleased. They named him Prahlad.



Soon Hiranyakshipu defeated all the kings and the Devas and became the undisputed ruler of the universe.



I hereby ban all yagyas and offerings to the Devas and Vishnu. Anyone who disobeys my order will be killed.

Though Hiranyakshipu had banned worship of Lord Vishnu, he was unaware that his own son Prahlad was a great devotee of Lord Vishnu.



Om Narayan Namoh Namah!



Mother, I feel great pleasure and peace when I pray to Lord Vishnu.

I am proud to have such a devout and obedient son. But I warn you not to speak of Lord Vishnu before your father.

The asura army killed anyone who disobeyed Hiranyak shipu's order.

Help!

You have disobeyed the order of our King by worshipping his arch enemy Vishnu. You shall pay for your sins with your death.

The Devas rushed to Vaikuntha to seek help from Lord Vishnu.

Hiranyak shipu is killing innocent souls on earth. We request you to kill him and end the misery for everyone.

I cannot kill Hiranyak shipu yet. You will have to wait.

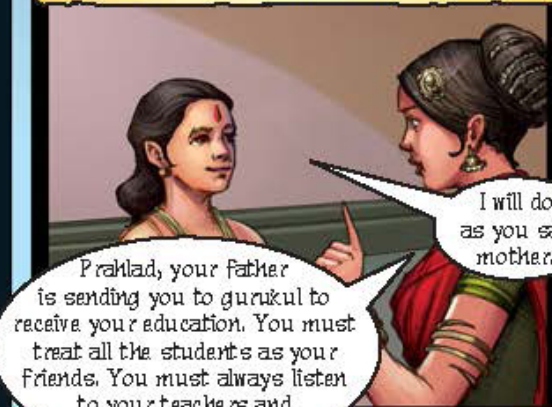
But why?

Hiranyak shipu shall enjoy all the benefits of his penance until his sins neutralise his good karma.

Soon Hiranyak shipu will try to kill his own son Prahlad who is totally devoted to me. Then I shall take an avatar and kill him.

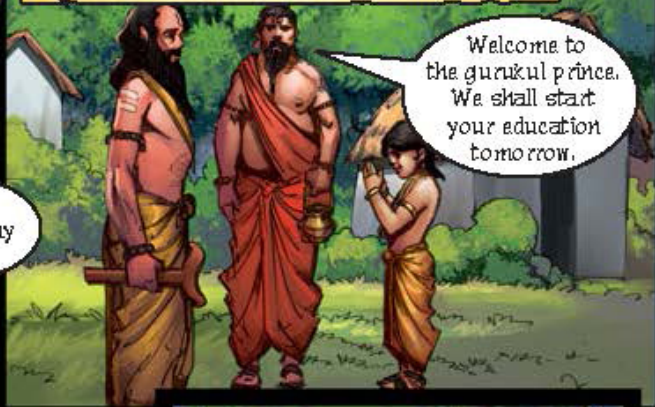
Soon it was time to send Prahlad to Shukracharya's ashram to start his education.

Prahlad was welcomed into the ashram by Shand and Amarka who are the sons of Shukracharya, the spiritual teacher of Asuras.



Prahlad, your father is sending you to gurukul to receive your education. You must treat all the students as your friends. You must always listen to your teachers and respect them.

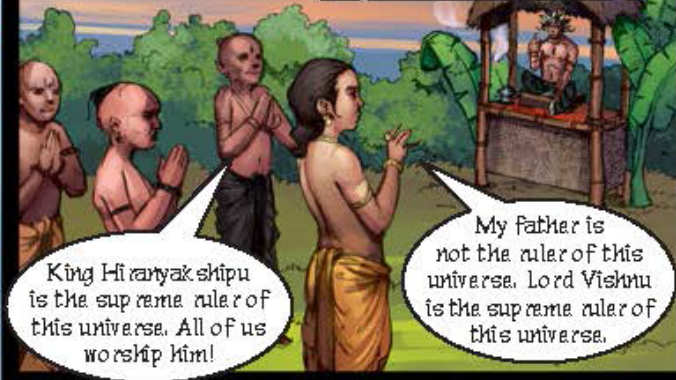
I will do as you say mother.



Welcome to the gurukul prince. We shall start your education tomorrow.

Prahlad was shocked to see an idol of his father in the ashram.

Unlike other kids from the royal families, Prahlad was not interested in learning about politics.



King Hiranyakshipu is the supreme ruler of this universe. All of us worship him!

My father is not the ruler of this universe. Lord Vishnu is the supreme ruler of this universe.

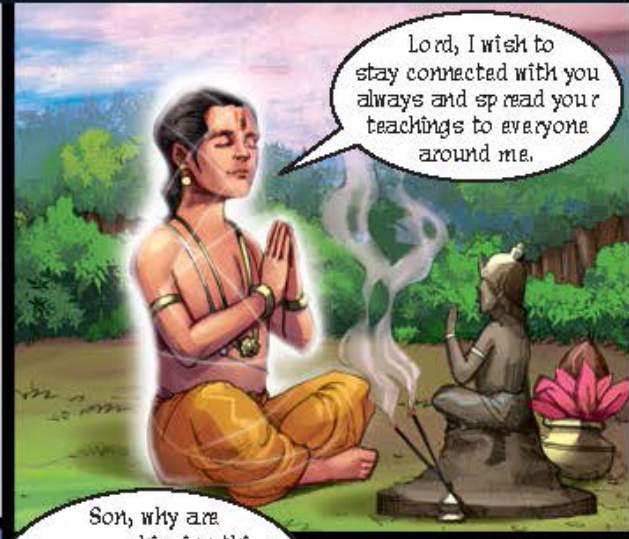


How can we treat someone as our enemy? We should treat everyone as our friend just like Lord Vishnu who is a friend to all of his devotees.

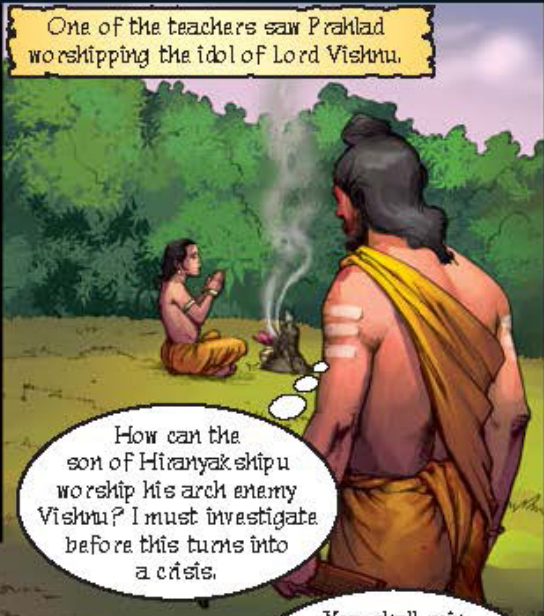


What are you making?

I'm making an idol of Lord Vishnu, the supreme god of this universe. I feel sad unless I pray to my Lord.



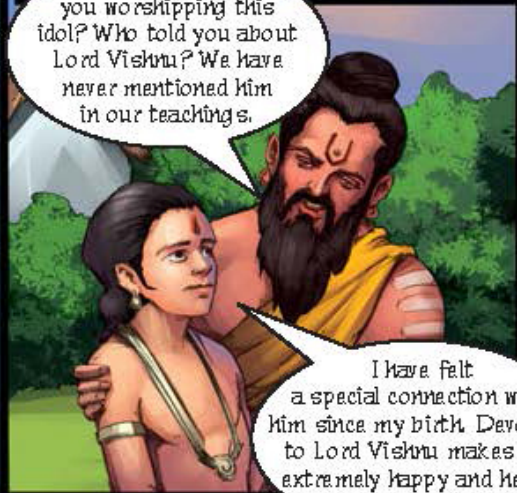
Lord, I wish to stay connected with you always and spread your teachings to everyone around me.



One of the teachers saw Praklad worshipping the idol of Lord Vishnu.

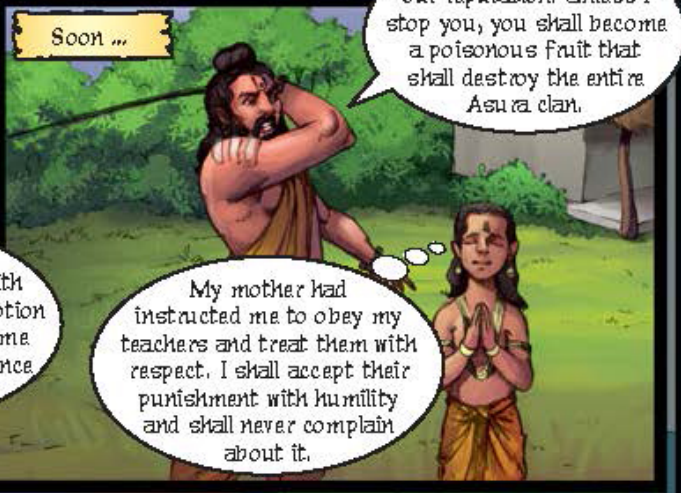
How can the son of Hiranyakshipu worship his arch enemy Vishnu? I must investigate before this turns into a crisis.

Son, why are you worshipping this idol? Who told you about Lord Vishnu? We have never mentioned him in our teachings.



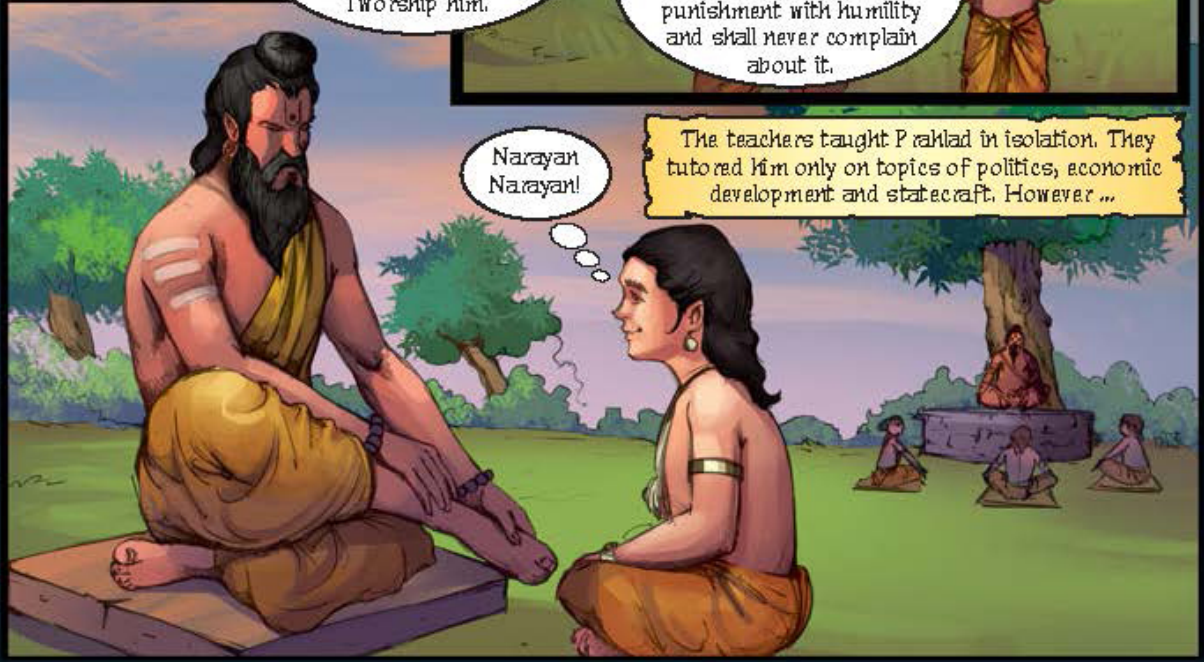
I have felt a special connection with him since my birth. Devotion to Lord Vishnu makes me extremely happy and hence I worship him.

Soon ...



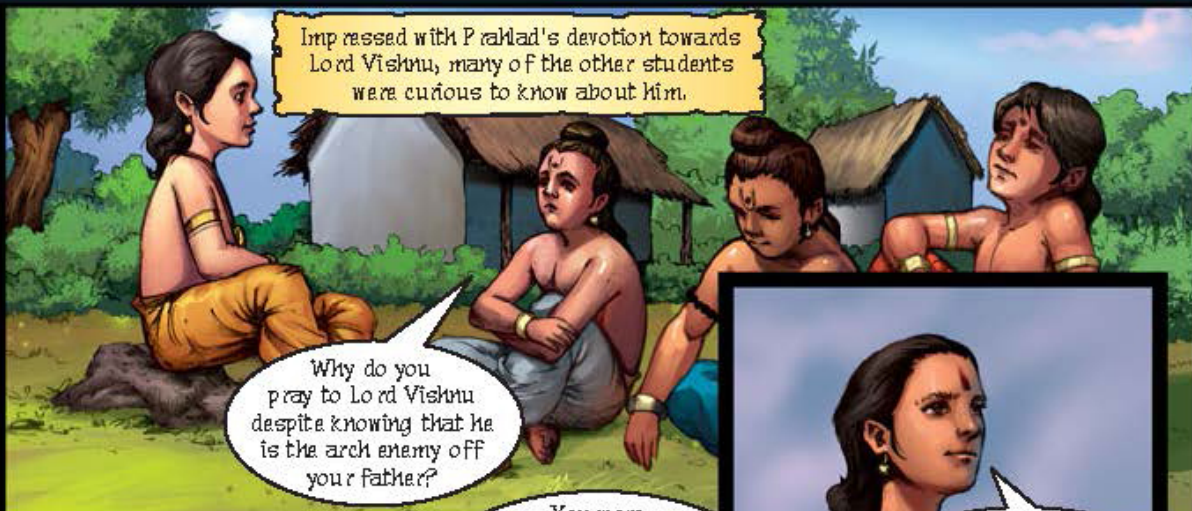
You shall ruin our reputation. Unless I stop you, you shall become a poisonous fruit that shall destroy the entire Asura clan.

My mother had instructed me to obey my teachers and treat them with respect. I shall accept their punishment with humility and shall never complain about it.



Narayan Narayan!

The teachers taught Praklad in isolation. They tutored him only on topics of politics, economic development and statecraft. However ...




Impressed with Prahlad's devotion towards Lord Vishnu, many of the other students were curious to know about him.

Why do you pray to Lord Vishnu despite knowing that he is the arch enemy of your father?

You were punished by the teacher for worshipping Lord Vishnu. Your father kills anyone who worships Lord Vishnu. Aren't you afraid?


My father treats Lord Vishnu as his enemy but Lord Vishnu is a friend to anyone who seeks his blessings. He is not an enemy of the Asura clan. He simply restores the balance of the universe by destroying evil.

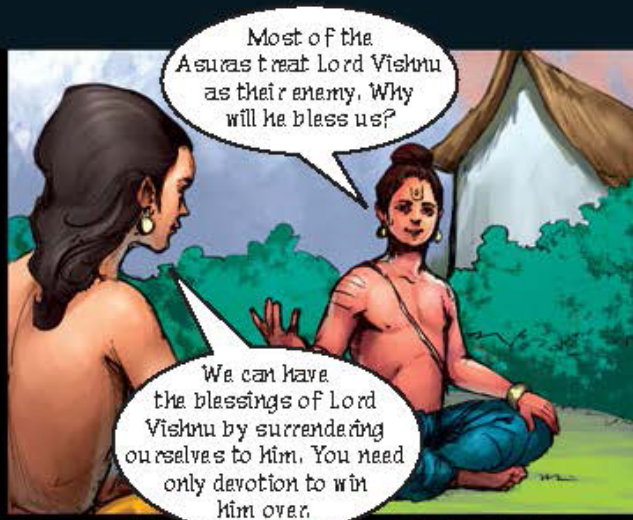
Fear can be conquered by true devotion. Why should I worry when I have Lord Vishnu to protect me?



Prahlad preached sermons about Lord Vishnu to all the students in the ashram. They were impressed and listened to him attentively.

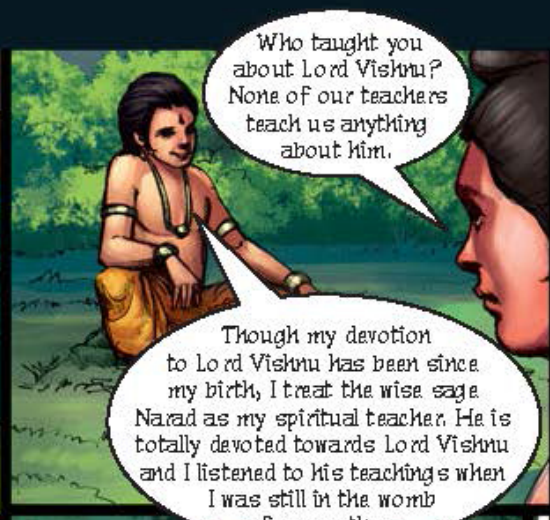
We must control our senses and not seek materialistic pleasures which shall lead us away from Lord Vishnu. Our goal is to return back to Lord Vishnu and serve him.





Most of the Asuras treat Lord Vishnu as their enemy. Why will he bless us?

We can have the blessings of Lord Vishnu by surrendering ourselves to him. You need only devotion to win him over.



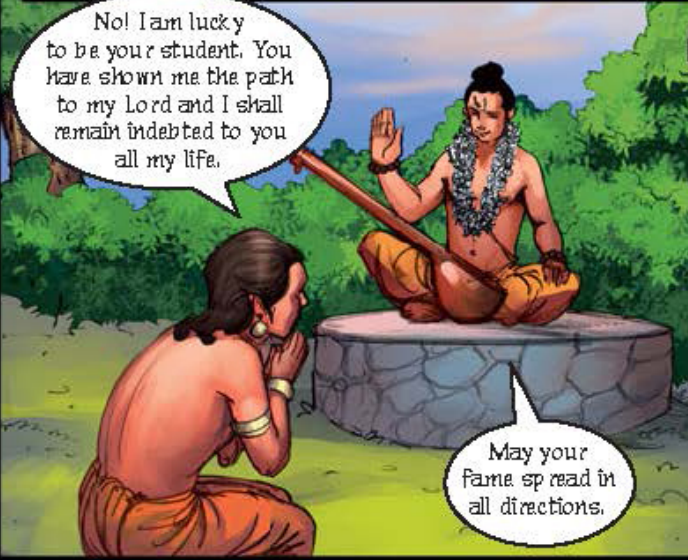
Who taught you about Lord Vishnu? None of our teachers teach us anything about him.

Though my devotion to Lord Vishnu has been since my birth, I treat the wise sage Narad as my spiritual teacher. He is totally devoted towards Lord Vishnu and I listened to his teachings when I was still in the womb of my mother.

At that precise moment, Narad appeared before the students.

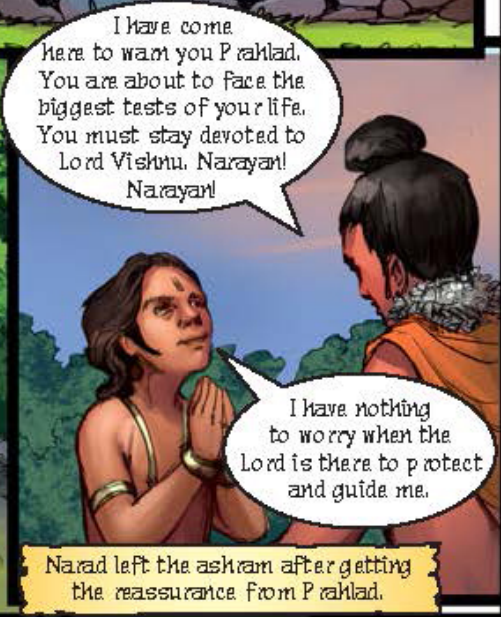


Narayan! Narayan! Prahlad, I am so pleased that you treat me as your spiritual teacher. I am lucky to have a student like you.



No! I am lucky to be your student. You have shown me the path to my Lord and I shall remain indebted to you all my life.

May your fame spread in all directions.



I have come here to warn you Prahlad. You are about to face the biggest tests of your life. You must stay devoted to Lord Vishnu. Narayan! Narayan!

I have nothing to worry when the Lord is there to protect and guide me.

Narad left the ashram after getting the reassurance from Prahlad.

The students revolted against Shanda and Amraka.

Hiranyakshipu is not a god. He is a mere ruler.

Lord Vishnu is the supreme god of this universe. Why are you trying to mislead us?

Things are going out of control. Prahlad has turned the boys to revolt against our teachings. We must present Prahlad in front of the King.

Don't praise Lord Vishnu in front of your father. He will kill you.

Kayadhu rushed to the royal court and tried to convince Prahlad.

Don't worry mother, Lord Vishnu's shall protect me.

Welcome to my royal court holy sages. Why have you brought Prahlad here?

We beg for your mercy King. We cannot teach Prahlad. He is totally devoted towards Lord Vishnu and has poisoned the minds of other Asura students in our ashram.

Are they speaking the truth Prahlad? How dare you go against me by singing the praises of Vishnu?

Yes, I suggested that my friends should worship Lord Vishnu. He is the true god of this universe and I have immense faith in him.

Vishnu has conspired to weaken the Asura from within. A devotee of Lord Vishnu cannot be my son. Kill this boy by placing him in front of a mad elephant.

The mad elephant rushed towards Prahlad but Prahlad was undeterred. He had total faith in Lord Vishnu.



Lord Vishnu intervened swiftly and turned the mad elephant docile.

Everyone was surprised at the miracle.



Use your weapons and kill this boy.



Narayan!
Narayan!

Hiranyakshipu imprisoned Prahlad and kept him hungry for days. When Prahlad refused to yield, Hiranyakshipu decided to give him poison.

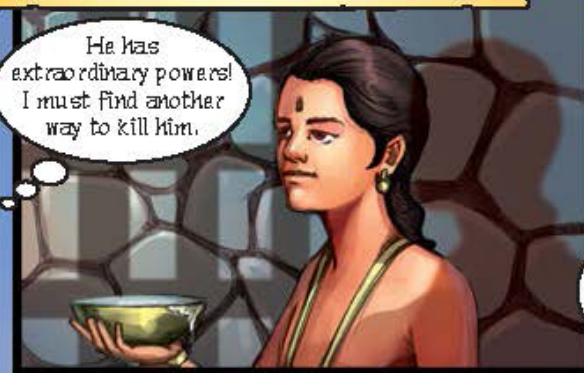


Son, I want you to drink this poison.

I shall obey your command father.

Due to the blessings of Lord Vishnu, the poison in the bowl had turned into sweet nectar.

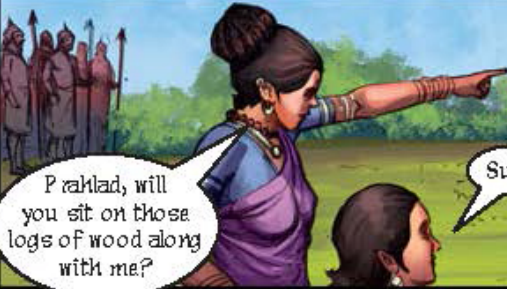
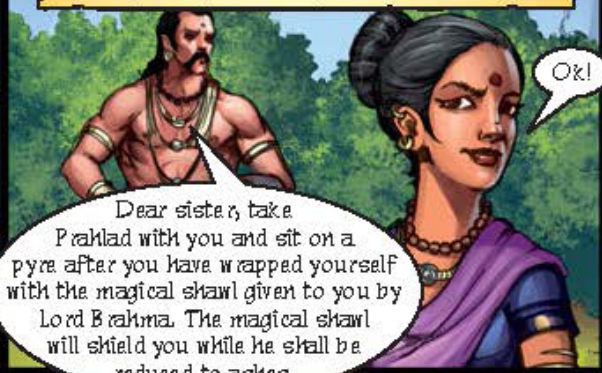
He has extraordinary powers! I must find another way to kill him.



After numerous attempts to kill Prahlad, Hiranyakshipu called upon his sister Holika.

Ok!

Dear sister, take Prahlad with you and sit on a pyre after you have wrapped yourself with the magical shawl given to you by Lord Brahma. The magical shawl will shield you while he shall be reduced to ashes.



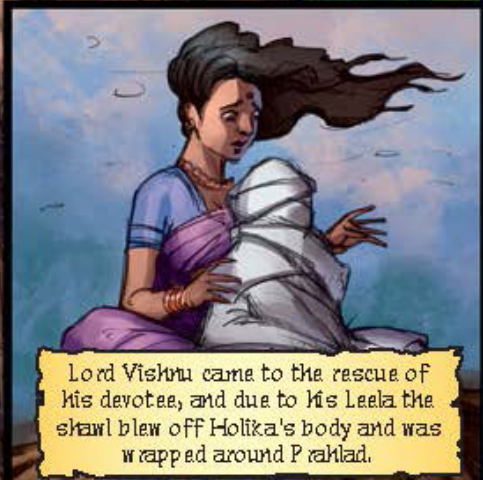
Prahlad, will you sit on those logs of wood along with me?

Sura.

Holika tricked Prahlad to sit with her while she executed the evil plan to kill Prahlad.

Light the fire. Don't be scared Prahlad. Your ordeal shall be over very soon.

Om Namo Bhagvate Vasudevaye



Lord Vishnu came to the rescue of his devotee, and due to his Leela the shawl blew off Holika's body and was wrapped around Prahlad.

By the blessings of Lord Vishnu, Prahlad was unharmed while Holika was reduced into ashes.



Om Namo Bhagvate Vasudevaya

Finally Hiranyakshipu decided to kill Prahlad himself.



I'm giving you the last chance to live. Accept me as the supreme god of this universe.

Father, surrender yourself to Lord Vishnu and beg for his forgiveness. I am sure that he will forgive your sins.



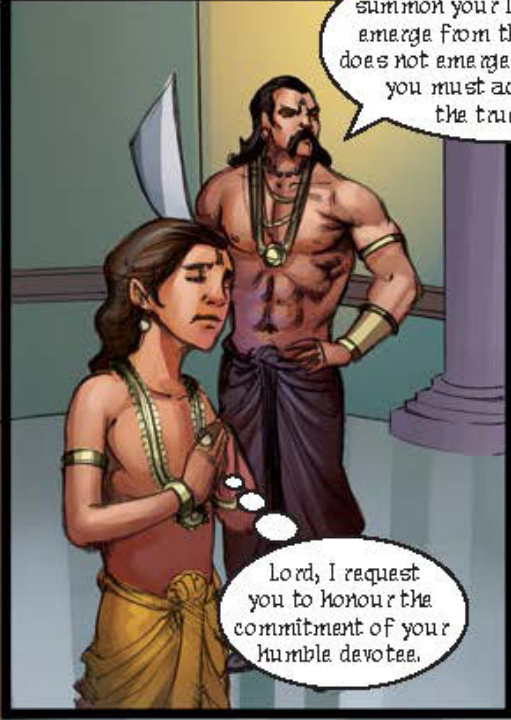
Where is your Lord Vishnu? Why doesn't he come here and face me?

Lord Vishnu is present everywhere. He shall appear if you call him with devotion.



Is he present inside this pillar?

Yes he is.



Why don't you summon your Lord Vishnu to emerge from this pillar? If it does not emerge from this pillar you must accept me as the true God.

Lord, I request you to honour the commitment of your humble devotee.



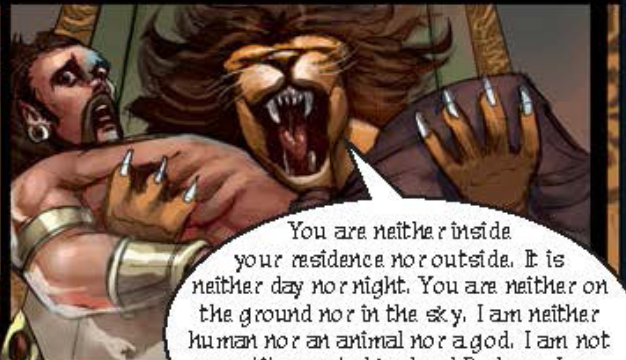
Lord Vishnu emerged from the pillar as Narasimha, a half man-half lion, to protect his devotee.



Though Hiranyakshipu tried his best, Narasimha defended his blows with ease.



Hiranyakshipu was unable to withstand Narasimha's blow.



You are neither inside your residence nor outside. It is neither day nor night. You are neither on the ground nor in the sky. I am neither human nor an animal nor a god. I am not an entity created by Lord Brahma. I am not using any weapons to kill you. My claws shall rip your body apart.

Narasimha killed Hiranyakshipu and restored the balance of good over evil.





I am scared of him! I cannot approach him!

Prahlad, go to Lord Vishnu and pacify him with your devotion.

The anger of Narasimha refused to subside even after killing Hiranyakshipu. Even the gods were scared of him. The deities asked Goddess Lakshmi to pacify him but ...

Prahlad was not afraid of Narasimha and approached him with devotion and humility.



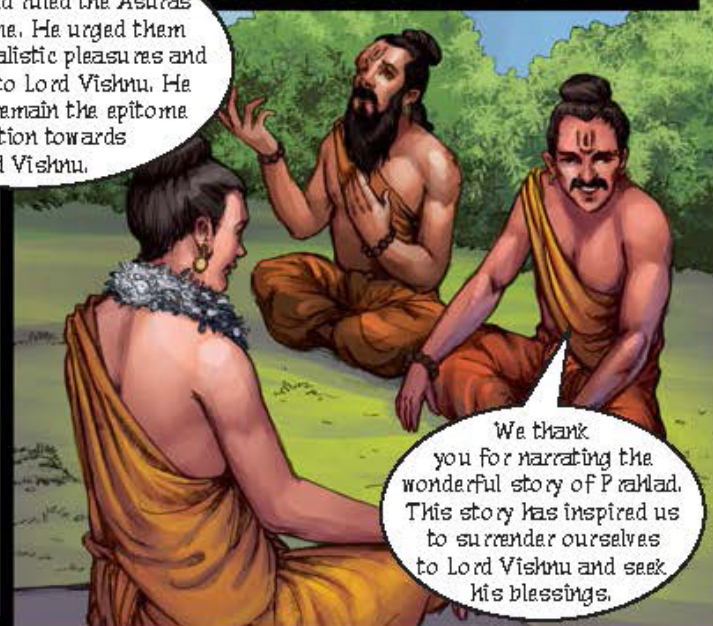
I bless you Prahlad. People will remember you for ages and shall acknowledge you as my biggest devotee.



Prahlad, I declare you as the king of Asura's. Rule your kingdom wisely and lead your race to prosperity.



Prahlad made peace with Devas and ruled the Asuras for a long time. He urged them to shun materialistic pleasures and stay devoted to Lord Vishnu. He shall always remain the epitome of devotion towards Lord Vishnu.



We thank you for narrating the wonderful story of Prahlad. This story has inspired us to surrender ourselves to Lord Vishnu and seek his blessings.

The End

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