

## The story of Holi

Narrator: Ages Ago there was a fight between lord Vishnu and a demon called hiranyakashya. During the battle, lord Vishnu had killed the demon hiryanakashya and after hearing of his death, The demon had a twin brother called hiranyakashapu yelled to the sky

Hiranyakashapu: My brother has died from the hands of Vishnu, I will lead an army and destroy this Vishnu and slice his head from his body.

Narrator: Afraid of dying the same way his brother died, Hiranyakashapu started meditating to lord brahma.

Narrator: Hiranyakashapu, stood on 1 leg and started meditating, he didn't drink water or eat food for 125 years

Narrator: after some time, Lord brahma came to him and said

Brahma: Oh Hiranyakashapu, I am very pleased with your devotion, ask what it is you want.

Hiranyakashapu: My lord, my only desire is to become immortal, I wish to live forever.

Brahma: I cannot help you with that sort of boon my child, I myself live for millions of years but I too shall die one day. How can I give you something which I don't have myself?

Hiranyakashapu: Then give me the boon that I shall neither die by any creature created by you, by any demigod, any human or animal, I can not die inside or outside nor in the day or night. I cannot die in the sky or on the ground or in the sea, and no weapon shall kill me.

Narrator: After hearing those wishes brahma said

Brahma: If that is your wish then I grant it.

Hiranyakashapu: I cant believe lord brahma granted me these wishes. I'm immortal now nothing can stop me from destroying Vishnu.

Narrator: A few years after being the demon king, Hiranyakashapu had a son called prahlad who was neither proud nor greedy and was calm and kind hearted.

Narrator: Hiranyakashapu was quite concerned that the son of the demon king had no evil desires.

Hiranyakashapu: come here prahlad sit with me,

\*prahlad goes and sits with Hiranyakashapu\*

Hiranyakashapu: tell me my son, what have u learnt in school today?

Prahlad: Dear father, I have learnt that Those who are really intelligent have no enemies because they understand that they are servants of Lord Vishnu, who lives in everyone's heart.

Hiranyakashapu: You fool!! Guards arrest this traitor, take him and kill him.

**\*Guards take Prahlad\***

Narrator: Hiranyakashipu ordered the guards to hurl the Prahlad from the top of a cliff, however as soon as prahlad fell, he floated to the ground like a feather. They threw him before a charging elephant, which came to a sudden halt just short of the boy. They cast him into a pit of seething snakes that refused to bite him. They tried everything to kill Prahlad – poisoning him, starving him, freezing him, burning him,

and frying him in a cauldron of oil. None of these had even the slightest effect on the boy, who remained smiling as he prayed to Vishnu.

Narrator: Then Hiranyakashipu ordered his sister holika to come and set prahlad on fire

Holika: come my near nephew, lets play a game, I have this magical chuni that I was given by lord brahma which lets me never get burnt by fire when I wear it. Lets go sit in this fire and see who can last the longest

Prahlad: Sure Holika Fai, lets do it, I know my lord will protect me no matter what.

Narrator: as soon as the fire was lit, both holika and prahlad were meditating , and all of a sudden a huge gust of wind came and blew holikas magical chuni onto prahlad and saved him from getting burnt.

Holika: AHHH, this fire is burning me, someone help me please!!

Narrator: but it was too late, the fire consumed holika and protected Prahlad. Hearing this, Hiranyakashipu was enraged he started telling prahlad

Hiranyakashipu: You dare to say there is someone greater than me? You must wish to die by my hands. You speak of a god, but tell me Prahlad, where is this god of yours?"

Prahlad: He is everywhere father

Hiranyakashipu: is he here? Is he in this pillar? Let me see how he will protect u

Narrator: Hiranyakashipu struck the pillar and a huge roar was heard. From the pillar came an enormous creature with the head of a lion, and the legs of a man. The creature roared

Narsimha: Hiranyakashipu you fool!!! You have continuously tortured my poor devotee and for that I have come to kill you. Your reign of terror is over, for I am Lord Vishnu I am Narsimha.

Narrator: After days of battling, Narsimha grabbed Hiranyakashipu and took him on the porch. He took the demon king and put him on his lap and with his claws started ripping open the demons belly.

Narrator: The demon king was killed in neither the day nor night but at dusk, as the sun touched the horizon. He was not killed in the air, nor on the land, nor in the sea, but on the lap of Lord Vishnu. He was not killed inside a building or outside, but the porch of the palace. He was not killed by any weapon, but by the nails of the Lord Himself. Not did he die of any creature, be it be demigod, human or animal, but the Lord in His form as half man-half lion.

In this way, Lord Vishnu protected His dear devotee Prahlad, and at the same time ensured that Lord Brahma's promises were not broken. Hiranyakashipu had failed to outwit the lord.

Along with the triumph of Narsimha over Hiranyakashipu, another festival is also celebrated. Can you guess which?

Audience: Holi!!

Narrator: yes that's correct, holi is celebrated because of the death of the demon holika and the victory of prahlad.

**Finish**

**SAHDAN- demon wig, chuni, lion mask, crown, ring as sudharshan, chair as cliff, red chuni for holika**