



Daśa Avatāra

Ten Incarnations of Śrī Kṛṣṇa

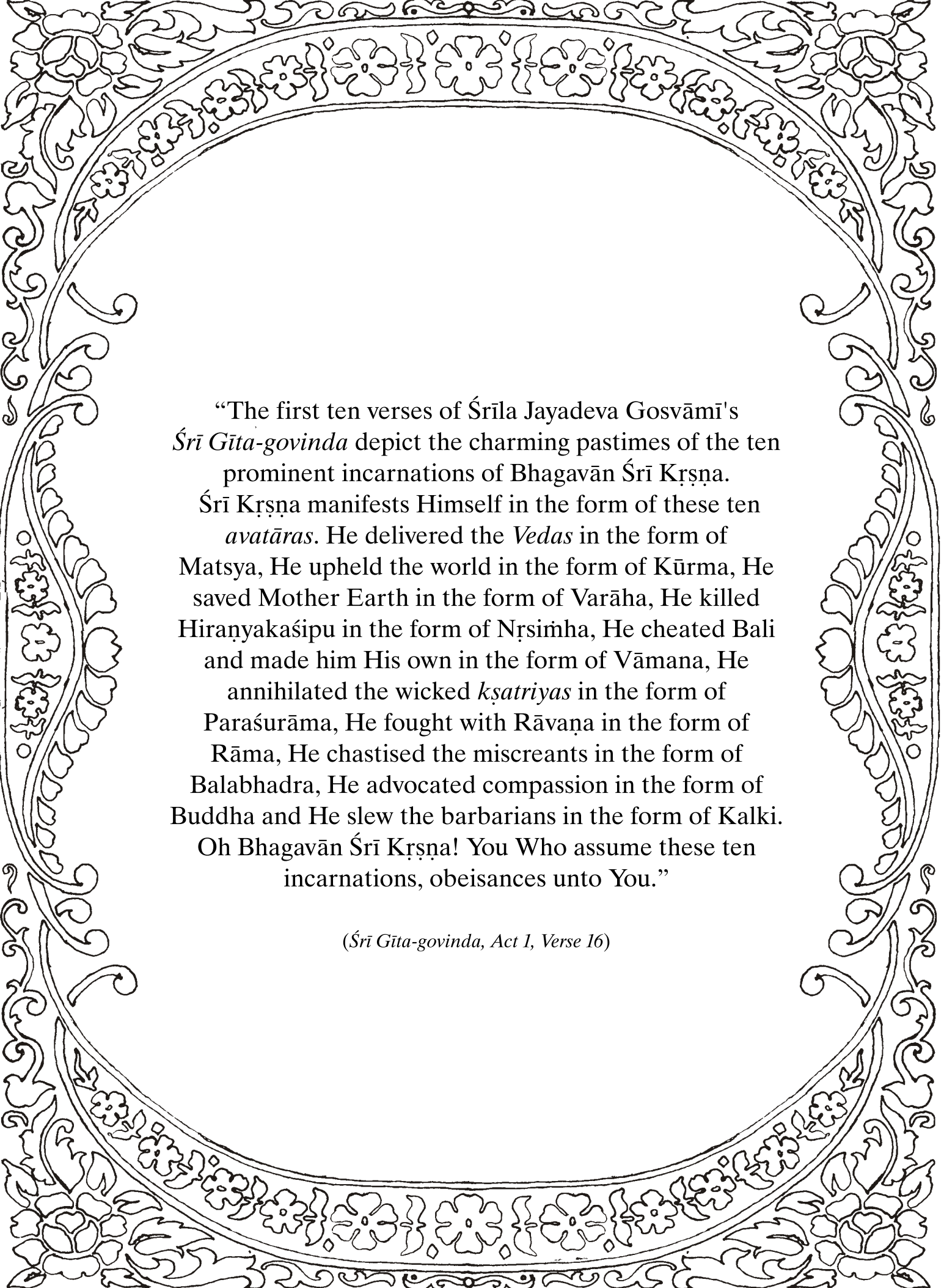
These line drawings were created under the guidance of
Śrīla Bhaktivedānta Nārāyaṇa Gosvāmī Mahārāja

They were originally developed for the wall sculptures at Śrī Giridhārī
Gauḍīya Maṭha in Govardhana, UP, India.

This coloring book presents the original Daśavatāra-Stotram verses, in Sanskrit
and English, from the Śrī Gītā-Govinda by Śrīla Jayadeva Gosvāmī.



Gauḍīya Vedānta Publications



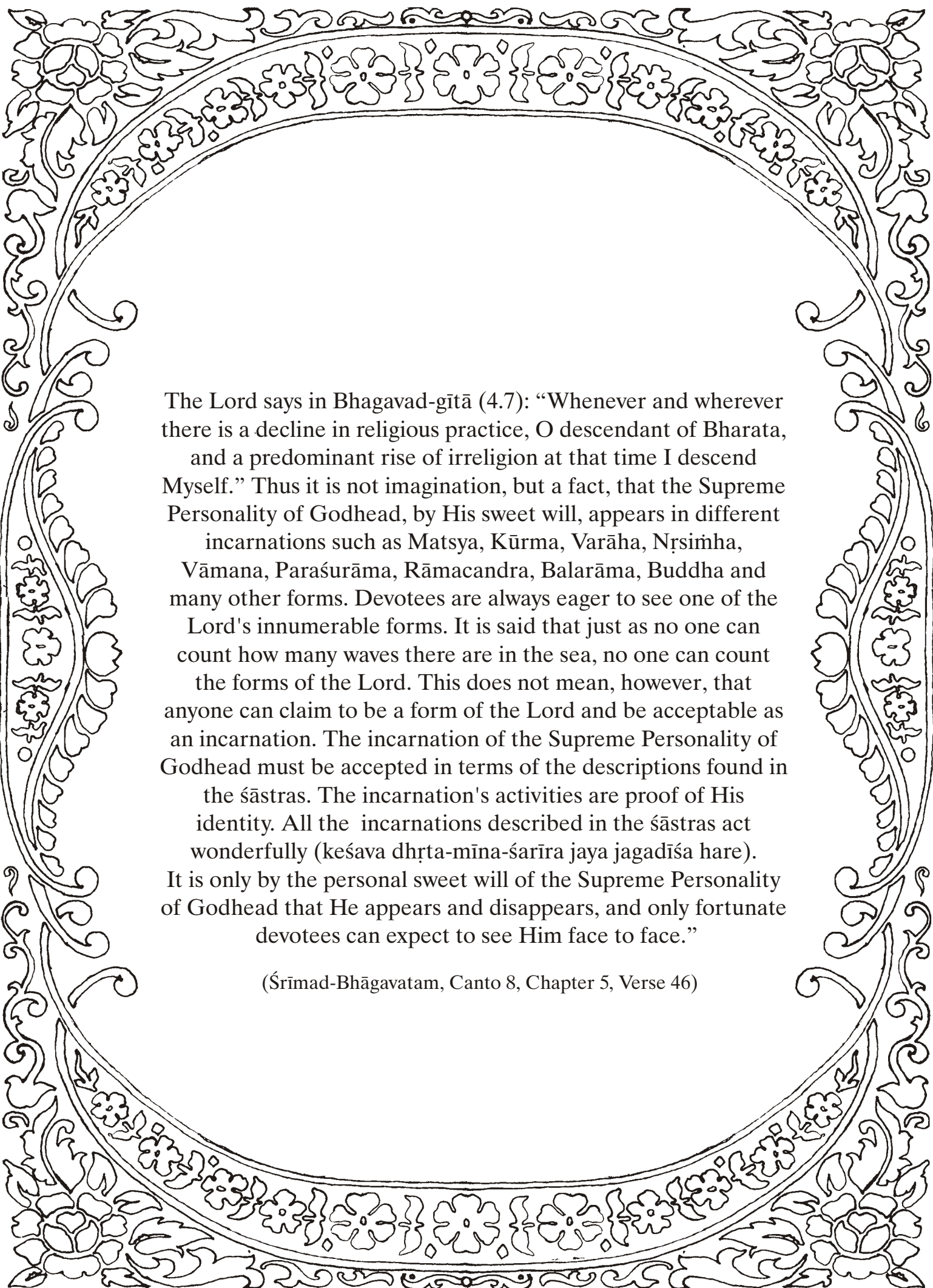
“The first ten verses of Śrīla Jayadeva Gosvāmī's *Śrī Gīta-govinda* depict the charming pastimes of the ten prominent incarnations of Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Śrī Kṛṣṇa manifests Himself in the form of these ten *avatāras*. He delivered the *Vedas* in the form of Matsya, He upheld the world in the form of Kūrma, He saved Mother Earth in the form of Varāha, He killed Hiraṇyakaśipu in the form of Nṛsimha, He cheated Bali and made him His own in the form of Vāmana, He annihilated the wicked *kṣatriyas* in the form of Paraśurāma, He fought with Rāvaṇa in the form of Rāma, He chastised the miscreants in the form of Balabhadra, He advocated compassion in the form of Buddha and He slew the barbarians in the form of Kalki. Oh Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa! You Who assume these ten incarnations, obeisances unto You.”

(*Śrī Gīta-govinda*, Act 1, Verse 16)



Śrīla Bhaktivedānta Nārāyaṇa Mahārāja





The Lord says in Bhagavad-gītā (4.7): “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.” Thus it is not imagination, but a fact, that the Supreme Personality of Godhead, by His sweet will, appears in different incarnations such as Matsya, Kūrma, Varāha, Nṛsimha, Vāmana, Paraśurāma, Rāmacandra, Balarāma, Buddha and many other forms. Devotees are always eager to see one of the Lord's innumerable forms. It is said that just as no one can count how many waves there are in the sea, no one can count the forms of the Lord. This does not mean, however, that anyone can claim to be a form of the Lord and be acceptable as an incarnation. The incarnation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead must be accepted in terms of the descriptions found in the śāstras. The incarnation's activities are proof of His identity. All the incarnations described in the śāstras act wonderfully (keśava dhṛta-mīna-śarīra jaya jagadīśa hare). It is only by the personal sweet will of the Supreme Personality of Godhead that He appears and disappears, and only fortunate devotees can expect to see Him face to face.”

(Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, Canto 8, Chapter 5, Verse 46)



Śrīla Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupāda





रमादिमूर्तिषु कलानियमेन तिष्ठन्
नानावतारमकरोद्भुवनेषु भुवनेषु किन्तु।
कृष्णः स्वयं समभवत् परमः पुमान् यो
गोविन्दमादिपुरुषं तमहं भजामि ॥३९॥



*rāmādi-mūrtiṣu kalā-niyamena tiṣṭhan
nānāvatāram akarod bhuvaneṣu kintu
kṛṣṇaḥ svayaṁ samabhavat paramaḥ pumān yo
govindam ādi-puruṣaṁ tam ahaṁ bhajāmi*



I worship Govinda, the primeval Lord, who
manifested Himself personally as Kṛṣṇa, and
the different avatāras in the world in the
forms of Rāma, Nṛsiṁha, Vāmana, etc., as
His subjective portions.

(Śrī Brahma-Saṁhitā, Text 39)



Śrī Kṛṣṇa





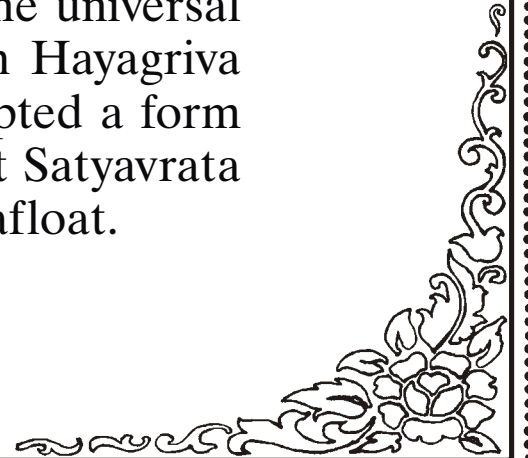
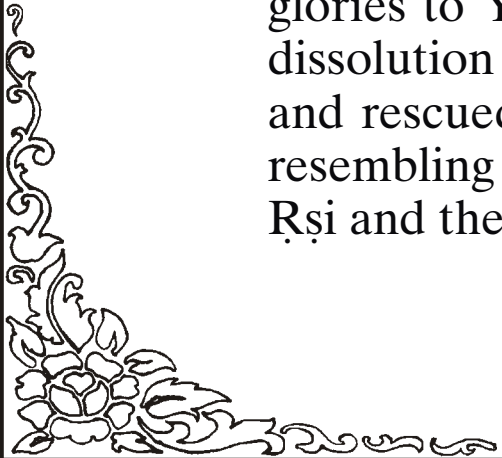
प्रलयपयोधिजले धृतवानसि वेदं
विहितवहित्र-चरित्रमखेदम्।
केशव धृतमीनशरीर जय जगदीश हरे॥१॥



pralaya-payodhi-jale dhṛtavān asi vedam
vihita-vahitra-caritram akhedam
keśava! dhṛta-mīna-śarīra! jaya jagadīśa! hare



O Keśava! O You who assume the form of a fish! O Jagadīśa, Lord of the Universe! O You who remove Your devotees' tribulations! All glories to You! In the waters of the universal dissolution You killed the demon Hayagriva and rescued the Vedas. You accepted a form resembling a boat, and easily kept Satyavrata Ṛṣi and the seven principal sages afloat.



Śrī Matsya-Avatāra





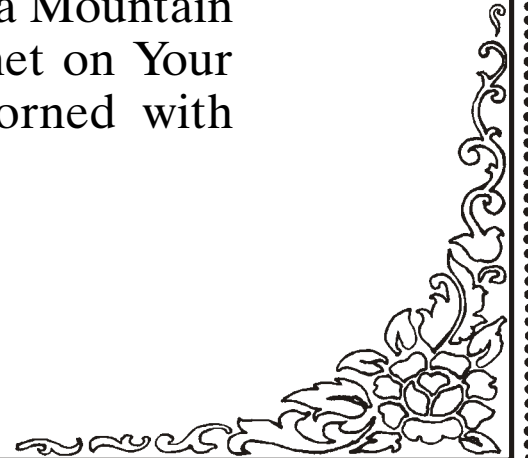
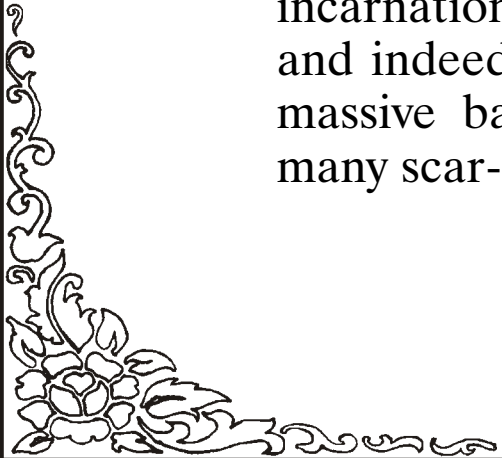
क्षितिर्हि विपुलतरे तिष्ठति तव पृष्ठे
धरणिधरणकिणचक्रगरिष्ठे।
केशव धृतकूर्मशरीर जय जगदीश हरे॥२॥



kṣitir iha vipulatare tiṣṭhati tava pṛṣṭhe
dharāṇi-dharāṇa-kiṇa-cakra-gariṣṭhe
keśava! dhṛta-kūrma-śarīra! jaya jagadīśa! hare



O Keśava! O You who assume the form of a
tortoise! O Jagadīśa! O You who steal Your
devotees' hearts! All glories to You! In this
incarnation You hold the Mandara Mountain
and indeed the entire Earth planet on Your
massive back, which is now adorned with
many scar-like depressions.



Śrī Kūrma-Avatāra





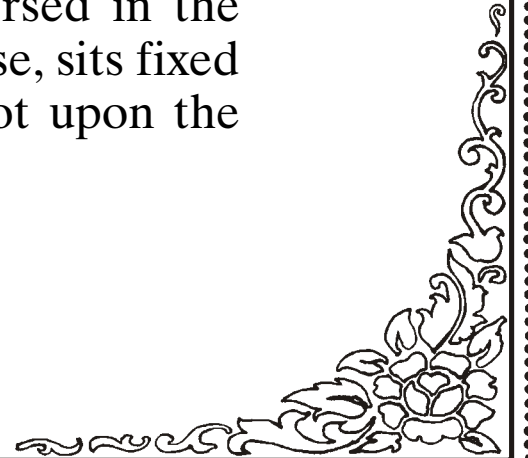
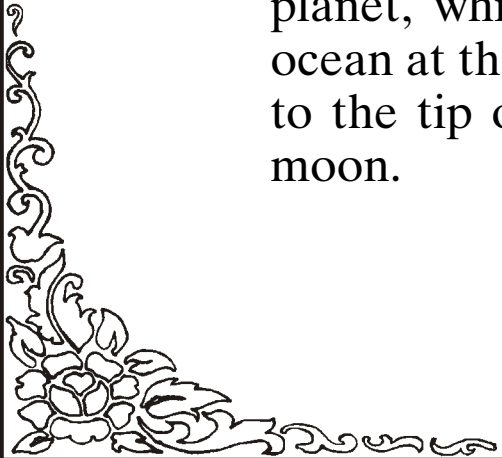
वसति दशनशिखरे धरणी तव लग्ना
शशिनि कलङ्कलेव निमग्ना।
केशव धृतशूकररूप जय जगदीश हरे॥३॥



vasati daśana-śikhare dharaṇī tava lagnā
śaśini-kalaṅka-kaleva nimagnā
keśava! dhr̥ta-śūkara-rūpa! jaya jagadīśa! hare



O Keśava! O You who assume the form of a
boar! O Jagadīśa! O You who remove Your
devotees' sins! All glories to You! The Earth
planet, which had become immersed in the
ocean at the bottom of the universe, sits fixed
to the tip of Your tusk like a spot upon the
moon.



Śrī Varāha-Avatāra





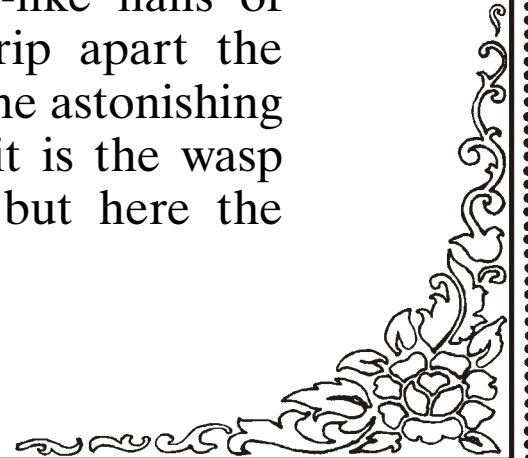
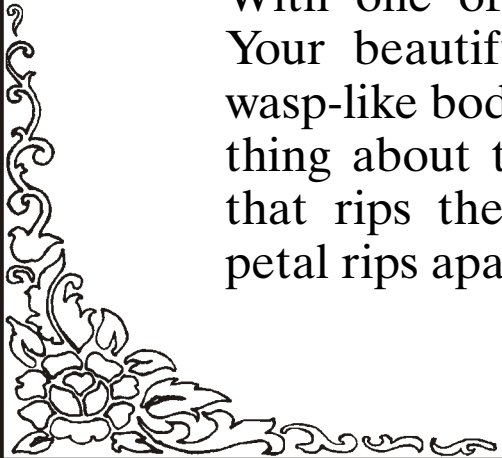
तव करकमलवरे नखमद्भुतशृङ्गं
दलितहिरण्यकशिपुतनुभृङ्गम्।
केशव धृतनरहरिरूप जय जगदीश हरे॥४॥



tava kara-kamala-vare nakham adbhuta-śṛṅgam
dalita-hiraṇyakaśipu-tanu-bhṛṅgam
keśava! dhṛta-narahari-rūpa! jaya jagadīśa! hare



O Keśava! O You who assume the form of half-man, half-lion! O Jagadīśa! O You who remove Your devotees' suffering! All glories to You! With one of the wonderful, petal-like nails of Your beautiful lotus hands, You rip apart the wasp-like body of Hiranyakaśipu. The astonishing thing about this is that ordinarily it is the wasp that rips the petals of the lotus, but here the petal rips apart the wasp.



Śrī Nṛsimha-Avatāra





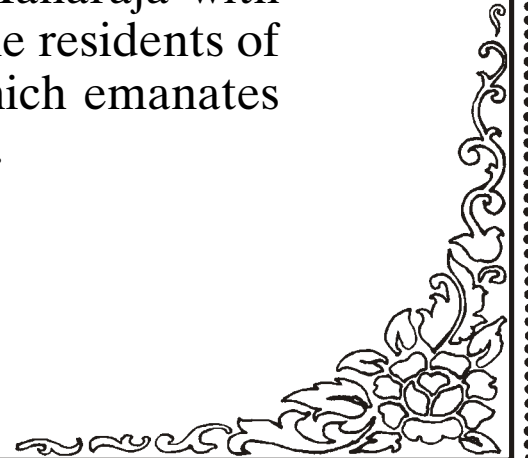
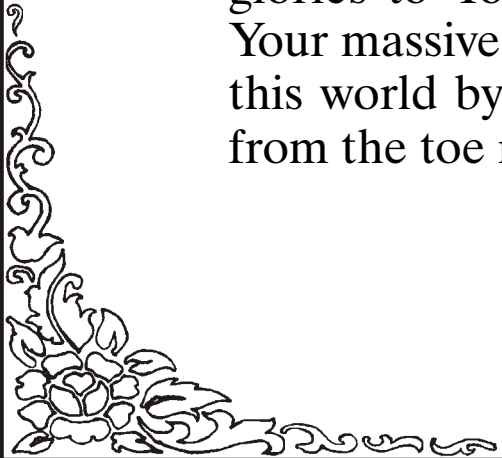
छलयसि विक्रमणे बलिमद्भुतवामन
पदनखनीरजनितजनपावन।
केशव धृतवामनरूप जय जगदीश हरे॥५॥



chalayasi vikramaṇe balim adbhuta-vāmana!
pada-nakha-nīra-janita-jana-pāvana!
keśava! dhṛta-vāmana-rūpa! jaya jagadīśa! hare



O Keśava! O You who assume the wonderful
form of a dwarf brāhmaṇa! O Jagadīśa! O Hari,
who steals away Your devotees' false egos! All
glories to You! You deceive Bali Mahārāja with
Your massive steps. You purify all the residents of
this world by the Ganges water, which emanates
from the toe nails of Your lotus feet.



Śrī Vāmana-Avatāra





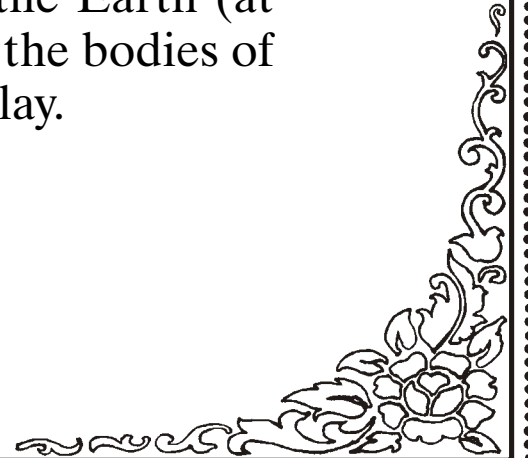
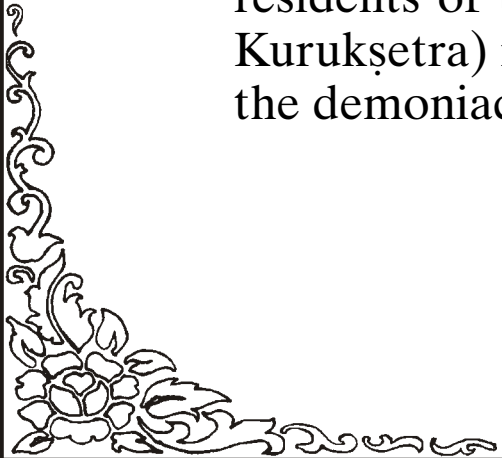
क्षत्रियरुधिरमये जगदपगतपापं
स्नपयसि पयसि शमितभवतापम्।
केशव धृतभृगुपतिरूप जय जगदीश हरे॥६॥



kṣatriya-rudhira-maye jagad-apagata-pāpaṁ
snapayasi payasi śamita-bhava-tāpam
keśava! dhṛta-bhṛgupati-rūpa! jaya jagadīśa! hare



O Keśava! O You who assume the form of
Paraśurāma! O Jagadīśa! All glories to You! You
remove the torments, sins, and sufferings of the
residents of this world by bathing the Earth (at
Kurukṣetra) in rivers of blood from the bodies of
the demoniac kṣatriyas whom You slay.



Śrī Paraśurāma-Avatāra





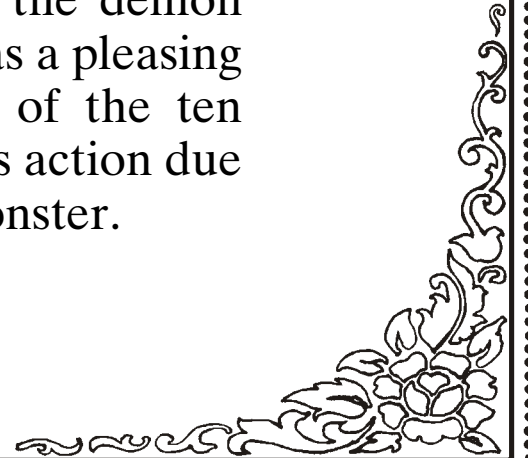
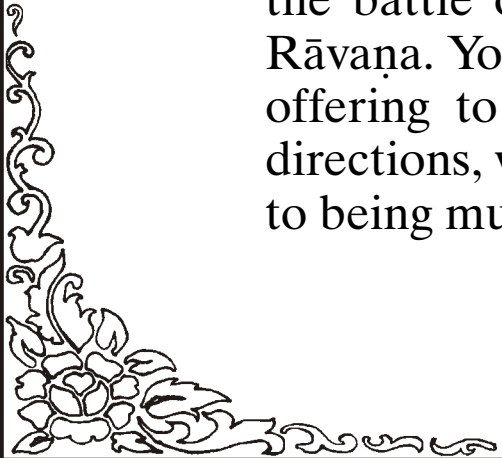
वितरसि दिक्षु रणे दिक्पतिकमनीयं
दशमुख—मौलिबलिं रमणीयम्।
केशव धृतरामशरीर जय जगदीश हरे॥७॥



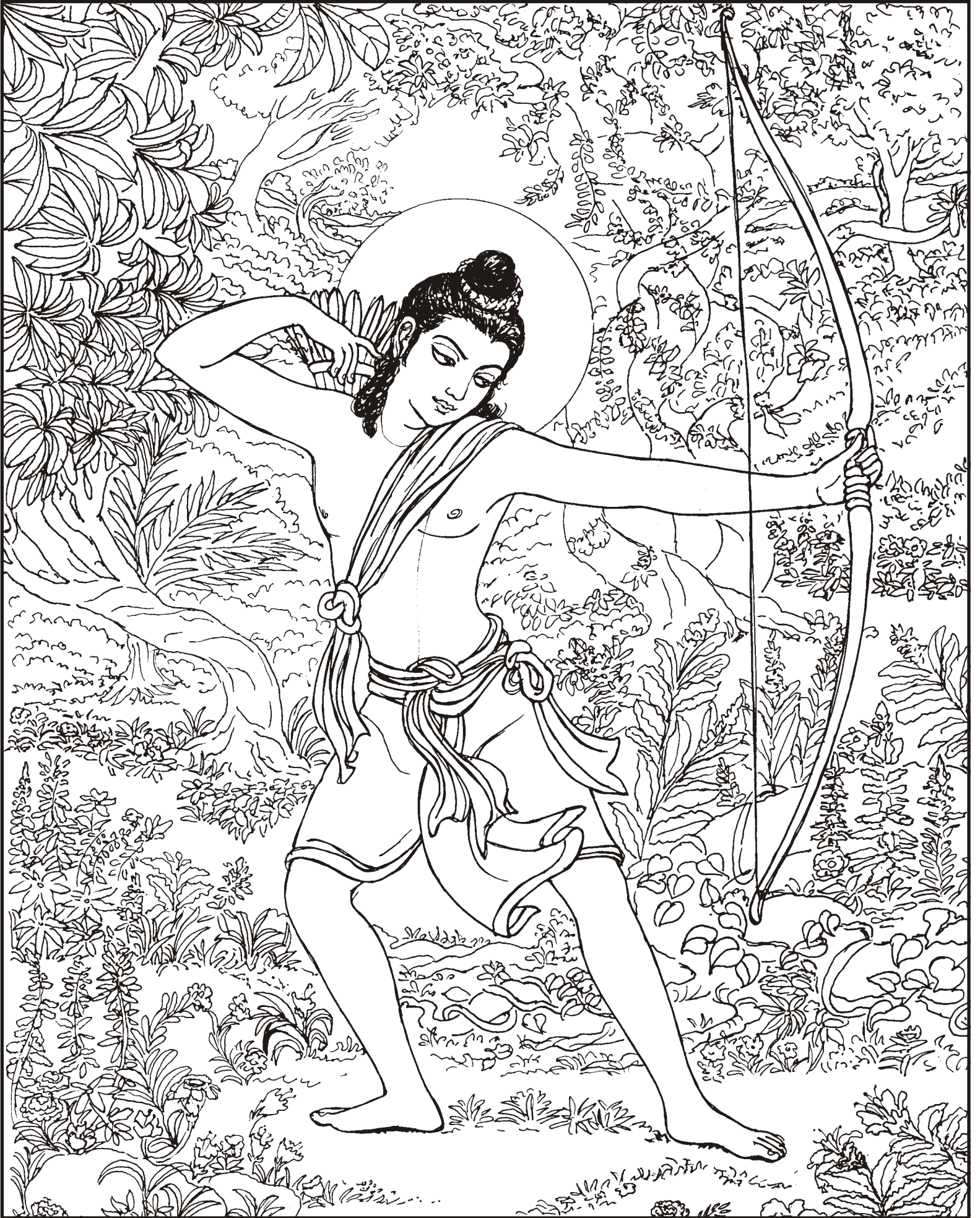
vitarasi dikṣu raṇe dik-pati-kamanīyaṁ
daśa-mukha-mauli-baliṁ ramaṇīyam
keśava! dhṛta-rāma-śarīra! jaya jagadīśa! hare



O Keśava! O You who assume the form of
Rāmacandra! O Jagadīśa! O You who remove
the ṛṣis' suffering! All glories to You! In
the battle of Laṅka You destroy the demon
Rāvaṇa. You distribute his heads as a pleasing
offering to the presiding deities of the ten
directions, who greatly desired this action due
to being much harassed by this monster.



Śrī Rāmacandra-Avatāra





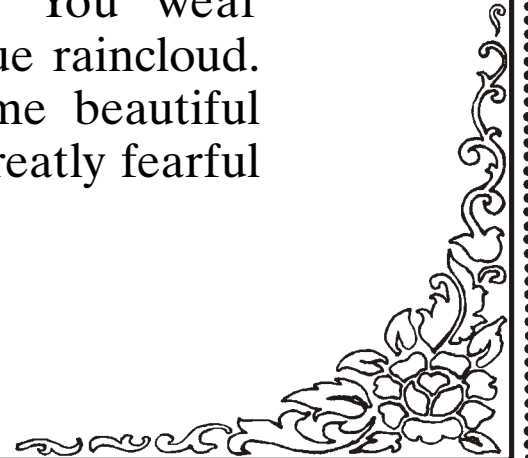
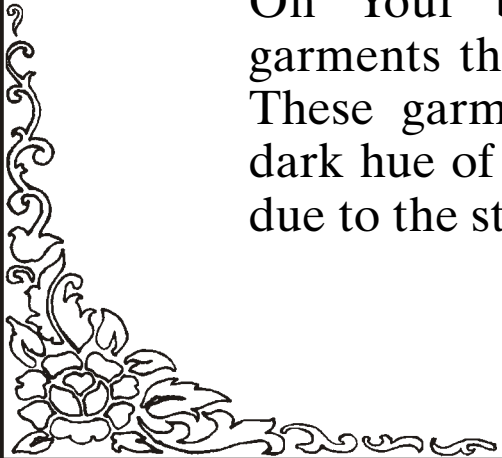
वहसि वपुषि विशदे वसनं जलदाभं
हलहतिभीतिमिलित-यमुनाभम्।
केशव धृतहलधररूप जय जगदीश हरे॥८॥



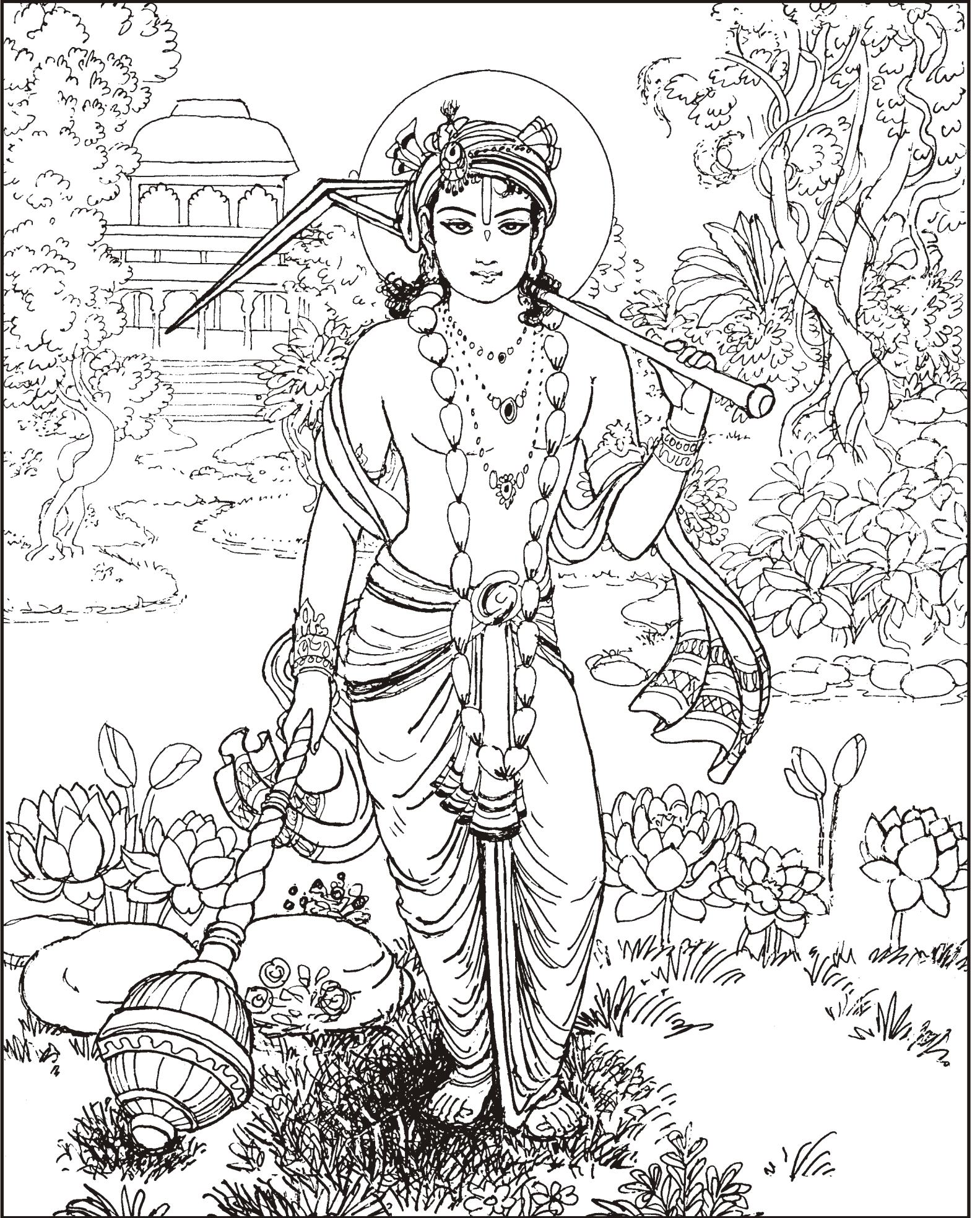
vahasi vapuṣi viśade vasanam jaladābham
hala-hati-bhīti-milita-yamunābham
keśava! dhṛta-haladhara-rūpa! jaya jagadīśa! hare



O Keśava! O You who assume the form of
Balarāma! O Jagadīśa! O You who vanquish
the arrogance of the wicked! All glories to You!
On Your brilliant white body You wear
garments the colour of a fresh blue raincloud.
These garments are also the same beautiful
dark hue of the Yamunā, who is greatly fearful
due to the striking of Your plough.



Śrī Balarāma-Avatāra





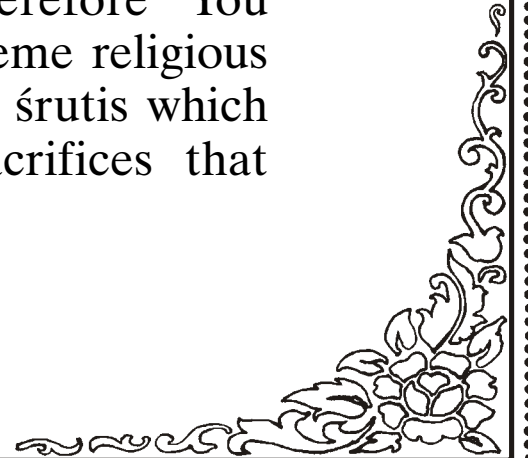
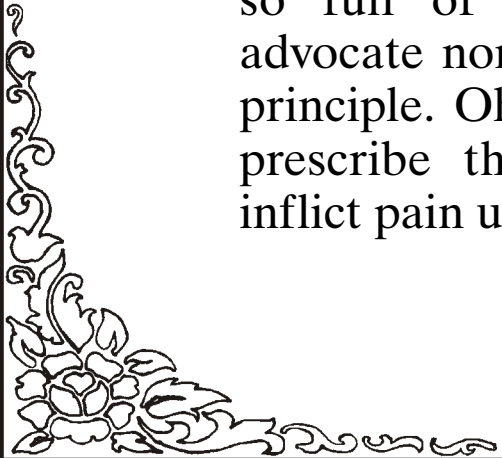
निन्दसि यज्ञ विधेरहह श्रुतिजातं
सदयहृदय! दर्शित-पशुघातम्।
केशव धृतबुद्धशरीर जय जगदीश हरे॥९॥



nindasi yajña vidher ahaha śruti-jātaṁ
sadaya-hṛdaya! darśita-paśu-ghātaṁ
keśava! dhṛta-buddha-śarīra! jaya jagadīśa! hare



O Keśava! O You who assume the form of
Buddha! O Jagadīśa! O You who dispel atheism!
O Hari! All glories to You! Your heart is
so full of compassion, and therefore You
advocate non-violence as the supreme religious
principle. Oh Lord, You decry the śrutis which
prescribe the performance of sacrifices that
inflict pain upon animals.



Śrī Buddha-Avatāra





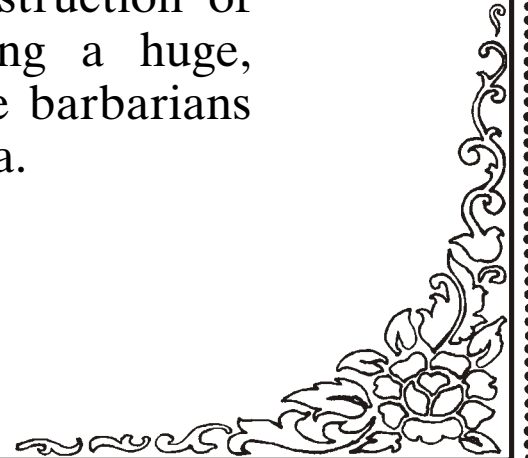
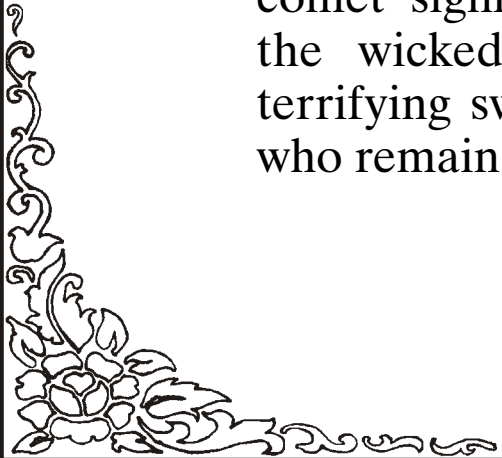
म्लेच्छनिवहनिधने कलयसि करवालं
धूमकेतुमिव किमपि करालम्।
केशव धृतकल्किशरीर जय जगदीश हरे॥३०॥



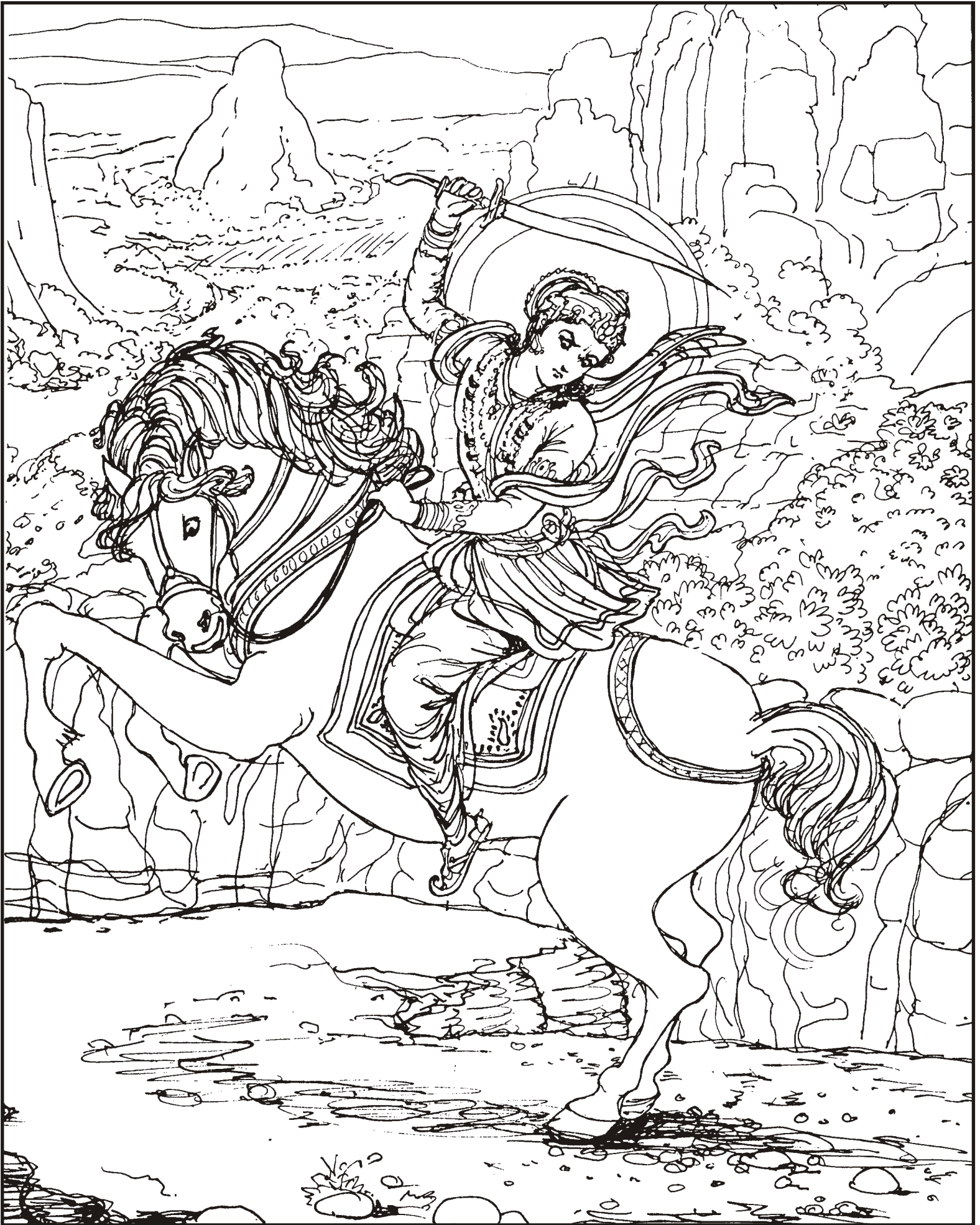
mleccha-nivaha-nidhane kalayasi karavālam
dhūma-ketum iva kim api karālam
keśava! dhṛta-kalki-śarīra! jaya jagadīśa! hare



O Keśava! O You who assume the form of
Kalki! O Jagadīśa! O You who remove the filth
of the age of Kali! All glories to You! Like a
comet signifying the eminent destruction of
the wicked, You appear wielding a huge,
terrifying sword to annihilate the barbarians
who remain at the end of Kali-yuga.



Śrī Kalki-Avatāra





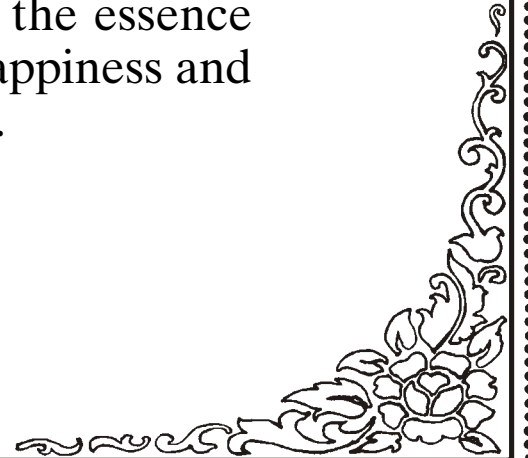
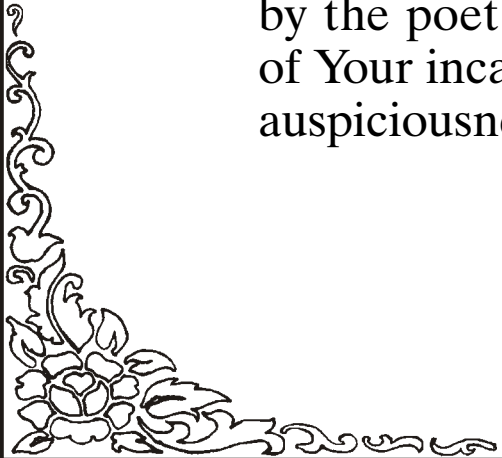
श्रीजयदेवकवेरिदमुदितमुदारं
शृणु शुभदं सुखदं भवसारम्।
केशव धृतदशविधरूप जय जगदीश हरे॥३३॥



śrī-jayadeva-kaver idam uditam udāraṁ
śṛṇu sukha-daṁ śubha-daṁ bhava-sāram
keśava! dhṛta-daśa-vidha-rūpa! jaya jagadīśa! hare



O Keśava! O You who assume these ten forms!
O Jagadīśa! O You who remove Your devotees'
material desires! All glories to You! My
humble prayer at Your lotus feet is that You
please hear this Daśāvatāra-Stotra composed
by the poet Jayadeva. It describes the essence
of Your incarnations. Bestowing happiness and
auspiciousness, it is most excellent.





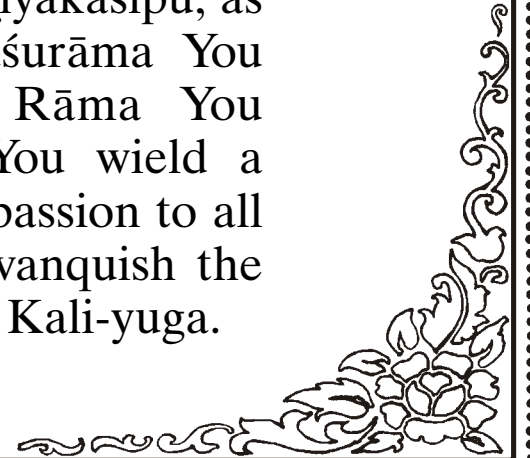
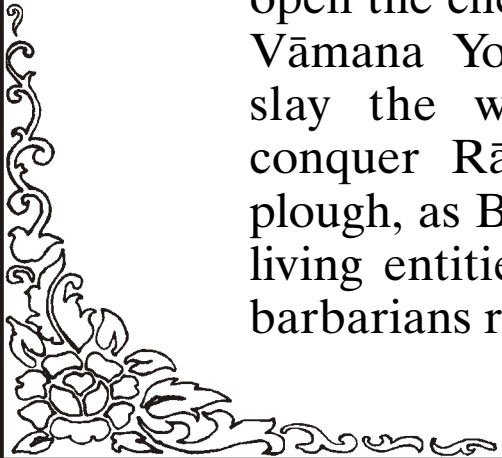
वेदानुद्धरते जगन्ति वहते भूगोलमुद्विभ्रते
दैत्यान् दारयते बलिं छलयते क्षत्रक्षयं कुर्वते।
पौलस्त्यं जयते हलं कलयते कारुण्यमातन्वते
म्लेच्छान् मूर्च्छयते दशाकृतिकृते कृष्णाय तुभ्यं नमः॥३२॥



vedān uddharate jaganti vahate bhū-golam udvibhrate
daityaṁ dārayate baliṁ chalayate kṣatra-kṣayaṁ kurvate
paulastyam jayate halaṁ kalayate kārūṇyam ātanvate
mlecchān mūrcchayate daśākṛti-kṛte kṛṣṇāya tubhyaṁ namaḥ



O Śrī Kṛṣṇa, You descend in ten incarnations! I offer hundreds of obeisances unto You! As Matsya You rescue the Vedas, as Kūrma You support the Earth planet, as Varāha You lift the Earth with Your tusks, as Nṛsimha You tear open the chest of the demon Hiraṇyakaśipu, as Vāmana You trick Bali, as Paraśurāma You slay the wicked kṣatriyas, as Rāma You conquer Rāvaṇa, as Balarāma You wield a plough, as Buddha You show compassion to all living entities, and as Kalki You vanquish the barbarians remaining at the end of Kali-yuga.



Proceeds from the sale of this coloring book go
towards the Navadvīpa Āsrāma - Temple Project in West Bengal, India.



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Line drawing of Śrī Kṛṣṇa by Acyuta Kṛṣṇa dasa, based on Venu-gita painting

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Line drawings of Śrīla Bhaktivedānta Swami Prabhupāda and Śrīla Bhaktivedānta Nārāyaṇa Mahārāja

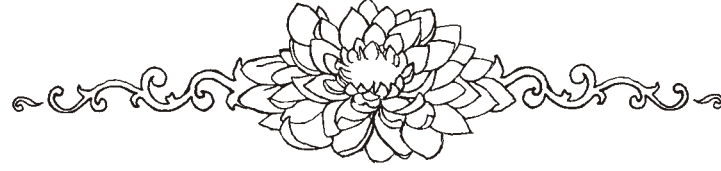
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Ħare Kṛṣṇa, Ħare Kṛṣṇa

Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa, Ħare Ħare

Ħare Rāma, Ħare Rāma

Rāma Rāma, Ħare Ħare

