

Prahlad

The Child Saint

COLORING BOOK

Adapted from Srimad-Bhagavatam Seventh Canto,
From the translations and commentaries

by

Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Svami Prabhupada

And the lectures of

Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Narayana Gosvami Maharaja

“Those who hear, chant, and remember the sweet and powerful story of Prahlad Maharaja and Lord Nrsingadeva will all be liberated by Lord Nrsingadeva. He promises to take away all suffering and sorrows, and He will fulfill His promise. We can have very strong faith that He will not cheat us. Whatever He promises to do, He will do. We can have strong faith that He will be kind to us, that we will develop our Krishna consciousness, and that He will bless us to follow the path of pure bhakti (devotion to Lord Krishna).”

Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Narayana Gosvami Maharaja

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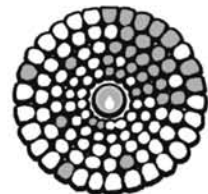
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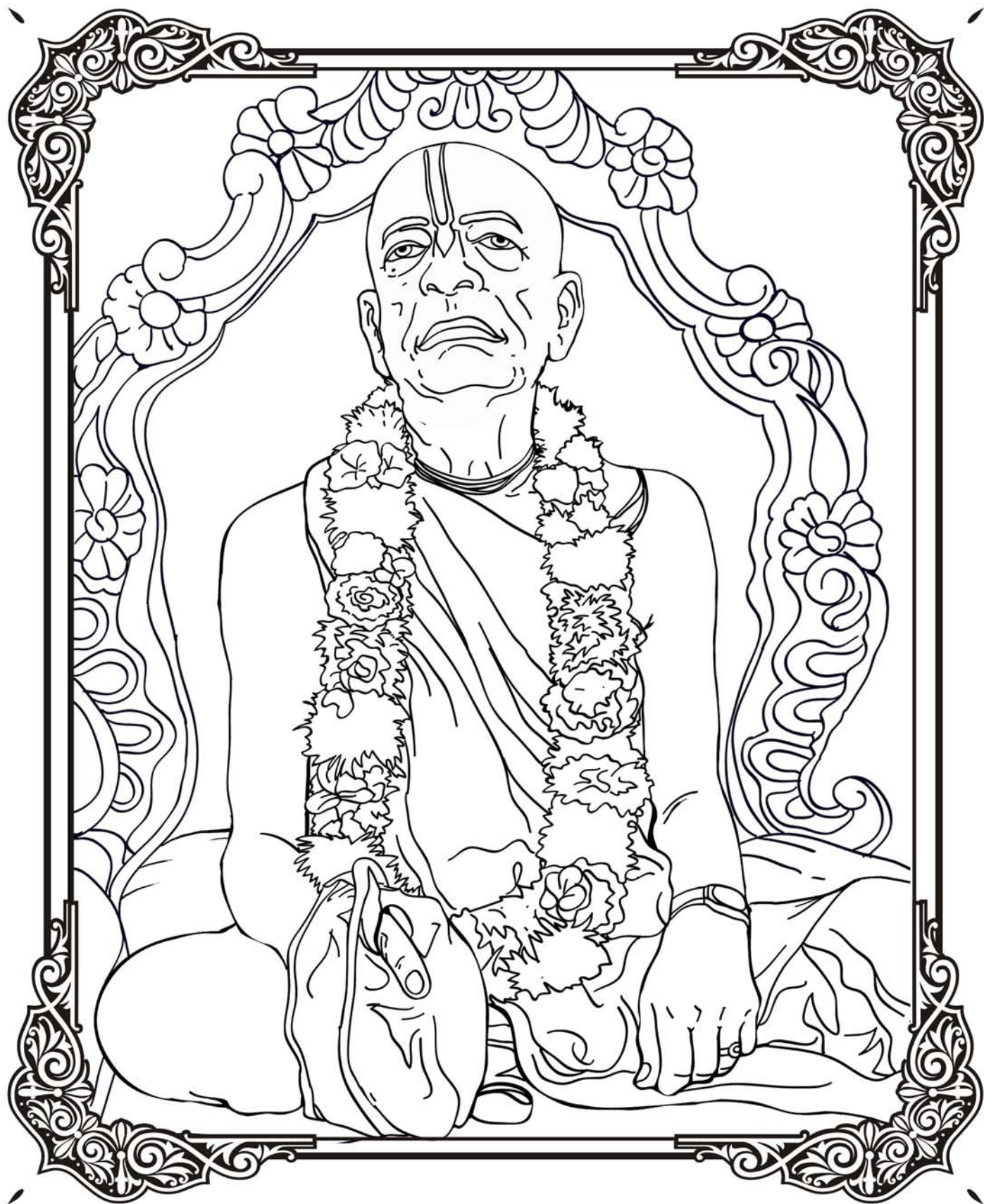
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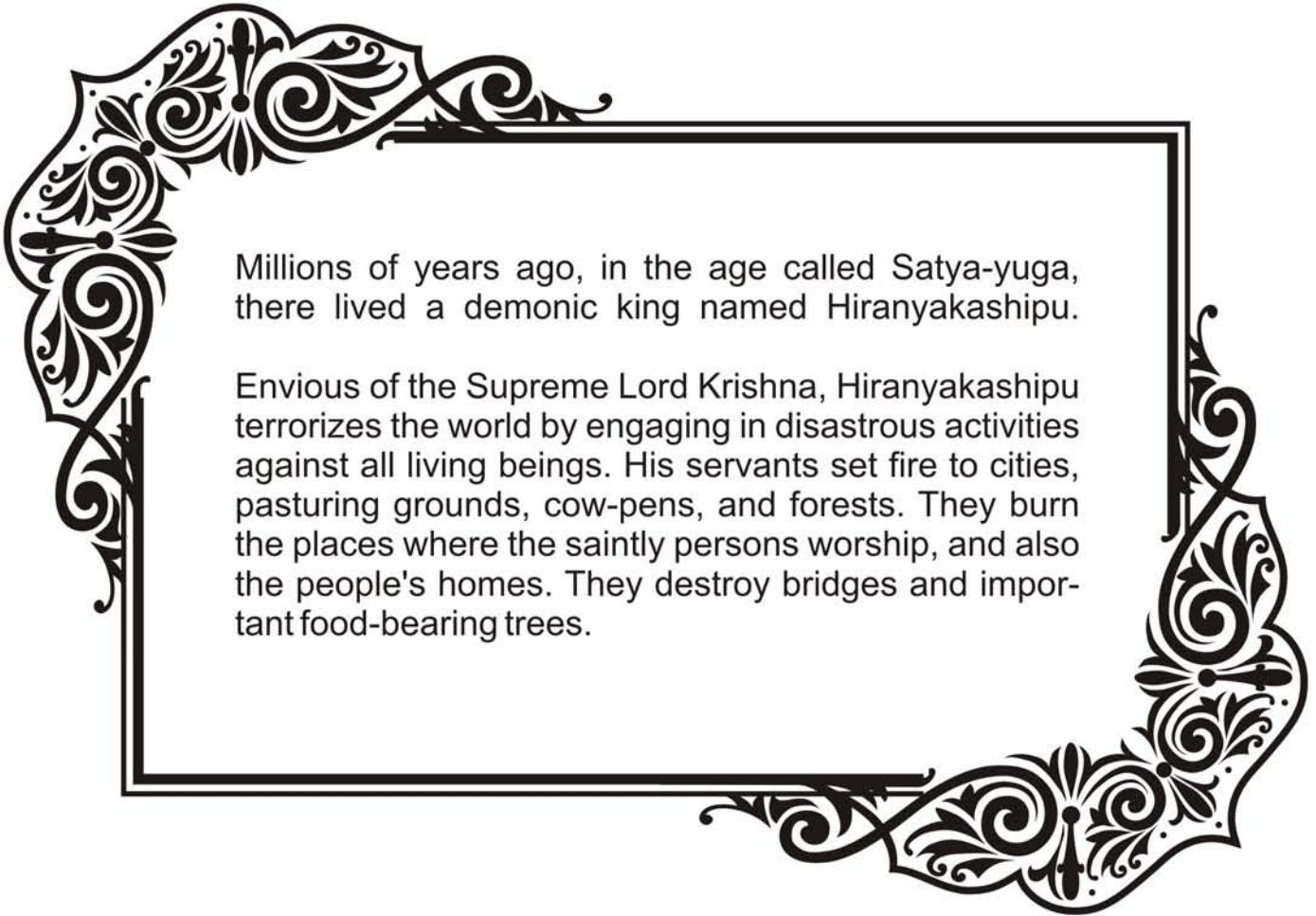
KARISMA-SECTION



Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Narayana Gosvami Maharaja

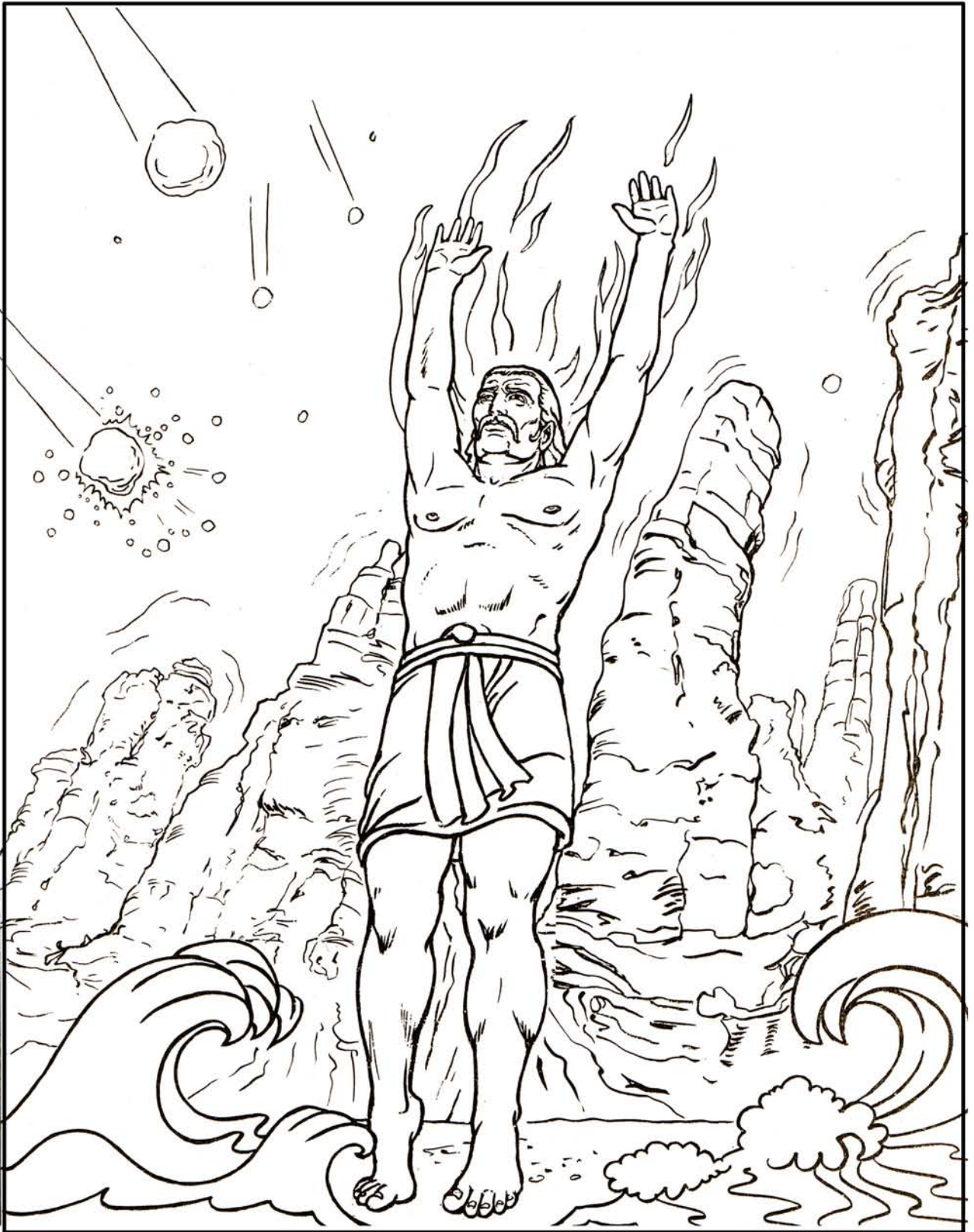


Sri Srimad Bhaktivedanta Svami Prabhupada

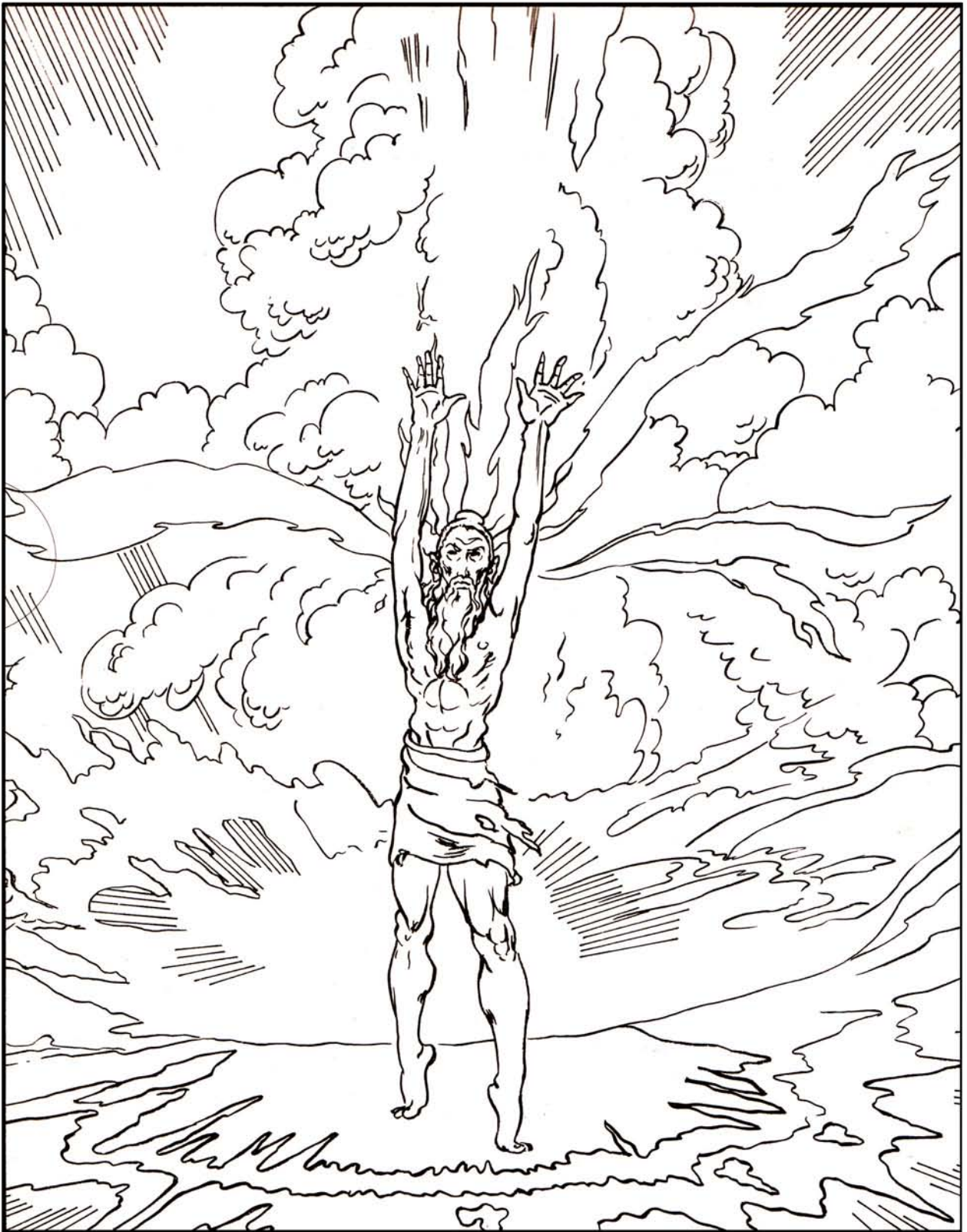


Millions of years ago, in the age called Satya-yuga, there lived a demonic king named Hiranyakashipu.

Envious of the Supreme Lord Krishna, Hiranyakashipu terrorizes the world by engaging in disastrous activities against all living beings. His servants set fire to cities, pasturing grounds, cow-pens, and forests. They burn the places where the saintly persons worship, and also the people's homes. They destroy bridges and important food-bearing trees.



Hiranyakashipu wants to live forever and control the universe. In order to be blessed with the power to do this, he desires to please Lord Brahma, the chief demigod of the universe. He thus performs severe austerities by concentrating all of his energy, looking upward toward the sky, stretching his arms upward, and standing on his toes for thousands of years.

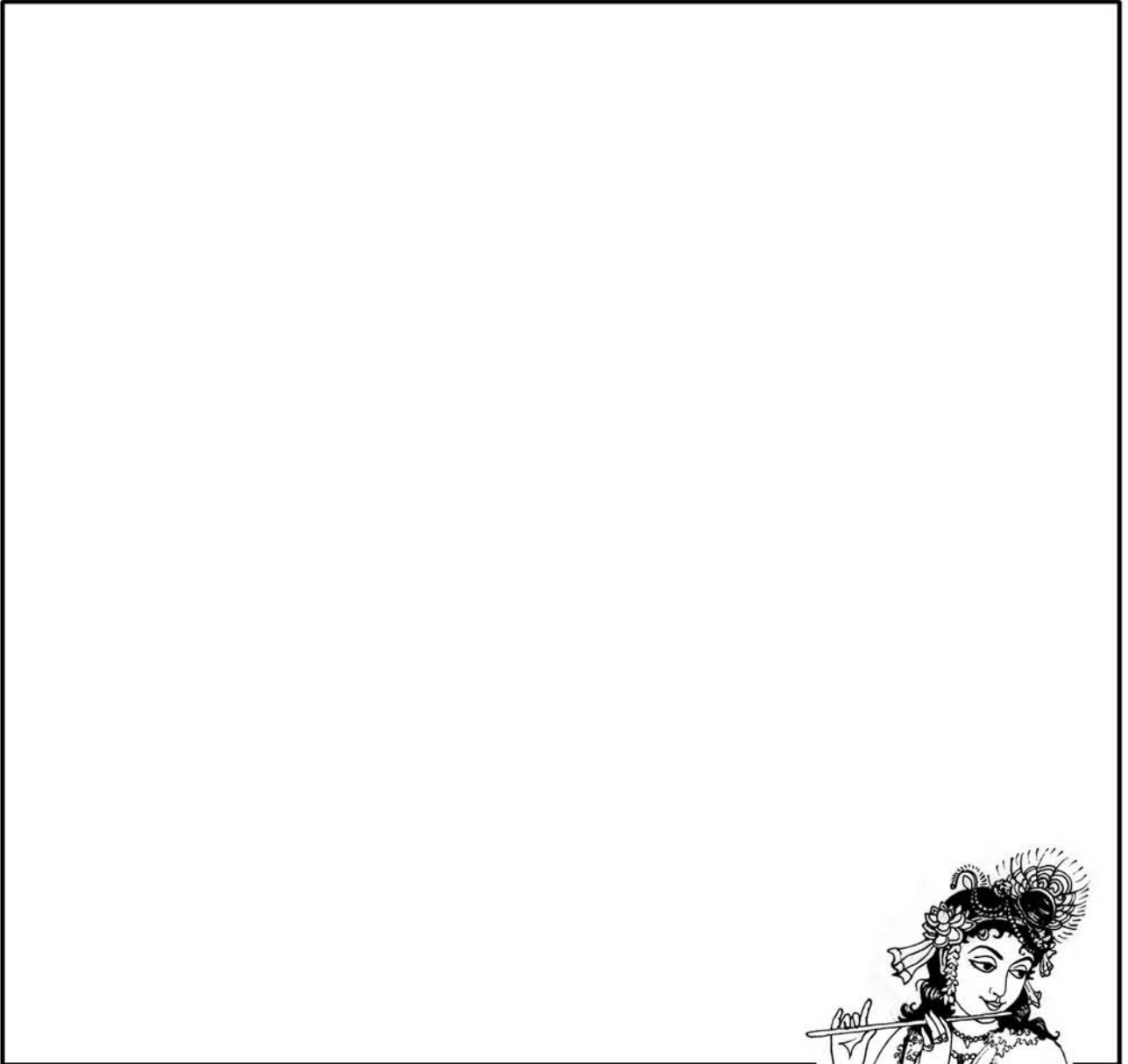


Due to Hiranyakashipu's austerities, a fire comes from his head which spreads throughout the sky and reaches the upper and lower planets. All directions are on fire. All the rivers and oceans are agitated. The surface of the Earth, with its mountains and islands, begins trembling. Stars and planets fall.



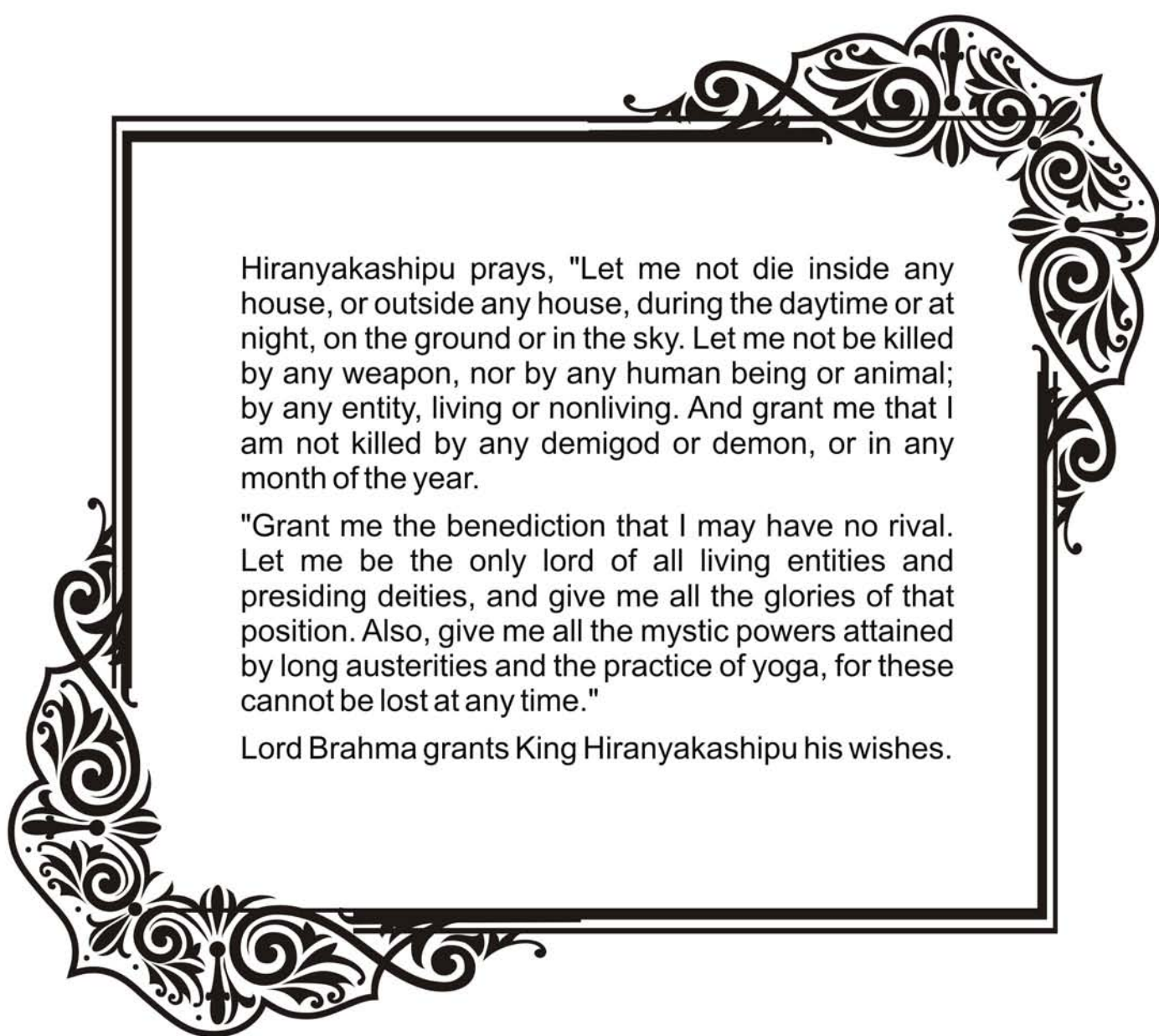
The demigods beg Lord Brahma to protect the universe. Lord Brahma then comes on his swan carrier and finds Hiranyakashipu, looking like a cloud-covered sun and heating the world by his austerity. Hiranyakashipu's body is covered by an anthill, and by grass and bamboo sticks. Ants and moths have eaten his skin, fat, flesh, and blood.

You can draw Lord Krishna. Please copy Him in the box.



Lord Brahma offers Hiranyakashipu any benediction he wants as reward for his austerities. Now sprinkled with the spiritual water from Lord Brahma's water-pot, Hiranyakashipu immediately develops a young body of golden color, with limbs so strong that they can bear the striking of a thunderbolt. He thinks that he will become immortal and be able to defeat even the Supreme Lord Krishna. He prays to Lord Brahma for his benediction.

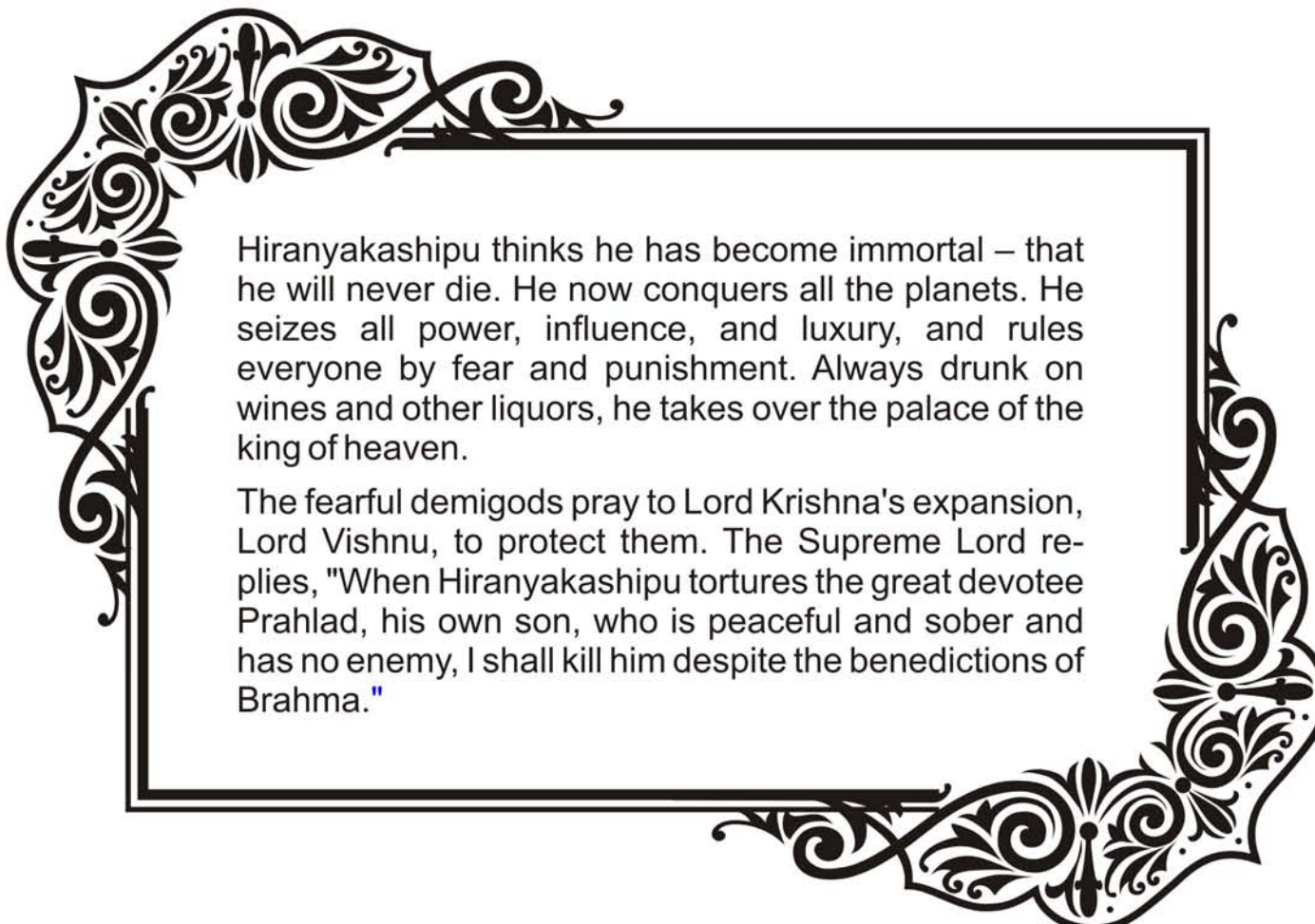




Hiranyakashipu prays, "Let me not die inside any house, or outside any house, during the daytime or at night, on the ground or in the sky. Let me not be killed by any weapon, nor by any human being or animal; by any entity, living or nonliving. And grant me that I am not killed by any demigod or demon, or in any month of the year.

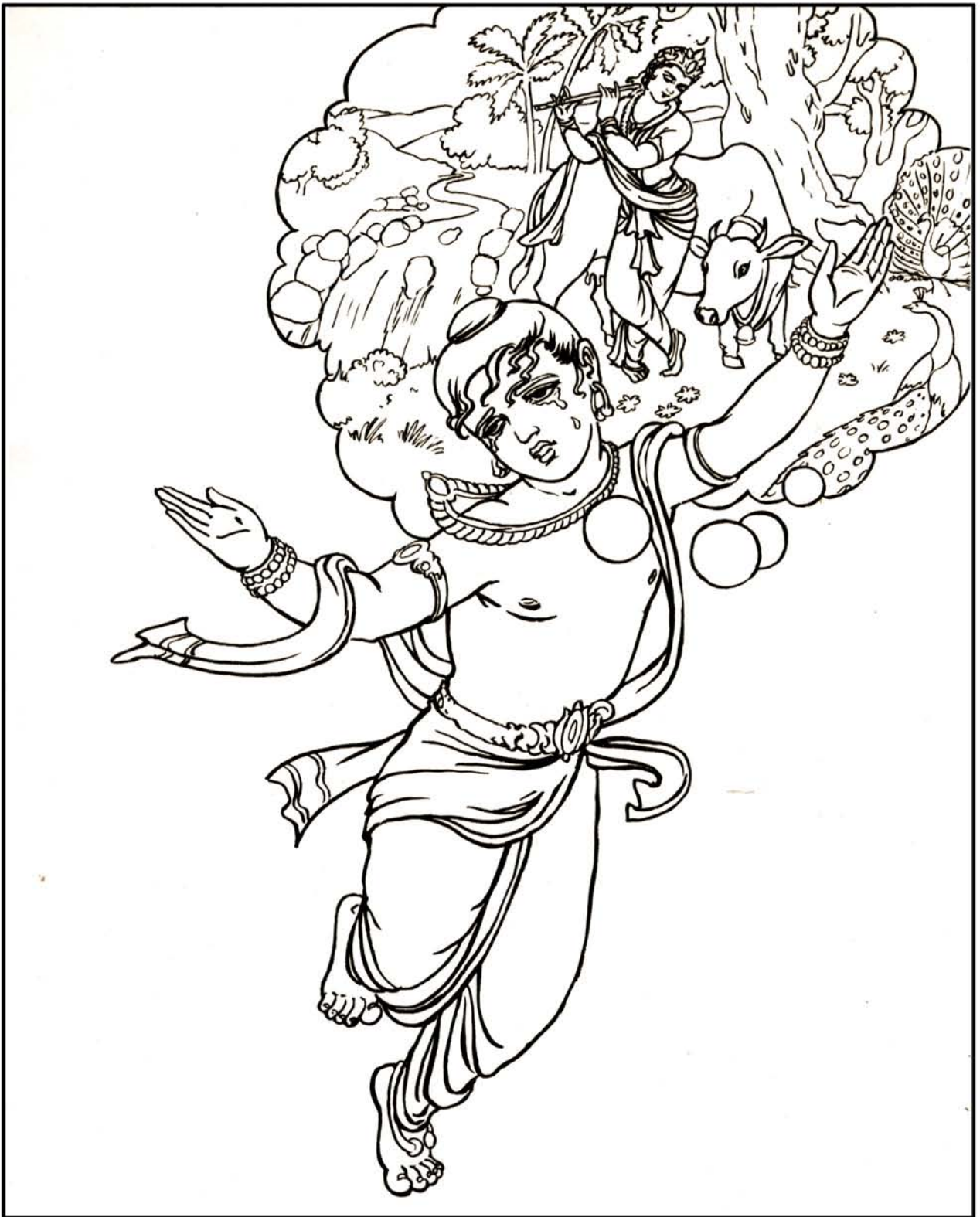
"Grant me the benediction that I may have no rival. Let me be the only lord of all living entities and presiding deities, and give me all the glories of that position. Also, give me all the mystic powers attained by long austerities and the practice of yoga, for these cannot be lost at any time."

Lord Brahma grants King Hiranyakashipu his wishes.

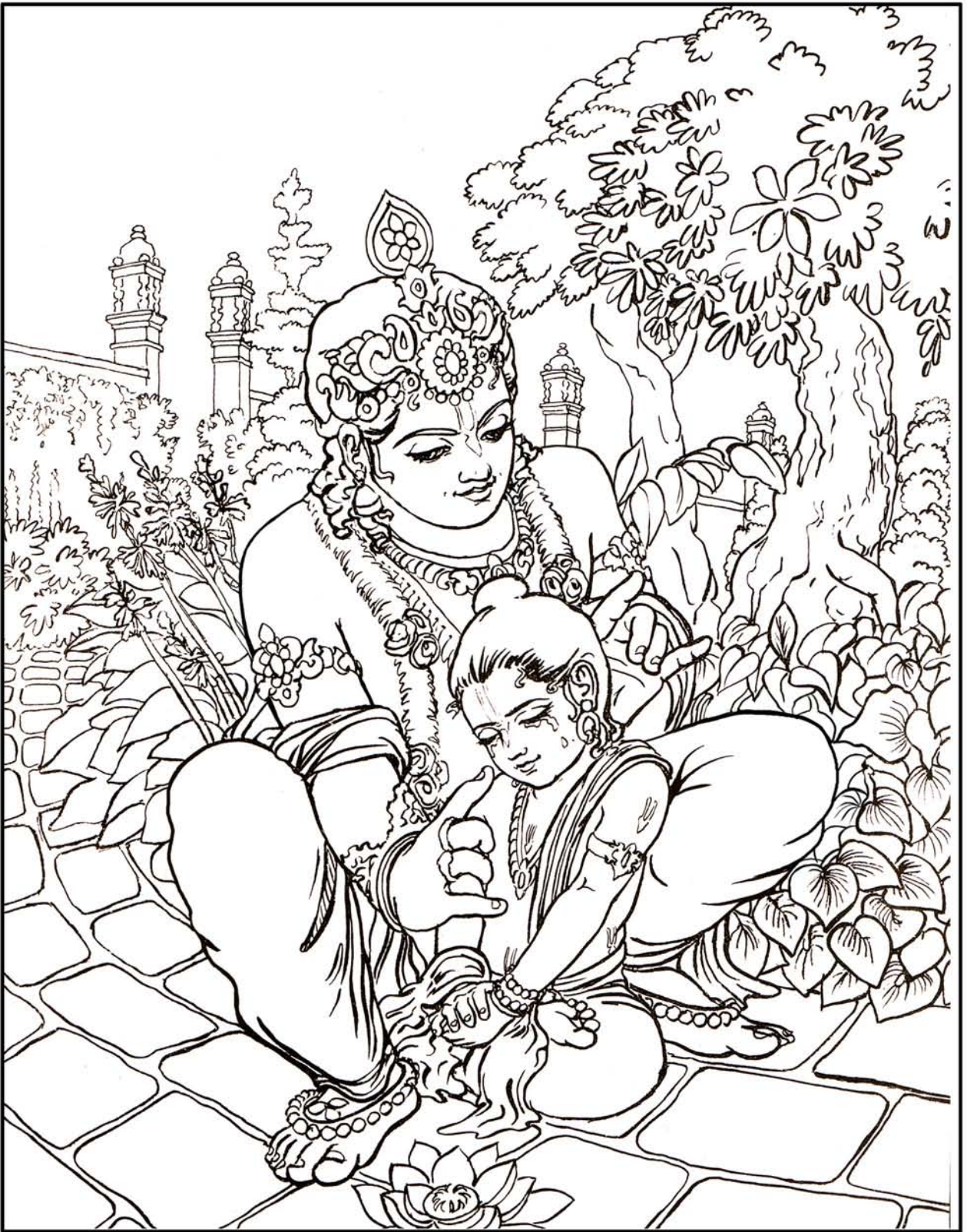


Hiranyakashipu thinks he has become immortal – that he will never die. He now conquers all the planets. He seizes all power, influence, and luxury, and rules everyone by fear and punishment. Always drunk on wines and other liquors, he takes over the palace of the king of heaven.

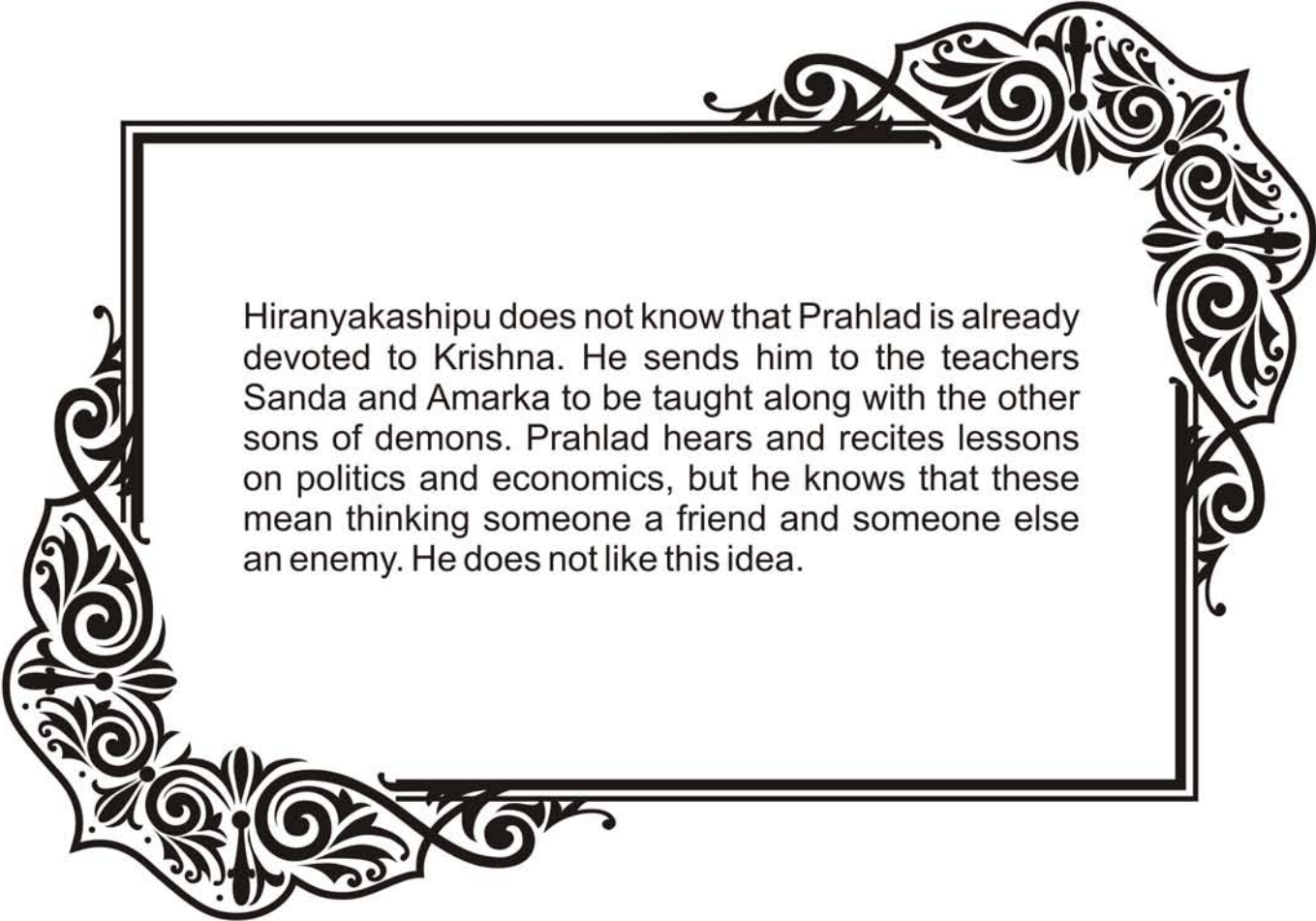
The fearful demigods pray to Lord Krishna's expansion, Lord Vishnu, to protect them. The Supreme Lord replies, "When Hiranyakashipu tortures the great devotee Prahlad, his own son, who is peaceful and sober and has no enemy, I shall kill him despite the benedictions of Brahma."



A devoted and saintly son is born to Hiranyakashipu. He is named Prahlad, and he has all transcendental qualities due to being a pure devotee of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Like the Supersoul, Prahlad is kind to every living entity and is the best friend of everyone. He always thinks of the Lord within his heart.



The little child Prahlad is not interested in play. Because of his advancement in Krishna consciousness, he sometimes laughs, sometimes shows great happiness, and sometimes sings loudly. Sometimes, because he feels the touch of the Lord's lotus hands, tears of joy fall from his eyes.



Hiranyakashipu does not know that Prahlad is already devoted to Krishna. He sends him to the teachers Sanda and Amarka to be taught along with the other sons of demons. Prahlad hears and recites lessons on politics and economics, but he knows that these mean thinking someone a friend and someone else an enemy. He does not like this idea.



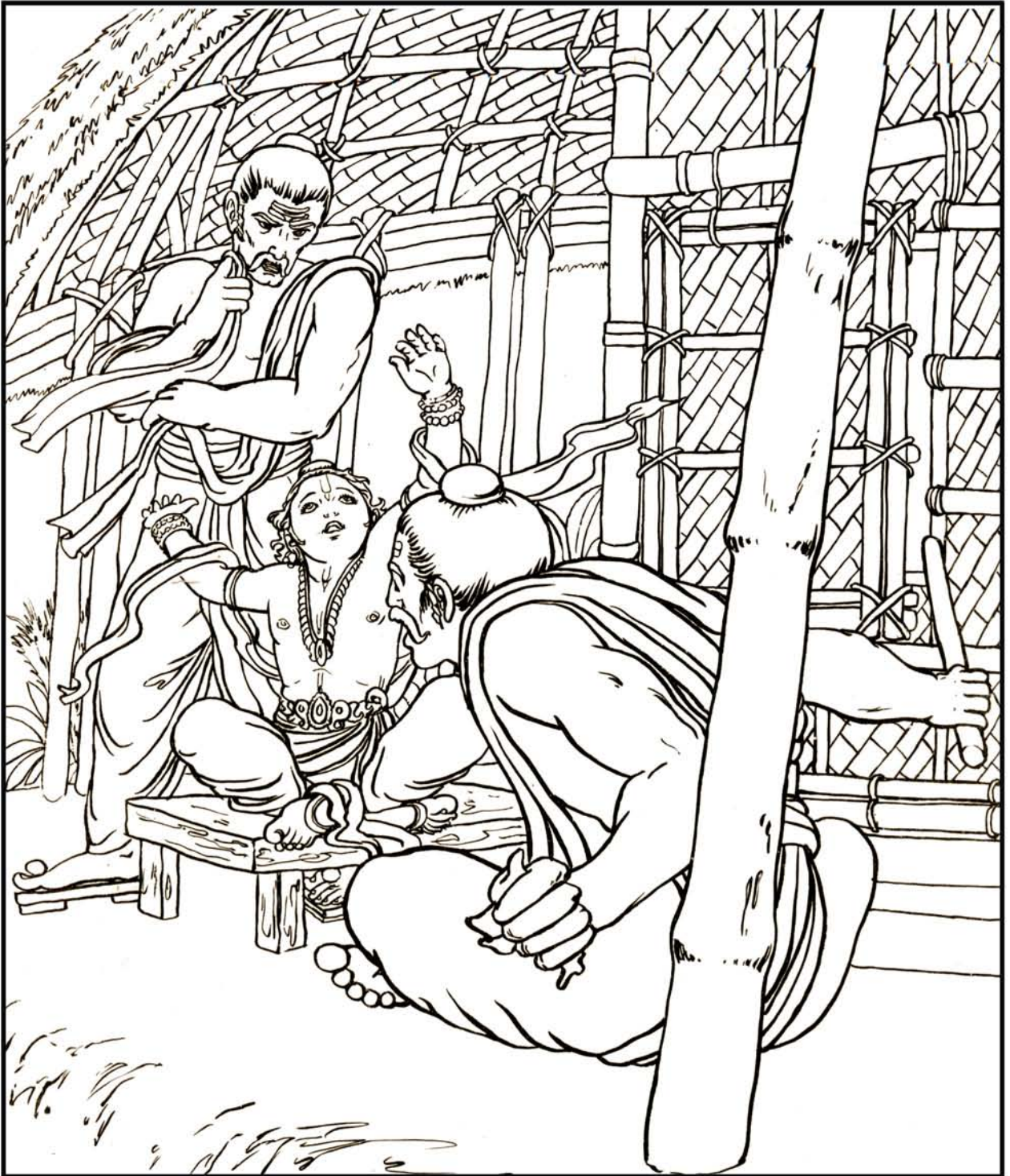
One day, Hiranyakashipu takes Prahlad on his lap, and with affection asks, "My dear son, what is the best thing you've learned in school today?"

Prahlad replies, "O best of the demons, as far as I have learned from my spiritual master, one who has accepted a temporary body and materialistic household life is certainly full of anxiety. He has fallen in a dark well where there is no water but only suffering."



Prahlad continues, "We should give this up and go to the forest of Vrindavan to take shelter of the Supreme Personality of Godhead."

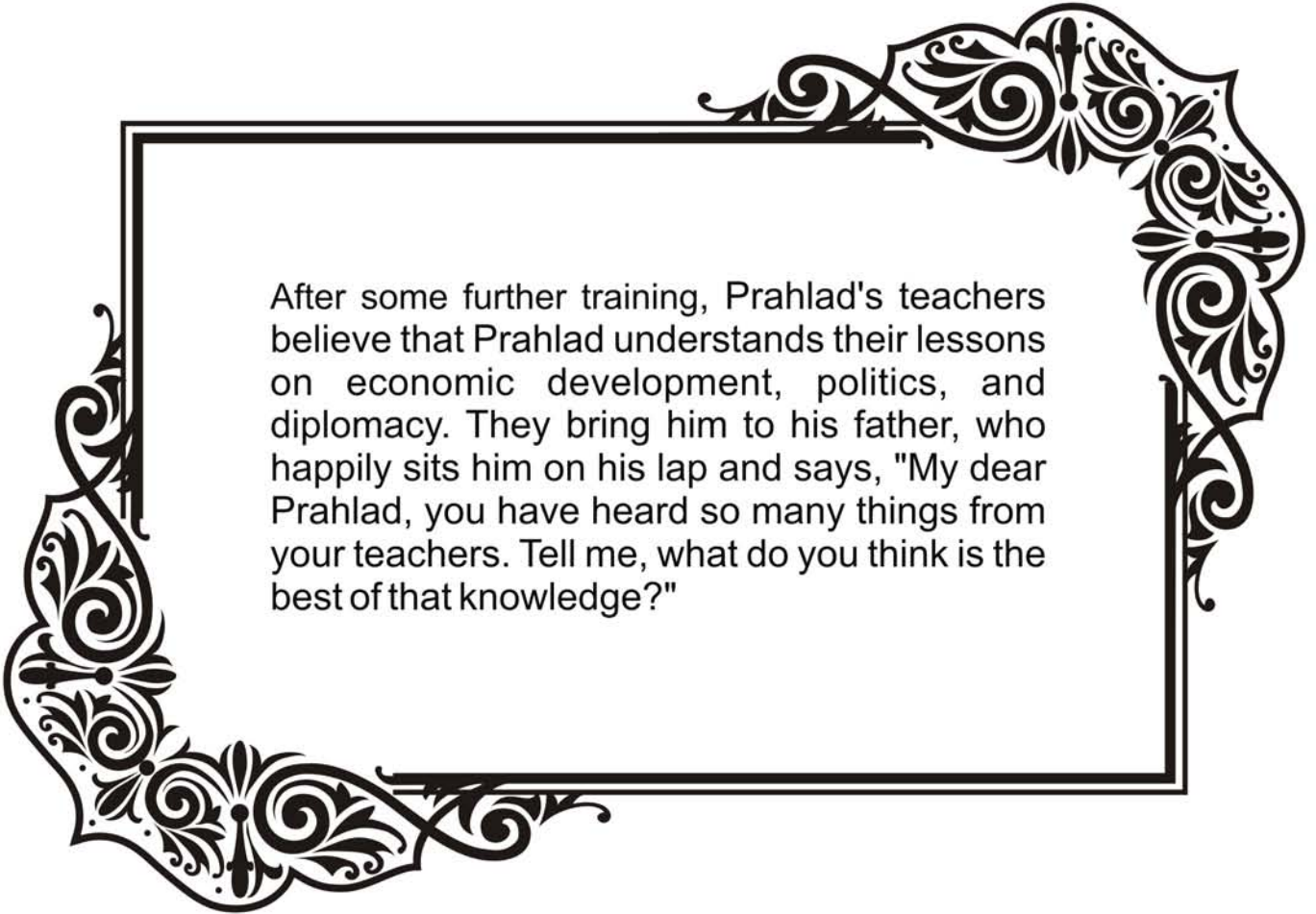
Hiranyakashipu thinks the Lord is his enemy. Hearing from Prahlad about devotional service to Him, he laughs and tells his son, "This is the intelligence of children spoiled by the words of the enemy."



Hiranyakashipu goes to Prahlad's teachers. He orders them to change Prahlad's ideas. The teachers gently ask Prahlad, "Who has taught you to speak in this improper way?"

The little boy replies, "Every one of us is an eternal servant of God, and therefore we are not different from one another. A learned person does not see one person as a friend and another as an enemy."

Sanda and Amarka become furious. "Bring us a stick!" they yell. "This Prahlad will ruin our name and fame."



After some further training, Prahlad's teachers believe that Prahlad understands their lessons on economic development, politics, and diplomacy. They bring him to his father, who happily sits him on his lap and says, "My dear Prahlad, you have heard so many things from your teachers. Tell me, what do you think is the best of that knowledge?"



Prahlad replies, "Hearing and chanting about the Supreme Lord the best of all teachings. Always remember Him and never forget Him. Serve His lotus feet. Respectfully worship Him. Offer prayers to Him. Become His servant. Think of Him as your best friend, and surrender everything to him. A person who dedicates his life to His service is the most learned."

Blinded by anger, Hiranyakashipu demands to know where Prahlad received such education.



Prahlad replies, "Because of their uncontrolled senses, people too attached to material life move toward hellish life. They never have feelings for Lord Krishna. They are blind and their leaders are blind. They can be freed only by taking shelter of the Lord's pure devotees."

Furious, Hiranyakashipu throws Prahlad off his lap onto the ground, and yells, "Demons, take this boy away from me! He deserves to be killed! Kill him as soon as possible!"



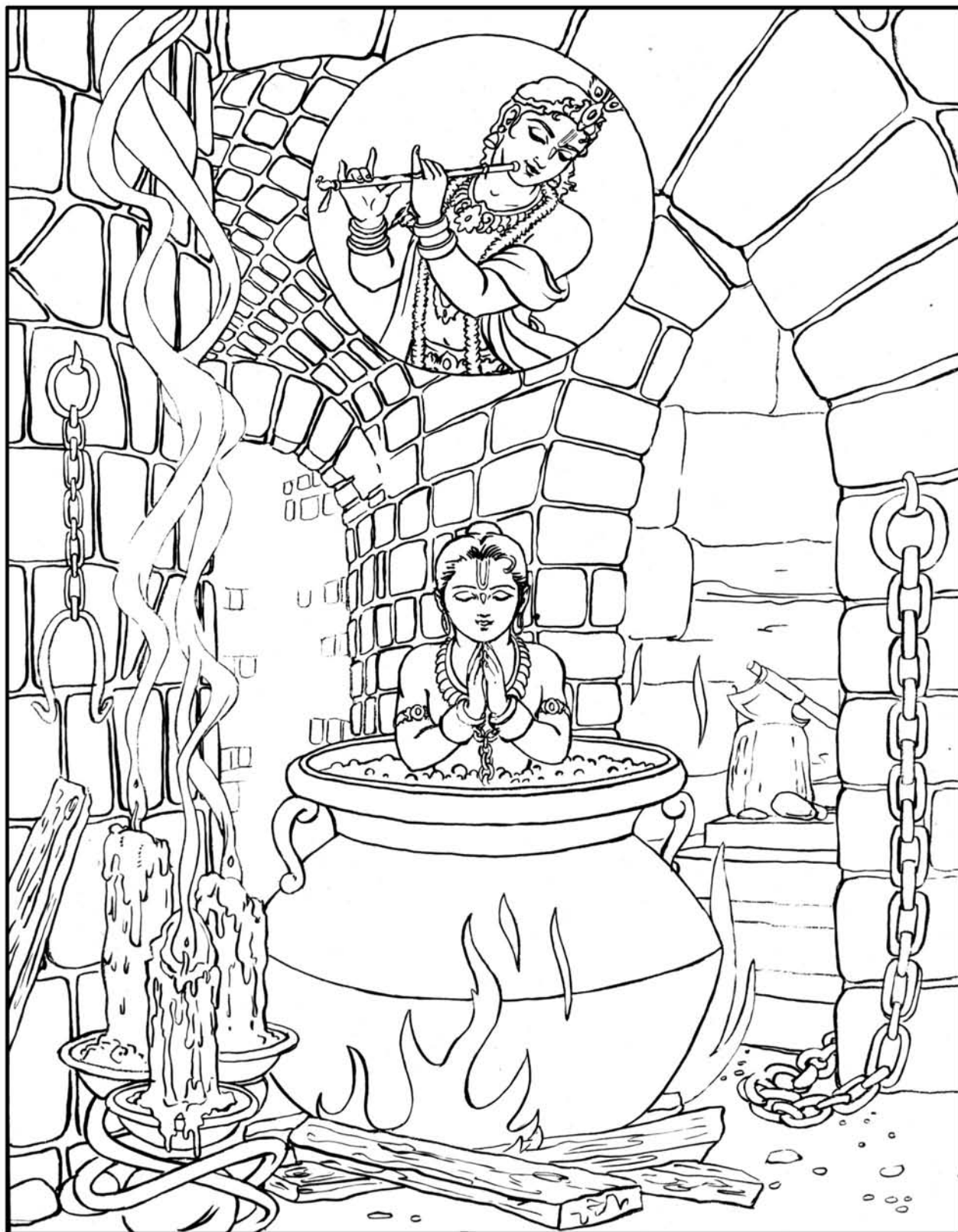
The demons begin striking the tender parts of Prahlad Maharaja's body with their tridents. Making lots of noise, they shout, "Chop him up! Pierce him!" Then, seeing Prahlad sitting silently and unhurt, they throw heavy stones to crush his body.



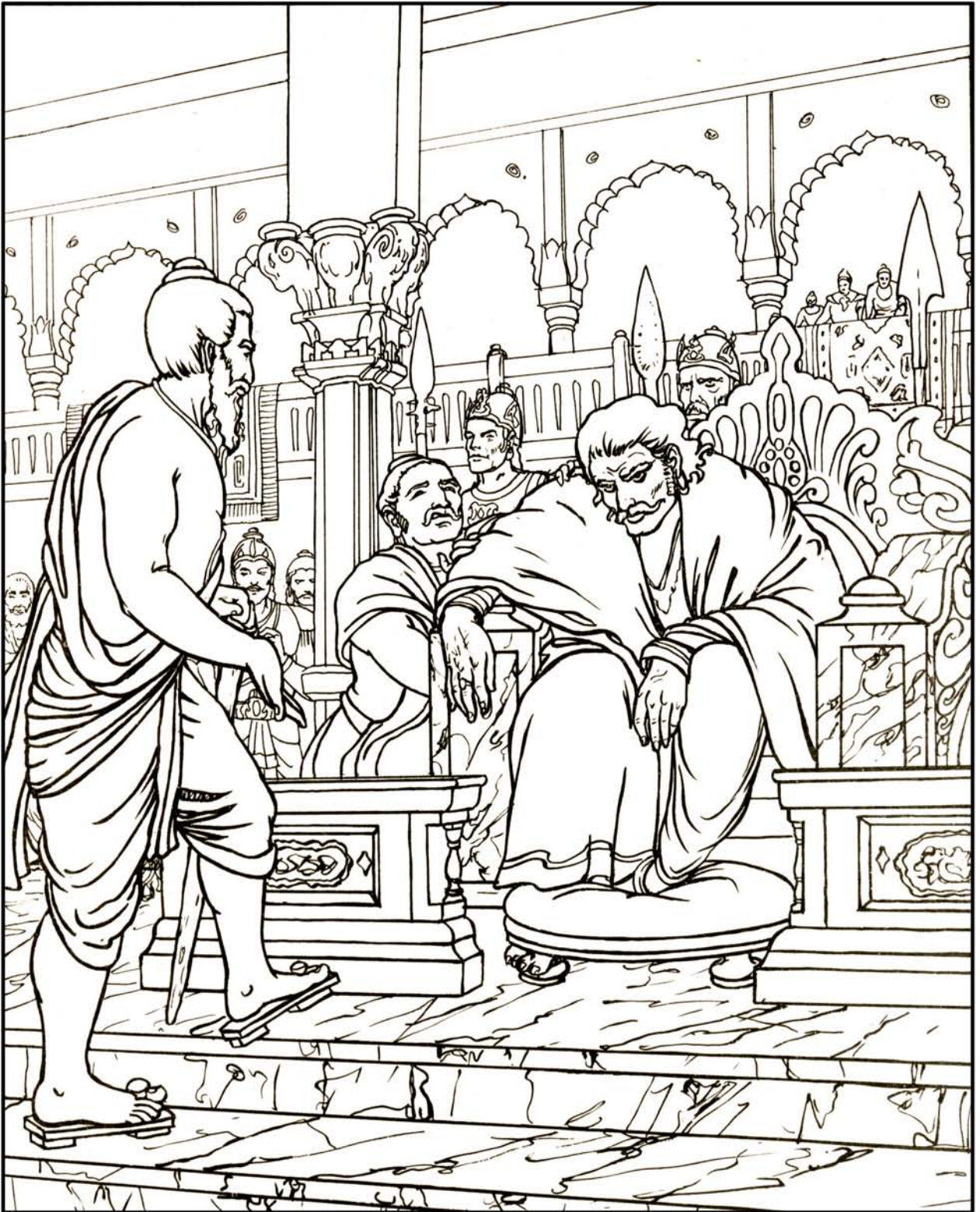
The demons all have fearful faces, sharp teeth, and reddish, coppery beards and hair. On Hiranyakashipu's order they throw Prahlad from the top of a cliff, thinking that they can destroy him. Prahlad is saved by Krishna. Krsna always looks after His devotees.



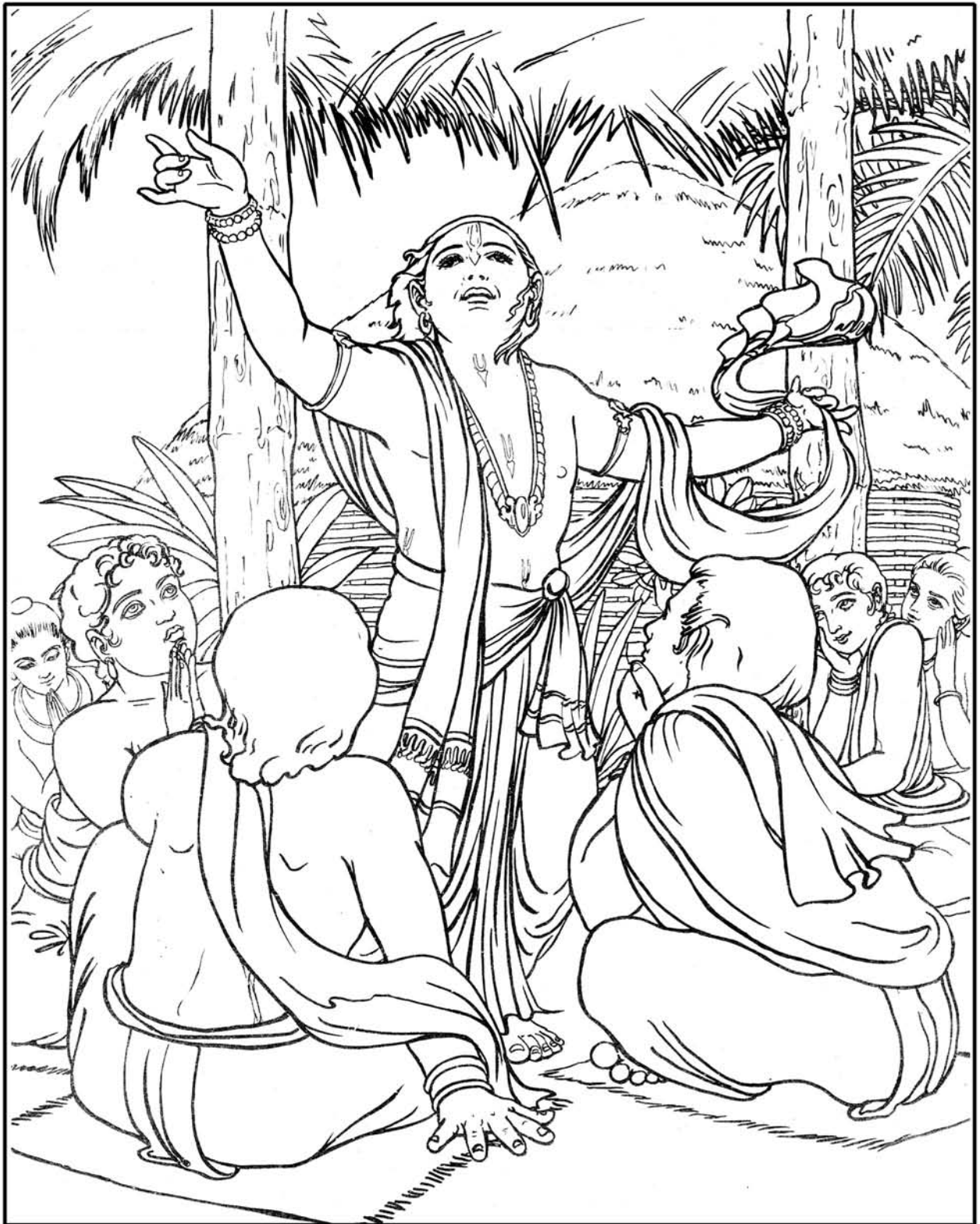
Hiranyakashipu tries in so many ways to kill his young son. He throws Prahlad into a pit of huge, poisonous snakes, but the snakes don't bite him. They just lie peacefully around him. Prahlad stays calm and happy, chanting the Lord's holy names and meditating on Him.



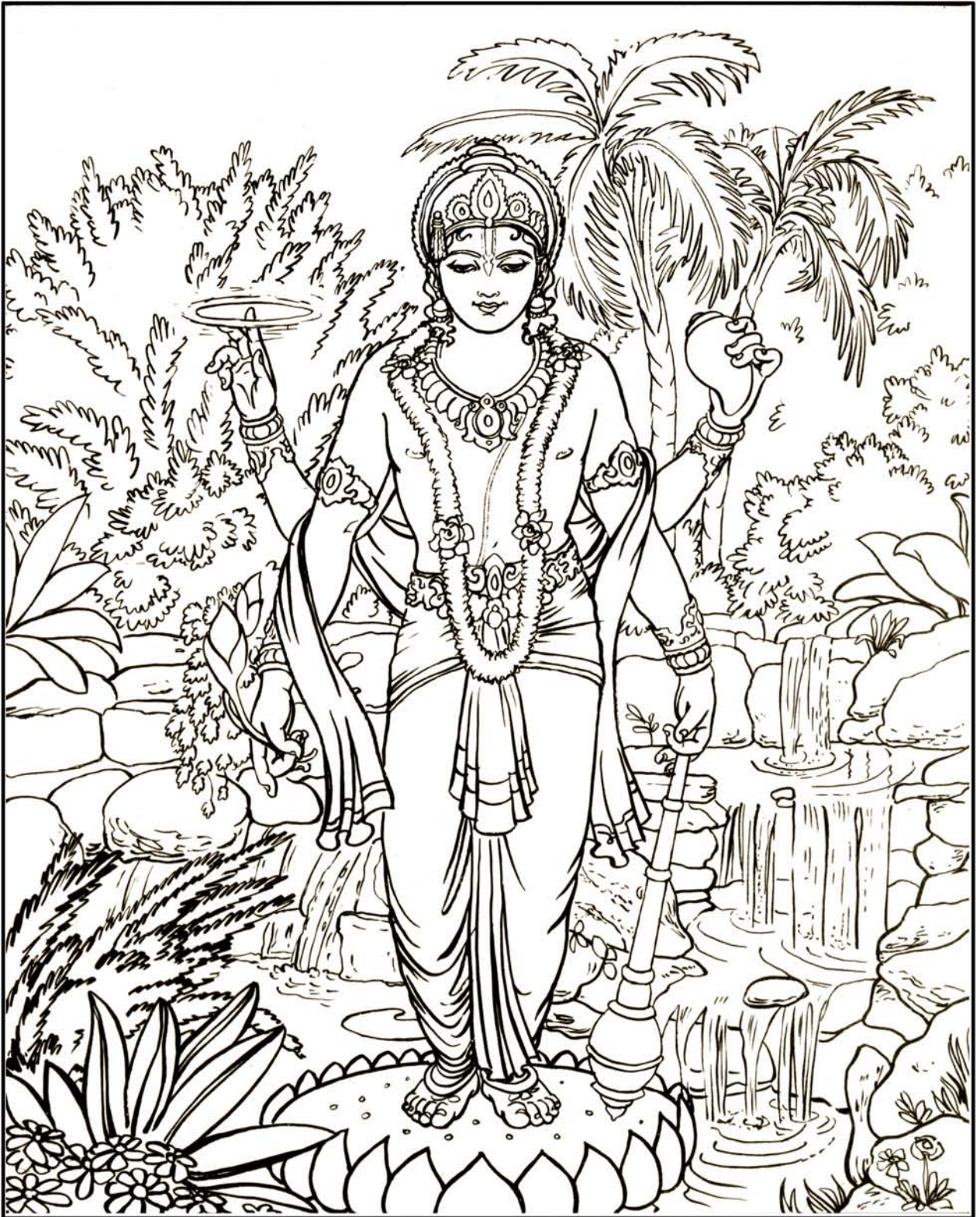
The demons throw Prahlad into a huge pot of boiling oil. They throw him under the feet of big elephants, make him eat poison, starve him, put him out in severe cold and wind, into fire, and into water. Because Prahlad constantly chants the Holy Names of the Lord, nothing can harm him.



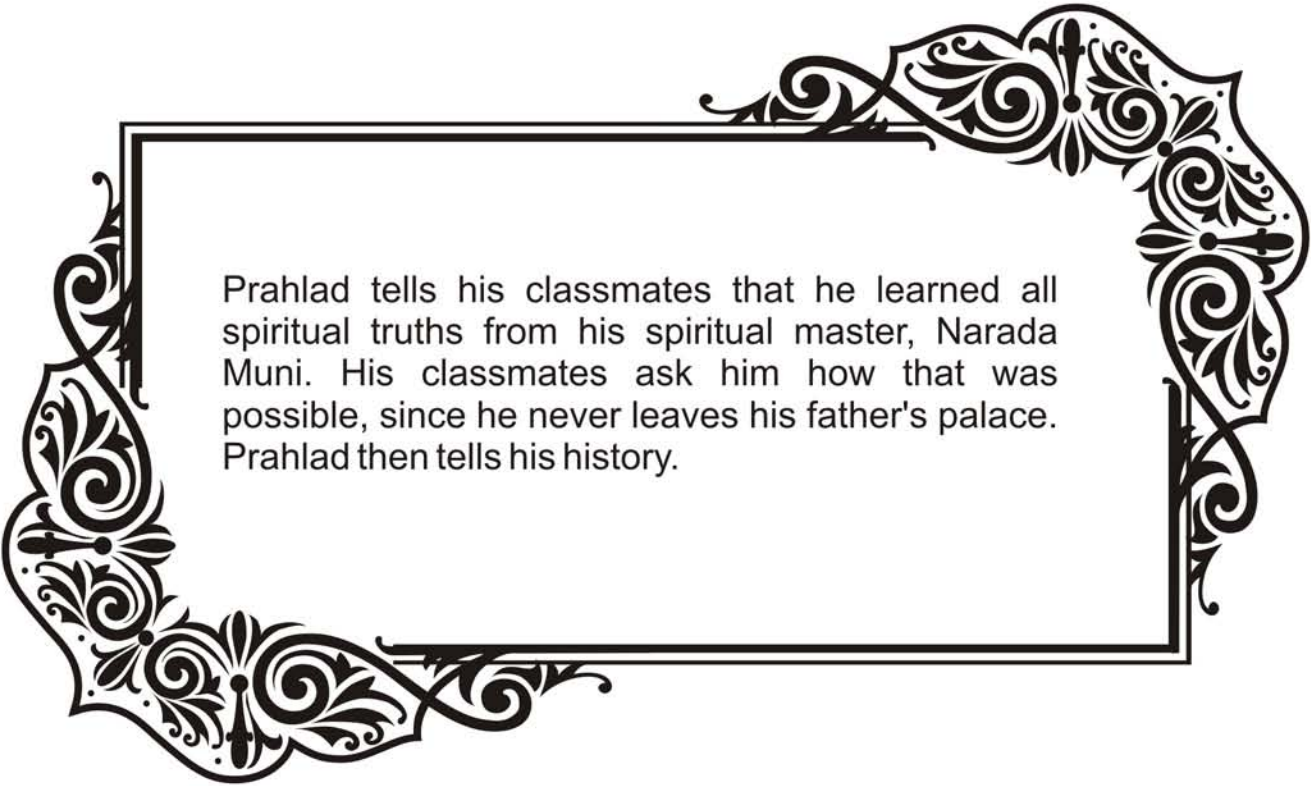
Seeing that Prahlad is completely fearless and appears to have unlimited strength, Hiranyakashipu is disturbed and upset. Sanda and Amarka speak to him in secret and assure him of his own greatness. They promise to teach Prahlad about the job of a godless king. They promise to teach him about material enjoyment and development of a kingdom of sense gratification.



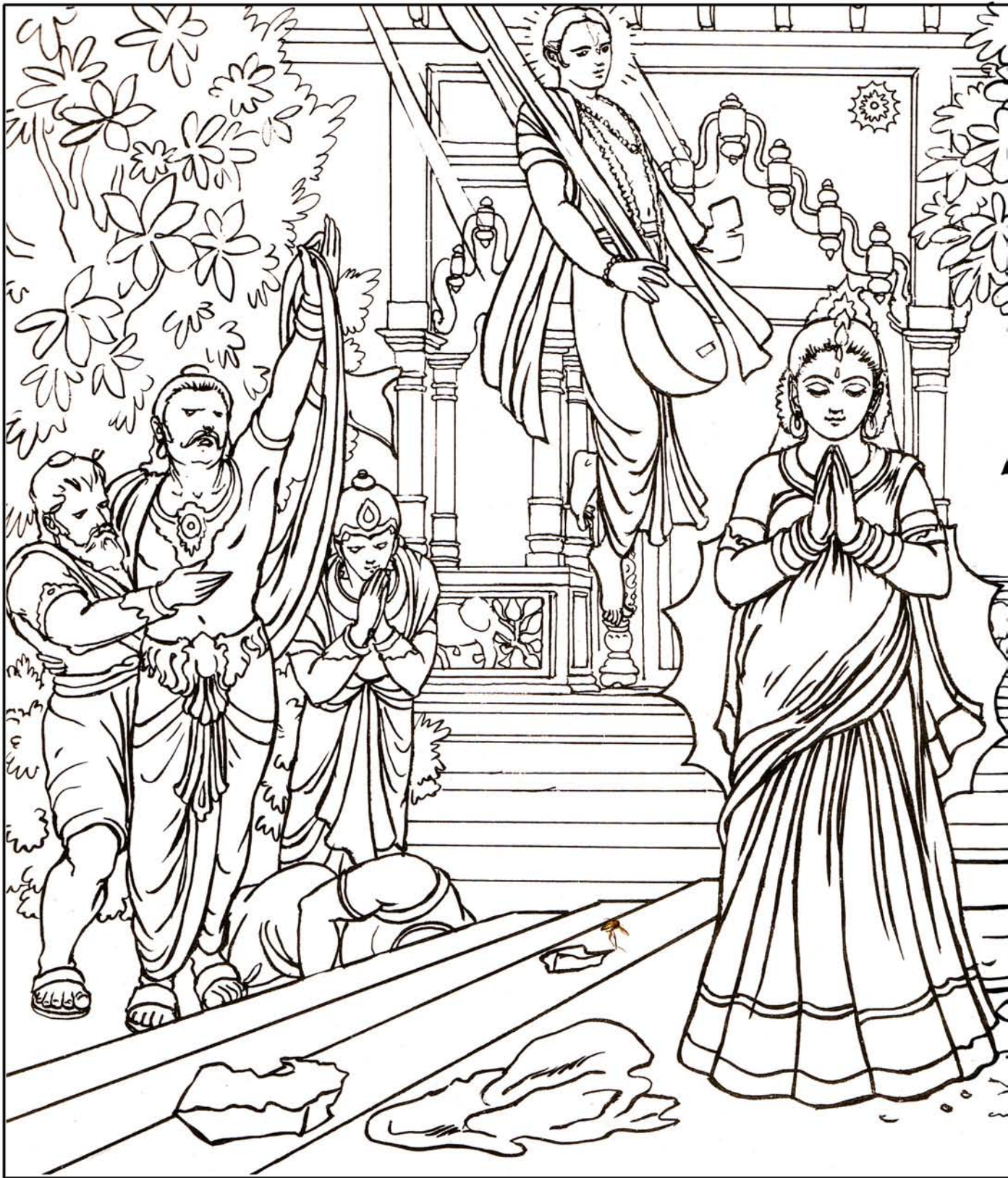
When the teachers take a break to perform some household duties, the boys invite Prahlad to play with them. Prahlad tells them about Krishna consciousness, and about the futility of material life. He tells them, "It is best to chant and remember Krishna from childhood, because as you become older, you become more and more attached to the temporary world of miseries.



Prahlad teaches his classmates about Lord Vishnu, Krishna's four-armed expansion. He says, "Each of us is looking for our dear-most friend, and that is Lord Vishnu. My dear sons of demons, the Supreme Personality of Godhead Vishnu is the father of all living entities. Nothing is unobtainable for devotees who have satisfied Him. He is the cause of all causes, the original source of everything."



Prahlad tells his classmates that he learned all spiritual truths from his spiritual master, Narada Muni. His classmates ask him how that was possible, since he never leaves his father's palace. Prahlad then tells his history.



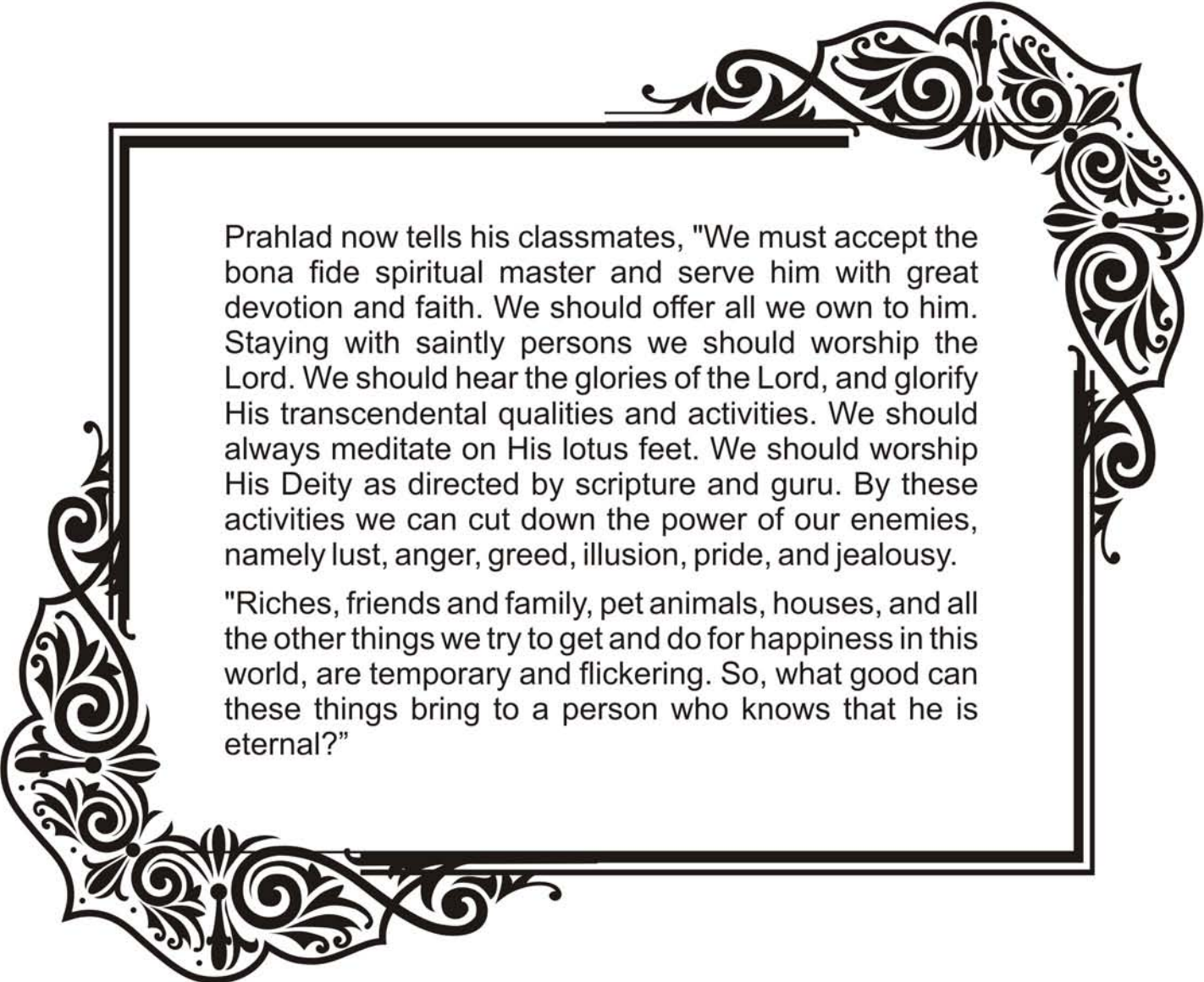
"While my father was engaged in severe austerities to become immortal, Indra, the king of heaven, arrested my pregnant mother, Kayadhu. He and the other demigods planned to take her to a heavenly planet. The demigods thought that I was a demon like my father, so they planned to kill me as soon as I took birth from my mother's womb."



"Narada Muni came there and asked the demigods, 'Why are you taking her? There is a great devotee in her womb.' King Indra and the demigods are important people, but they humbly listened to Narada's instructions because he is a real guru. King Indra immediately released my mother, and all the demigods respectfully circumambulated (circled around) her."

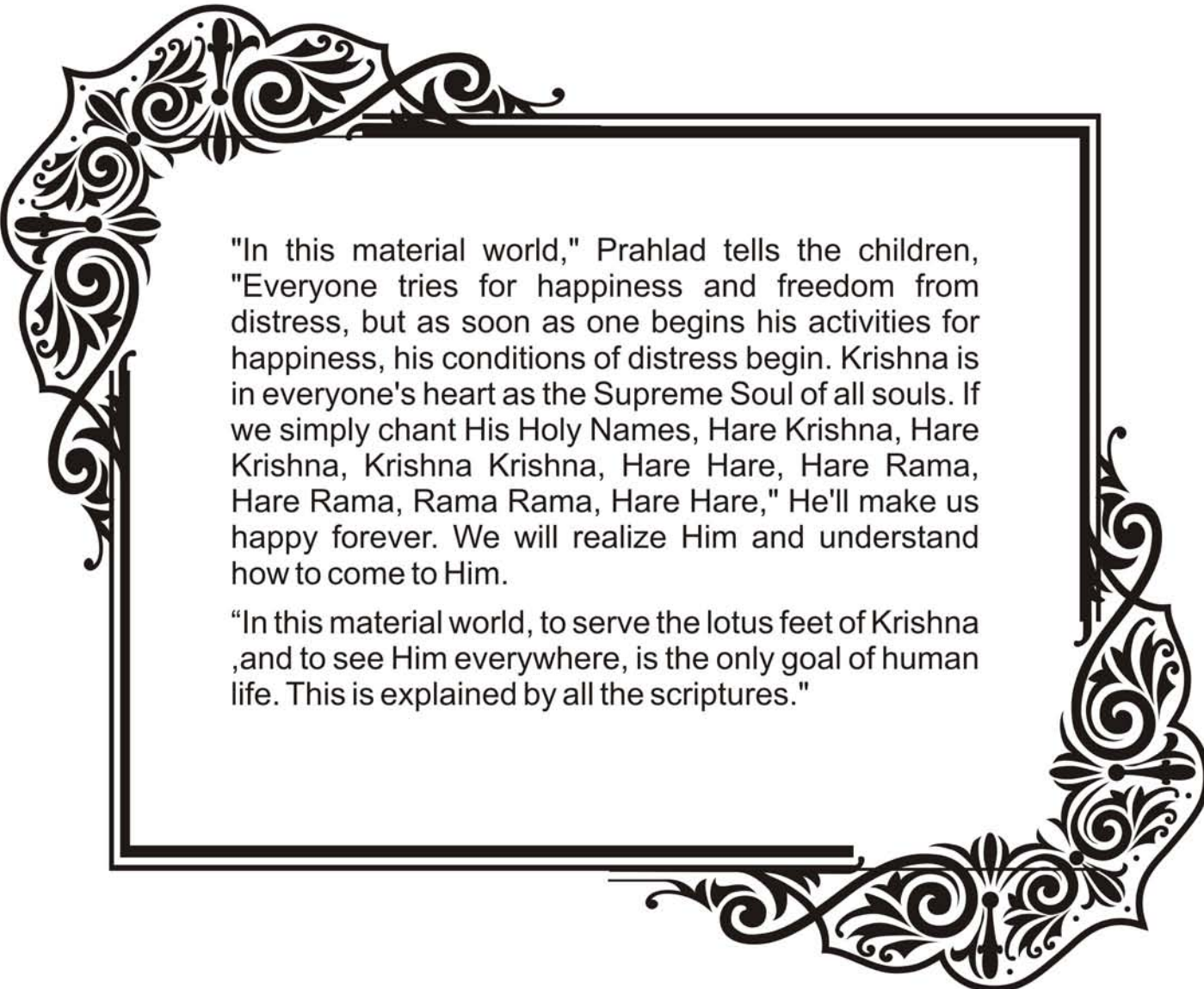


"Narada Muni brought my mother to his ashram and promised to protect her. While I was in her womb, he taught me about the truths of devotion to Lord Krishna. My mother wanted the baby in her womb to be safe, and she desired to give birth after her husband's return. She stayed at Narada Muni's ashram, where she served him with great devotion."



Prahlad now tells his classmates, "We must accept the bona fide spiritual master and serve him with great devotion and faith. We should offer all we own to him. Staying with saintly persons we should worship the Lord. We should hear the glories of the Lord, and glorify His transcendental qualities and activities. We should always meditate on His lotus feet. We should worship His Deity as directed by scripture and guru. By these activities we can cut down the power of our enemies, namely lust, anger, greed, illusion, pride, and jealousy.

"Riches, friends and family, pet animals, houses, and all the other things we try to get and do for happiness in this world, are temporary and flickering. So, what good can these things bring to a person who knows that he is eternal?"

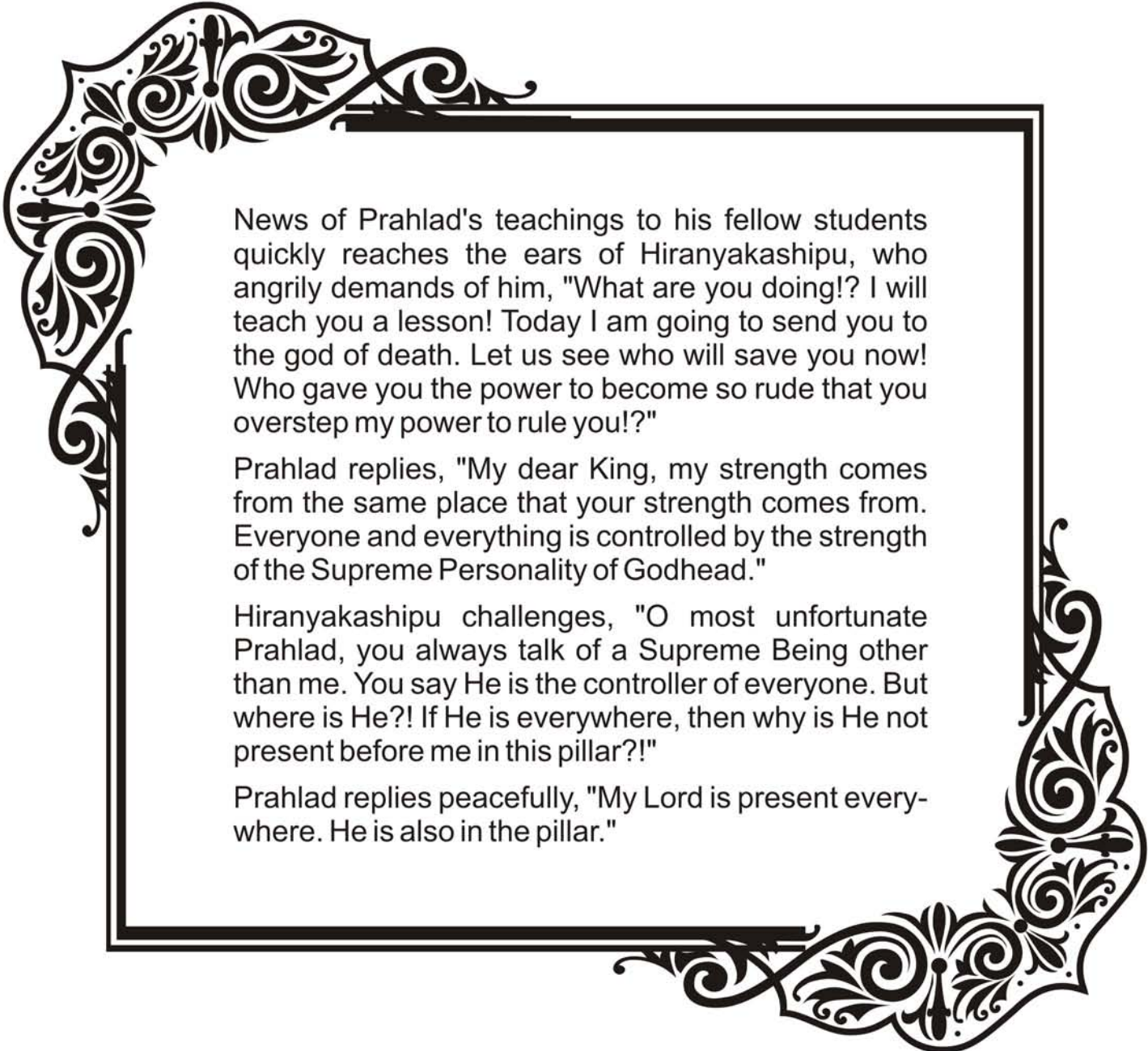


"In this material world," Prahlad tells the children, "Everyone tries for happiness and freedom from distress, but as soon as one begins his activities for happiness, his conditions of distress begin. Krishna is in everyone's heart as the Supreme Soul of all souls. If we simply chant His Holy Names, Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare," He'll make us happy forever. We will realize Him and understand how to come to Him.

"In this material world, to serve the lotus feet of Krishna ,and to see Him everywhere, is the only goal of human life. This is explained by all the scriptures."



All the children appreciate the transcendental instructions of Prahlad. They take these instructions seriously. Rejecting the teachings of Sanda and Amarka, they dance while chanting in joyful spiritual singing called kirtana: "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare."



News of Prahlad's teachings to his fellow students quickly reaches the ears of Hiranyakashipu, who angrily demands of him, "What are you doing!? I will teach you a lesson! Today I am going to send you to the god of death. Let us see who will save you now! Who gave you the power to become so rude that you overstep my power to rule you!?"

Prahlad replies, "My dear King, my strength comes from the same place that your strength comes from. Everyone and everything is controlled by the strength of the Supreme Personality of Godhead."

Hiranyakashipu challenges, "O most unfortunate Prahlad, you always talk of a Supreme Being other than me. You say He is the controller of everyone. But where is He?! If He is everywhere, then why is He not present before me in this pillar?!"

Prahlad replies peacefully, "My Lord is present everywhere. He is also in the pillar."



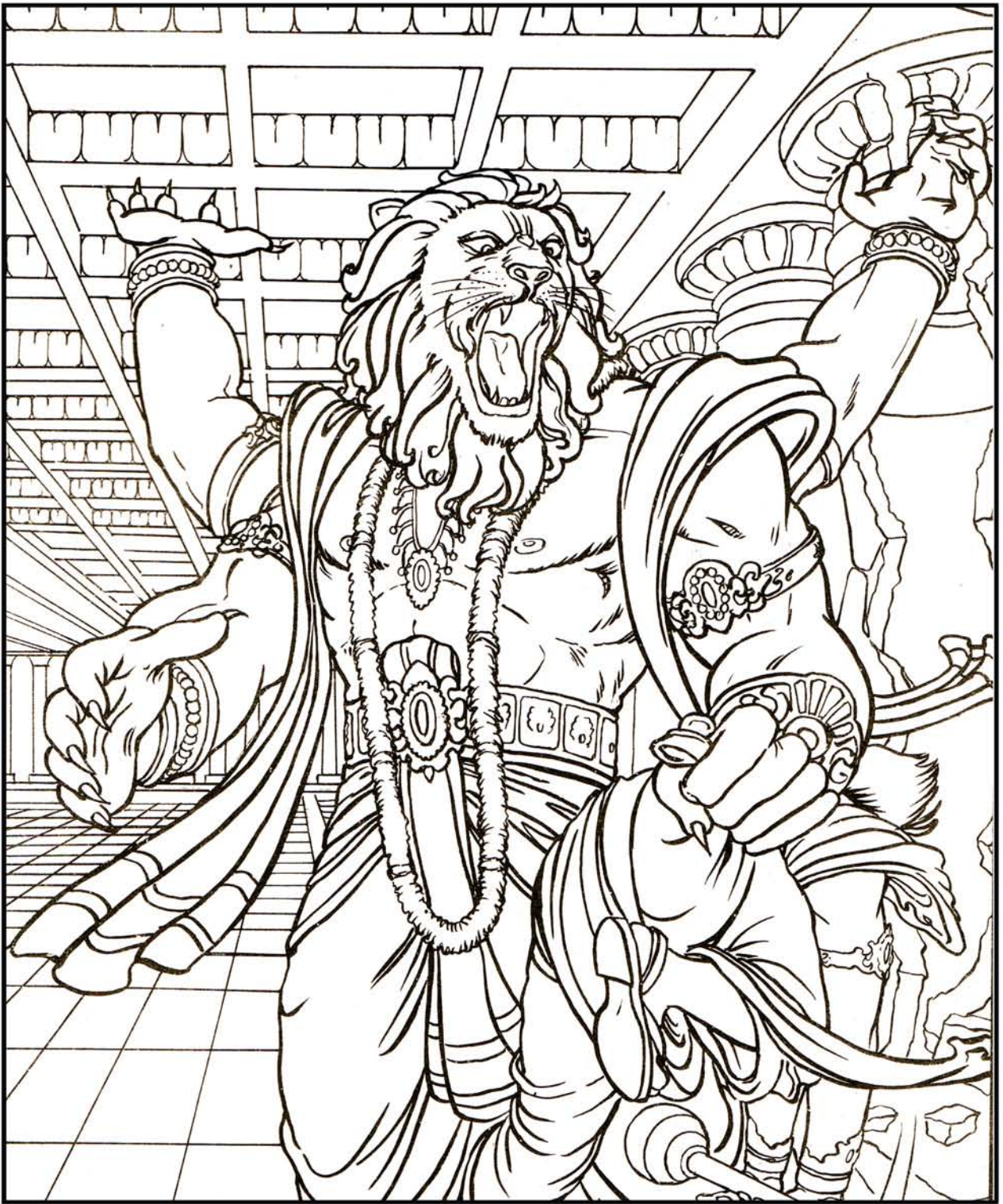
Hiranyakashipu tells Prahlad, "Because you are speaking so much nonsense, I shall now sever your head from your body. Let me see your most worshipful God come to protect you. I want to see it."

Cursing Prahlad again and again, Hiranyakashipu takes up his sword, gets up from his royal throne, and with great anger strikes his fist against the pillar.



A terrifying roar comes from the pillar. To prove to Hiranyakashipu that Prahlad's statement is true, a most wonderful being appears from the pillar, with flames coming out from His mane. The eyes of Nrisingadeva, the half-man, half-lion incarnation of Krishna, are very angry, and His sharp tongue shoots around like a fighting sword. His body touches the sky as He opens his deadly jaws.

Hiranyakashipu wonders in amazement, "What is this creature that is half man and half lion?!"

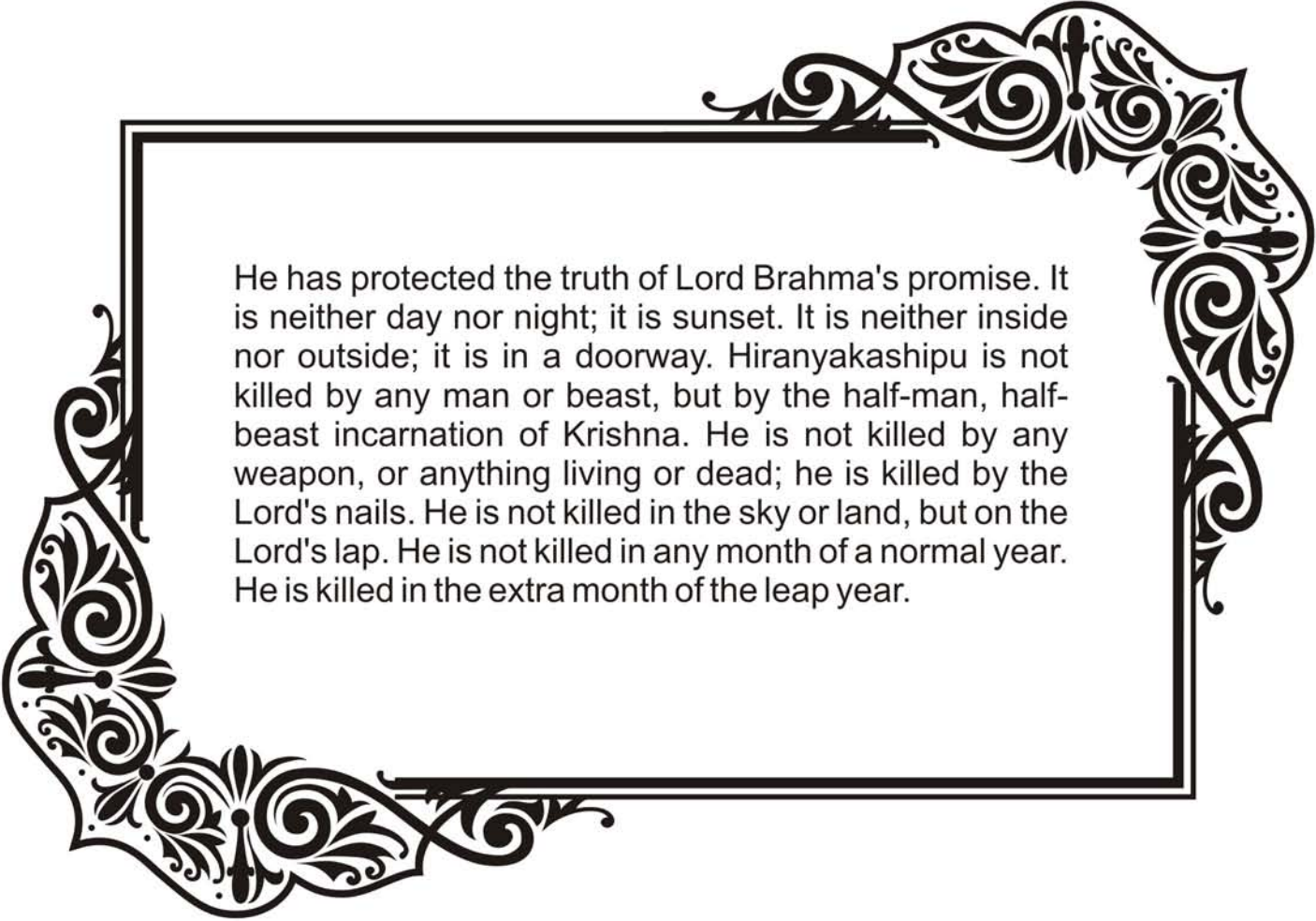


Hiranyakashipu murmurs to himself, "Lord Vishnu, who possesses great mystic power, has made this plan to kill me. But what is the use of this plan? Who can fight with me!?!"

Thinking like this and taking up his club, Hiranyakashipu attacks the Lord like an elephant. The Lord allows Hiranyakashipu to attack, and plays with him as a cat plays with a small ball of yarn. Lord Nrisingadeva's laughter scares Hiranyakashipu, who moves with the speed of a hawk until he is caught.

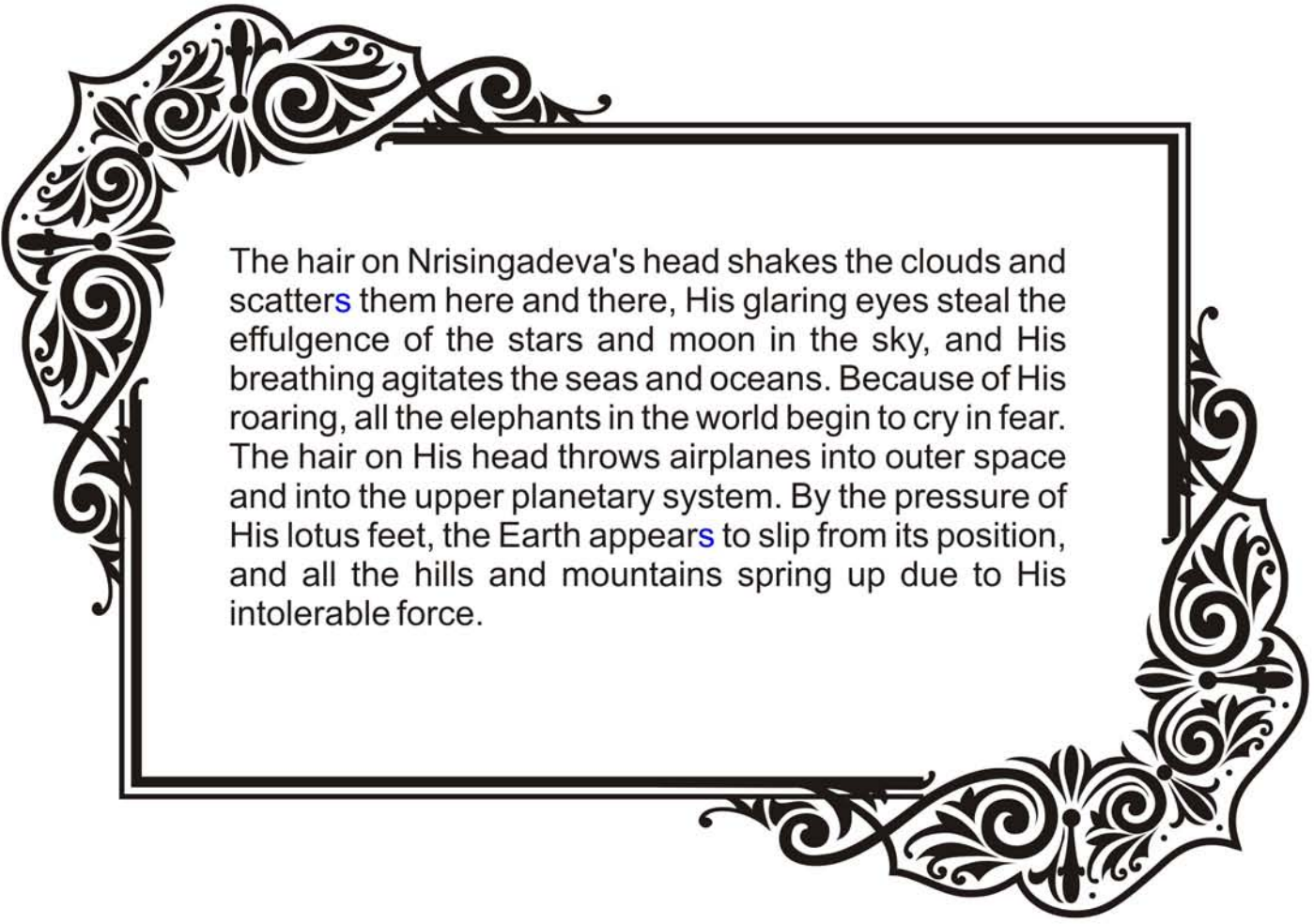


Lord Nrisingadeva places the demon across His lap and very easily tears open his belly with the nails of His hands. He pulls out the demon's intestines and garlands Himself with that. The intestines of Hiranyakashipu now hang around His neck, and his mane is sprinkled with drops of blood.

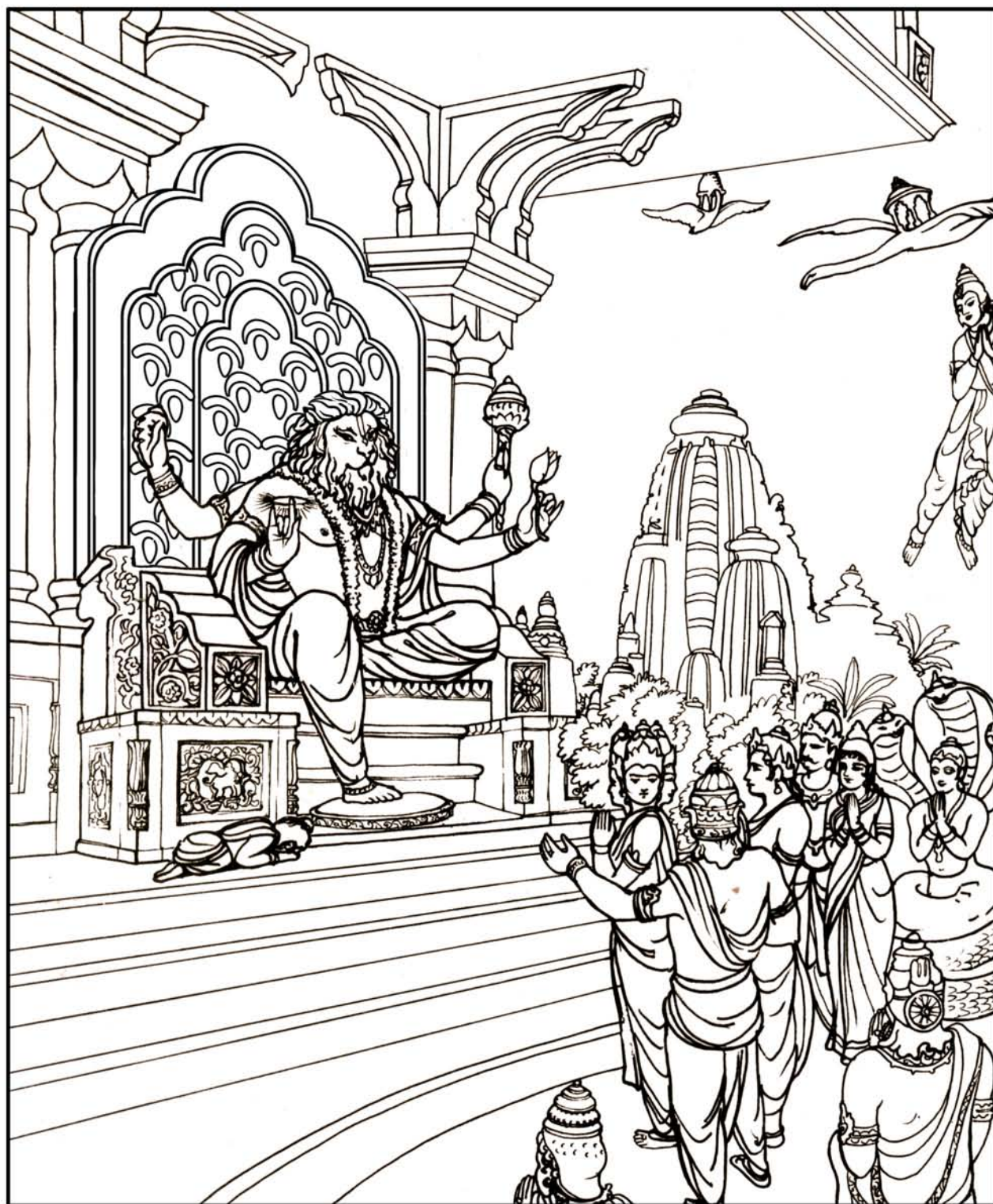


He has protected the truth of Lord Brahma's promise. It is neither day nor night; it is sunset. It is neither inside nor outside; it is in a doorway. Hiranyakashipu is not killed by any man or beast, but by the half-man, half-beast incarnation of Krishna. He is not killed by any weapon, or anything living or dead; he is killed by the Lord's nails. He is not killed in the sky or land, but on the Lord's lap. He is not killed in any month of a normal year. He is killed in the extra month of the leap year.

[footnote: In the Indian Vedic calendar, there are thirteen months in the leap-year]



The hair on Nrisingadeva's head shakes the clouds and scatters them here and there, His glaring eyes steal the effulgence of the stars and moon in the sky, and His breathing agitates the seas and oceans. Because of His roaring, all the elephants in the world begin to cry in fear. The hair on His head throws airplanes into outer space and into the upper planetary system. By the pressure of His lotus feet, the Earth appears to slip from its position, and all the hills and mountains spring up due to His intolerable force.



Lord Nrisingadeva sits on the throne of the demonic king in the assembly hall. Lord Brahma, Lord Shiva, and all the other demigods who have come are worried about how to calm Him. They offer Him beautiful prayers. Prahlad finally goes and jumps upon His lap.

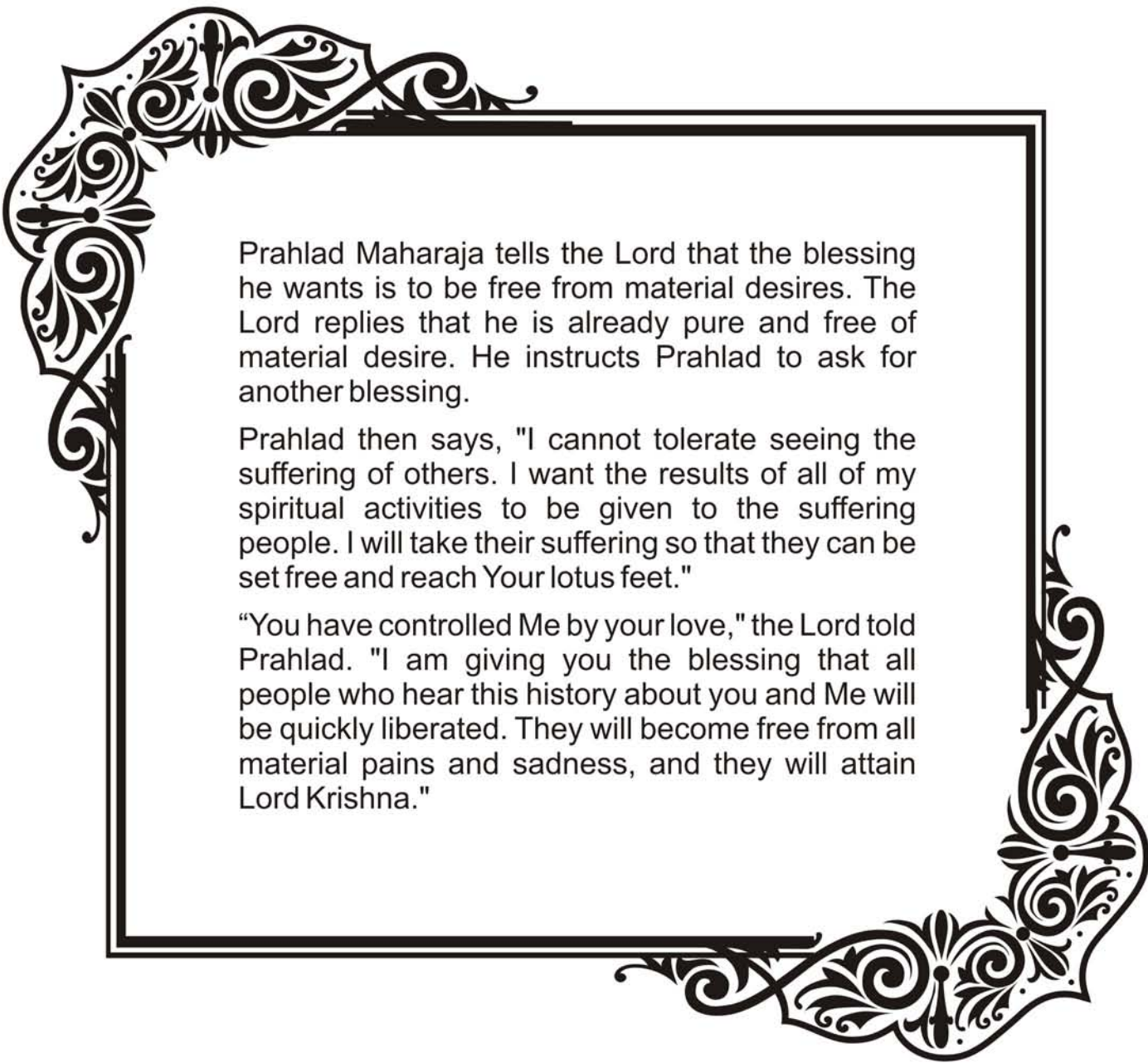
Nrisingadeva immediately calms down as tears of love fall from His eyes. He licks Prahlad, as animals do, and says, "I took so long to come to rescue you, and I am upset about that. I want to give you a blessing."



Prahlad replies, "A person who wants something in exchange for service to You cannot be Your pure devotee. Indeed, he is not any better than a businessman who wants to trade for profit. I am Your unmotivated servant, and You are my eternal master. We have no other relationship."



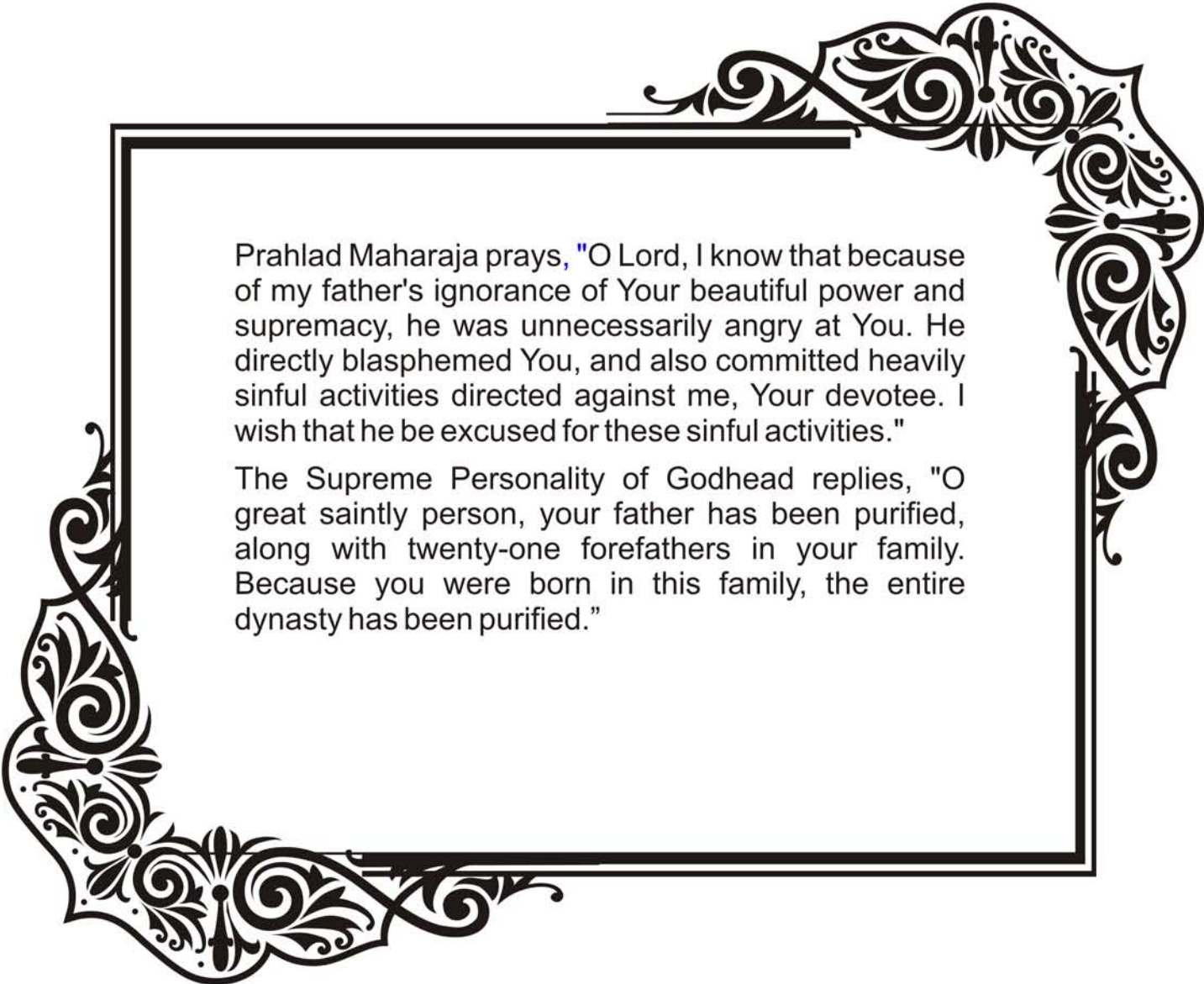
The demigods have come, wanting to see the activities of the Lord. Their airplanes crowd the sky. The demigods begin beating their drums and kettledrums, and angelic women dance while the Gandharva demigods sing sweetly.



Prahlad Maharaja tells the Lord that the blessing he wants is to be free from material desires. The Lord replies that he is already pure and free of material desire. He instructs Prahlad to ask for another blessing.

Prahlad then says, "I cannot tolerate seeing the suffering of others. I want the results of all of my spiritual activities to be given to the suffering people. I will take their suffering so that they can be set free and reach Your lotus feet."

"You have controlled Me by your love," the Lord told Prahlad. "I am giving you the blessing that all people who hear this history about you and Me will be quickly liberated. They will become free from all material pains and sadness, and they will attain Lord Krishna."



Prahlad Maharaja prays, "O Lord, I know that because of my father's ignorance of Your beautiful power and supremacy, he was unnecessarily angry at You. He directly blasphemed You, and also committed heavily sinful activities directed against me, Your devotee. I wish that he be excused for these sinful activities."

The Supreme Personality of Godhead replies, "O great saintly person, your father has been purified, along with twenty-one forefathers in your family. Because you were born in this family, the entire dynasty has been purified."



As the Supreme Personality of Godhead orders, Prahlad Maharaja performs the rituals for his father's death. Prahlad becomes the new king in the kingdom of Hiranyakashipu. He is enthroned by Lord Brahma and the other demigods and brahmanas. He will rule until the end of the millennium, and then attain Vaikuntha, the Lord's abode in the spiritual world.

Prayer to Lord Nrsingadeva

*namas te narasimhāya prahlādāhlāda-dāyine
hiraṇyakaśipor vakṣaḥ śilā-ṭaṅka-nakhālaye*

I offer pranama unto Narasimha Bhagavan, who gives joy to Prahlada Maharaja and whose nails are like chisels on the stone-like chest of the demon Hiranyakasipu.

*ito nṛsimhaḥ parato nṛsimho yato yato yāmi tato nṛsimhaḥ
bahir nṛsimho hṛdaye nṛsimho nṛsimham ādim śaraṇam prapadye*

Nrsingadeva is here and also there. Wherever I go Nrsingadeva is there. He is in the heart and is outside as well. I surrender unto Nrsingadeva, the origin of everything and the supreme refuge.

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

O Kesava! O You who assume the form of half-man, half-lion! O Jagadisa!
O You who remove Your devotees' suffering! All glories to You, because with one of the wonderful, petal-like nails of Your beautiful lotus hands You rip asunder the bumblebee-like body of Hiranyakasipu. The astonishing thing about this is that ordinarily it is the bumblebee which rips the petals of the lotus, but here the petal rips apart the bumblebee.

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