

### Further Reading

#### THE TEACHING OF PRAHLADA AND HIRANYAKASHIPU

Hiranyakashipu, a powerful demon king, sought immortality through intense penance and boons from Lord Brahma. Once granted these boons, Hiranyakashipu became arrogant and sought to rule the universe, considering himself as the supreme being, beyond all gods. He demanded that everyone worship him and rejected the worship of Vishnu, the Supreme God.

However, his son, Prahlada, a devoted and pure-hearted boy, did not heed his father's command. Instead, Prahlada remained a devoted worshiper of Lord Vishnu. This infuriated Hiranyakashipu, who tried to force his son to abandon his devotion through many cruel means.

The most significant moment in the story comes when Hiranyakashipu challenges Prahlada's unwavering faith by asking, "Where is your Vishnu? Can he be present in this pillar?" Prahlada responds with full conviction that Vishnu is omnipresent, existing everywhere, even in the smallest forms, and that He resides in all beings.

In a moment of great anger and defiance, Hiranyakashipu strikes a pillar, and from it emerges Lord Vishnu in the form of Narasimha, a half-man, half-lion avatar. Narasimha slays Hiranyakashipu, who, despite his immense power, cannot escape the divine law. This story shows that one of the attributes of Paramatma is Omnipresent.