04. Narasimha Avthar

Hiranya Kasipu, sworn enemy of humans & Devas, lead his army of 'Asuras' to attack them. Devas fought back with the help of Lord Vishnu. HK realising that he needs a boon to protect himself starts praying to Lord Brahma and after prolonged penance, obtains his wish. He says " Lord, I wish that I can not be killed by any man, God or animal or any other creature created by you. Nobody should be able to kill me at day or night, in heavens or in earth, in the day or night, either inside the house or outside the house or with any weapons.".  Lord Brahma granted his wish. HK attacked Indra and became the Ruler of the Heavens, Devaloka.  He tormented Humans & Devas alike.  Meanwhile his wife, Kayadhu, gave birth to a fine young baby boy, "Pahlad".Prahlad was a strong devotee of Lord Vishnu and told his father that Lord Vishnu is the ruler of the three Worlds and if we are devoted to him, He will always be there for us. HK got furious. Anger blinded him. He tried all his methods to kill Prahlad but could not succeed. Prahlad said that Lord Vishnu is everywhere. Enraged HK kicked the pillar and asked angrily 'Then where is he ?'.The pillar shattered and a ferocious half-man half-lion (face of a lion & the body of a man) appeare and bellowed loudly "I am Narasimha, the "Avathar" of Narayana and I have come here to kill you".  Narasimha caught HK with his clawed fingers, dragged him to the threshold of the door and placed him on his lap and killed HK with his claws at twilight. Then Narasimha sat on HK's throne and told Prahlad not to worry about his dead father. He told him, "He is my door keeper Vijaya. He was born here because of a curse. After 3 more births he will attain his place in Vaikunta." Prahlad became the benevolent ruler of Asuras, who prospered during his reign and gave up their old cruel ways.

05. Venugopala

In the performing arts in Kerala temples, "Venugopalakrishna" is the most popular subject related to SriKrishna.

10. Mahalakshmi (Tanjore painting) :

Mahalakshmi is the Hindu Goddess of Wealth, Fortune & Prosperity. She is the wife and 'Shakthi' (Energy) of Vishnu.  She is endowed with 6 auspicious and divine qualities or 'Gunas' and is the divine strength of Vishnu. According to Hindu religion, she was born from the churning of the primordial ocean (Samudra Manthan).Lakshmi is depicted in Indian Art as an elegently dressed, prosperity-showering golden coloured woman.  She typically sits like a "Yogin" on a lotus pedestal and holds lotus in her hands, a symbolism for Fortune,Self-knowledge and Spiritual Liberation. Her iconography shows her with 4 hands, which represent the four goals of Human Life, considered important to the Hindu way of Life.-  Dharma, Kama, Artha and Moksha.

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