

tion to Hari even from childhood as it is rare to be born a man, and even as a man one half of the life is wasted in sleep and one quarter in old age; once one got into the groove of *samsāra* it was not possible to get out of it; so he asked them to aim at knowledge following the pure *Bhāgavata Dharma*; asked by the Daitya boys how and when he got that knowledge, he narrated how when his father went out to Mandara for penance, his mother was taken captive by Indra who set her at liberty on the advice of Nārada, who kept her in custody until his father's return. As she was pregnant she prayed to the sage for the welfare of the child in the womb; thus he earned the grace of Nārada. He therefore looked upon *ātman* as the only thing eternal and all other things unreal; to attain Hari there were several ways, such as listening to his stories, or singing his praise; *samsāra* and other objects of desire were to be discarded and anybody of any caste or creed could attain salvation by worshipping Hari; when this was reported to his father by the tutor, Prahlāda was sent for and threatened with death if he persisted in his devotion to Hari. Prahlāda was defiant in the sabhā of Hiranyakaśipu; found in Narasimha the Lord Vāsudeva and spoke to those in the sabhā, but in vain; taking up his sword Hiranyakaśipu asked him to show Hari at the post near by which he knocked with his fist; out came Narasimha and destroyed Hiranyakaśipu in the midst of portents; universal rejoicing and praise of Hari; the Gods found Narasimha still raging in anger and requested Prahlāda to praise Him; his praise; pleased, the Lord prompted him to ask for boons; Prahlāda said that desires were the seeds of *samsāra* and therefore he did not want them; he only wanted to be ever devoted to him; Narasimha asked him to be king and at the same time be devoted to him; and when the time came for him he could cast off his body and get himself merged into Hari; then Prahlāda requested for the pardon and purification of his father which were granted; after the funeral ceremonies of his father, Prahlāda