

Theatre

Vedic Skit CLASS I-XII Vedic Skit- Stories

- **5 stories are given.**
- **You may choose any one of the five stories.**
- **You have to visualise the screen and write the screen play.**
- **You have to script for each screen and each role.**
- **You have to choose suitable artist for each role.**
- **You have to direct the play and make it ready with suitable props for the competition.**

1. Prahalad- The young devotee

Hiranyakashipu took deep penance to appease Lord Brahma to attain magical powers to defeat Lord Vishnu. The Tapas continued for several years and Brahma Dev got satisfied with his great devotion and asked him what boon he need.

Hiranyakashipu asked for eternity, but Brahma gave him the boon that he can choose his death according to his wish as he himself was not above death.

Hiranyakashipu then wised as follows: he will not be killed by any man or animal, not in air, water or sea, not in the home or outside, not at the day or at night, and not by any asthra or sashtra, and this boon was granted by the Brahma.

By attaining the boon Hiranyakashipu considered himself as immortal and became atrocious.

He asked all devotees of Vishnu to worship him instead of the Lord. Those who failed worship Hiranyakashipu were killed without any mercy. He imprisoned Devans and Rishis. Everyone was terrified with his mystic powers and went to Lord Vishnu for help. Vishnu gave them the relief that Hiranyakashipu's son Prahlad will become the cause of his death.

Gods and Goddesses patiently waited to see how Prahlad will become the cause of the death of Hiranyakashipu. As years passed by Kayadhu, the wife of Hiranyakashipu, gave birth to Prahlad in the Ashrama of Narada Muni. Sage Narada used to tell stories of Lord Narayana to child Prahlada even when he was in the womb. Hearing the glories the child was devoted to Lord Narayana.

Hiranyakashipu was greatly disappointed by hearing his own son was chanting the names of Maha Vishnu and not praying to Him. To change the mind of Prahlad the King sent his son to the Ashramam of Shukracharya's sons Shaku and Amarka. However they were also unsuccessful in breaking the solid devotion of Prahlad.

Overcome by demonic cruelty Hiranyakashipu ordered to kill his own son, since his faith on Maha Vishnu was unshakable.

The King's soldiers tried to kill Prahlad by poisoning him, drowning him in water, and throwing him down from mountain. But Lord Vishnu saved him from all these attempts. The King then created a bonfire and asked his sister Holika to sit with Prahlad on her lap inside it. As Holika was immune to fire he thought that his son will be killed. But Prahlada escaped from fire without any harm.

Hiranyakashipu challenged Prahlad asked where his Narayana can be found. Prahlad replied "My Vishnu is omnipresent and there is not a single place Narayana is not found". The King was furious and got up from his throne and asked Prahlad "Can you show me your Vishnu in this pillar?" Prahlad said "Yes, He is!"

The King hit the pillar strongly with his mace. With a thundering sound the pillar cracked and Lord Vishnu appeared in the form of Lord Narasimha – the half man half lion form.

As Hiranyakashipu's death wish and Brahma's boon, Lord Narasimha was neither a man nor an animal, the time was twilight neither day nor night, he sat on the threshold of the room keeping the body of the Rakshas Hiranyakashipu on thighs, used his nails to kill the demon instead of astra or sashtra.

Thus the lord appeared to save his young devotee.

2.Druva

Prince Dhruva son of Mahārāja Uttānapāda, when he was only five years old, was sitting on the lap of his father. His stepmother did not like the King's patting her stepson, so she dragged him out, saying that he could not claim to sit on the lap of the King because he was not born out of her womb. The little boy felt insulted, his father made no protest, for he was too attached to his second wife.

Prince Dhruva went to his own mother and complained. His real mother also could not take any step, and so she wept. The boy inquired from his mother how he could sit on the royal throne of his father, and the poor queen replied that only the Lord could help him.

The boy inquired where the Lord could be seen, and the queen replied that it is said that the Lord is sometimes seen by great sages in the dense forest. The child prince decided to go into the forest to perform severe penances in order to achieve his objective.

Prince Dhruva was initiated by Nārada. God was pleased with the penance of Dhruva and appeared before him to ask what he wished for.

In the second month Dhruva Mahārāja ate only every six days, and for his eatables he took dry grass and leaves. Thus he continued his worship.

In the fourth month Dhruva Mahārāja became a complete master of the breathing exercise, and thus he inhaled air only every twelfth day. In this way he became completely fixed in his position and worshiped the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

By the fifth month, Mahārāja Dhruva, had controlled his breathing so perfectly that he was able to stand on only one leg, just as a column stands, without motion, and concentrate his mind fully on the Parabrahman.

When Dhruva Mahārāja thus captured the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is the refuge of the total material creation and who is the master of all living entities, the three worlds began to tremble.

As Dhruva Mahārāja, the King's son, kept himself steadily standing on one leg, the pressure of his big toe pushed down half the earth, just as an elephant being carried on a boat rocks the boat left and right with his every step.

Dhruva was so spiritually advanced that he wished to be with the Lord always instead of asking for worldly kingdom. "I came into this forest just looking for pieces of broken glass, but instead I have found a great jewel in You, my dear Lord, and now I am completely satisfied and don't want anything."

The Lord out of benevolence wished Dhruva to take a spiritual planet within this universe and be its ruler.

3. Again become a mouse!

A yogi sat, absorbed in meditation. Sitting on the ground with crossed legs and with closed eyes, the yogi was as still as a statue. He was appreciating the calm and peace surrounding him.

A trembling mouse came from nowhere and pleaded. "Please save me. A black cat is chasing me.", he squeaked, the yogi slowly opened his eyes.

"It is not my business to go chasing cats;" said the yogi.

"Please sir, please help me." The mouse squeaked.

"All right, what do you want" the yogi asked.

"I want to become a cat" said the mouse

Are you sure asked the yogi asked then he waved his hand, cast a spell, and the mouse turned into a cat. The cat then dashed away, back into the forest.

A few days later, the yogi was sitting, in peaceful meditation. This time a cat crept from the bushes. It was miaowing pitifully, "Please save me! A ferocious dog is after me." The yogi looked up and replied, "I recognise you. You are the mouse I changed into a cat the other day."

As the cat pleaded again the yogi cast another spell and transformed the cat into a big barking dog. The dog ran off, into the jungle, and the yogi continued his mediation.

A couple of days later the dog returned, in a very distressed condition. He ran up to the yogi, panting and whimpering, "Please help me. A great tiger is chasing me." The kind yogi considered the plight of the terrified dog. He replied, "Oh you are such a fearful creature. Stop shaking. You too will be a tiger. Have no more fear."

With that he cast a spell and the dog turned into the most dangerous beast in the forest. But this time, instead of going away, the tiger paced around proudly, admiring his new body. He licked his black and yellow striped coat with his long tongue, and with great satisfaction examined his razor-sharp claws.

When the yogi noticed the tiger eyeing him, he said, "So, tiger, what do you want now?" With a sly smile, the tiger replied, "I want to eat you." He flexed his muscles, ready to pounce. The yogi was too quick for him. Pointing his finger, he cast another spell. "Ungrateful wretch! **Again become a mouse!**"

4. Brahmin and the Cobbler

Narada Muni often went to see Lord Narayana and one day a Brahmin requested him to inquire from Lord Narayana when he, would go back to godhead.

A cobbler residing in the same village also made the same request to Narada.

Hence, Narada Muni went to Lord Narayana and asked Him when the two devotees would go back to their final life goals; that is reach the Lord's lotus feet after death.

Lord Narayana said the Cobbler would promptly go back home, but the Brahmin had more lives to live on earth.

Narada was surprised with this answer and asked the Lord to explain in detail.

Lord Narayana instructed Narada to tell the Cobbler and Brahmin that the Lord (Lord Narayana) was threading an elephant through an eye of a needle when Narada met Him (Lord Narayana) in Vaikunta, and see how they react.

Narada Muni did as told.

The Brahmin balked at the story, saying "bah, impossible."

The cobbler heard the same and fell into ecstasy upon hearing the story, saying "my Lord can do anything, when a huge banyan tree can be concealed in a small seed, why can't an elephant go through the eye of a needle."

Narada Muni understood the greatness of the Lord and His unquestionable superiority.

5. Mrigari

Narada Muni went to Prayag on a pilgrimage. On the way he happened to enter a forest. As he passed through the forest, singing the glories of the Supreme Lord Krishna, he came across a deer pierced by arrows, writhing in pain, its legs broken.

As he proceeded further, he saw a boar and a rabbit, similarly afflicted.

As he proceeded, he saw a hunter, hiding in the bushes and aiming his arrow at more animals in the jungle.

Narada Muni left the jungle trail and moved towards the hunter. Hearing the noise created due to the Muni's movement, all the animals fled.

The hunter, whose name was Mrigari, turned around in a fit of anger. But as soon as he saw Narada Muni, although he did not know who he was, he softened and simply asked him why he had strayed from the path and upset his hunting.

Narada Muni asked him why he was inflicting pain to the animals and leaving them half dead?

Mrigari replied that this was the technique his father taught him and that he felt great pleasure seeing the animals writhing in pain as they died.

Narada Muni preached to the hunter that henceforth he should not half kill any animal. Since hunting was his profession, though not a good one, he was unnecessarily incurring more sins by half killing the animals rather than killing them at one go.

Mrigari asked Narada Muni how he could get free from the sinful acts he had committed so far.

Narada Muni replied that he could, provided he followed the Muni's instructions. When Mrigari agreed to do so, Narada Muni first instructed Mrigari to break his bow. Mrigari hesitated as his bow was his only means of sustenance. He and his family would starve if he gave up his bow. Narada Muni assured him that he would take care of Mrigari's sustenance. Upon this, Mrigari broke his bow.

Then Narada Muni instructed Mrigari to give up his home and shift with his wife to a simple cottage on the river bank and chant Hare Krishna in front of a tulasi plant.

After sometime, Narada Muni happened to be passing by Mrigari's place with his friend, Parvatha Muni. Narada Muni informed Parvatha Muni about Mrigari and they decided to pay him a visit.

When the two sages were approaching Mrigari's cottage, he saw them from a distance and started running towards them. The two sages saw that Mrigari was jumping from side to side as he approached them. When he came to them, he brushed the ground with his cloth to clear some ants and paid his obeisances. As he got up, Narada Muni inquired why he was jumping in a peculiar fashion while approaching them. Mrigari replied that there were some insects on the way and he wanted to avoid stamping on them.

Astonished and pleased at this transformation, Narada Muni inquired whether he was getting enough food. Mrigari replied that the news that he had turned a sage and a devotee of Krishna had spread to all the nearby villages. Everyone was astounded that Mrigari had become a sage and visited him to see this miracle for themselves. And when they came to meet him, they would come with some offering like fruits, grains, vegetables etc. Now he was getting so much, that he did not know what to do with the items. Mrigari requested Narada Muni not to send so much grains and groceries but to send only enough for his and his wife's needs.