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## Narasimha Avatar

Narasimha, the fourth incarnation of Vishnu, is in the form of half-man (Nara) and half-lion (Simha), having four hands. Two hands carry a wheel and a conch-shell and two are in the boon giving and protection modes or tearing at the stomach of the demon-king, Hiranyakashpu. Vishnu assumed this form in order to overcome a demon king who could not be slain by a man or by a beast, either inside or outside a palace, by day or by night.

Hiranyakashpu's son Prahalad is a great devotee of Lord Vishnu. Prahalad was tortured by his father for his belief in God. One day during an argument, Hiranyakashpu challenged his son to prove the omnipresence of God. He asked, if he is in a near by pillar. Prahalad said yes and the demon-king kicked the pillar with his leg. Lord Vishnu sprang furiously out of the pillar and killed the demon-king, Hiranyakashpu, by sitting in the door step (neither inside nor outside), placing the demon-king on His lap and opened his chest with his fingers. As explained earlier, this is Narasimha Avatar. In this Avatar Lord not only kills the demon-king, but also saves Prahalad (Hiranyakashpu's son – a very pious young boy) and all His devotees who were tortured by the demon-king.

May The Blessings of Lord Sri Venkateswara and Sri Mahalakshmi be with you and your family.

HTCS

