



# Sanskar Gurukul Weekly Update



**Class Name:** Bhriugu

**Week# 04:** October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## General Assembly

Hari Om Everyone:

Here is the GA update for today's session

We started the GA with three Omkars followed by the Shanti Mantra. Aparna auntie started talking about big statue of Ravana outside and ask question:

Why we burn Ravana? The following answers were given by students:

Ravana Bad Guy  
Symbolic killing of Ravana by Sri Rama  
To save Sitama  
Ravana made bad choices

Ravana is a great bhakta of lord Shiva. He composed great number of Stotras in praise if lord Shiva.

The festival outside is tonight and known as Ravana dahan. We need to learn from Ravana's story is -

Don't get carried away by our accomplishments  
Person is not bad but bad choices he/she makes that results in him/her becoming bad.

What are holy scriptures?

Vedas - Contains knowledge about different things and vast collection of information  
Upanishads - Contains ultimate knowledge of Hinduism.

We chanted Sri Rama Mantras from our prayer book.

Om ramaya rama bhadraya  
rama chandranya vedhase  
raghu nathaya nathaya  
sitayah pataye namaha

Om Sri rama rama rameti  
rame rame manorame  
sahastra nama tat-tulyam  
rama nama varaname



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We ended GA after 5 minutes of meditation.

Announcements:

- 1) Next Sunday is day-light savings time. Please watch for time.
- 2) On Nov. 8th we celebrate Diwali dress-up. Please dress-up in your favorite characters or historical figures.

Hari Om!

## Class

We started the class with three Omkars followed by the Shanti Mantra and 'before studies' prayer 'Saraswati Namastubhyam'.

In the last class, we had question about Jaya-Vijaya's (gatekeepers of Lord Vishnu in Vaikuntha) three janmas (three cycles of birth). As a class, since last 2 years, we were sure about their two janmas but were iffy about the third. Children recalled the story of Lord Brahma's manas-putras (which means born from His mind/thoughts), Sanaka, Sananda, Sanatana and Sanatkumara, trying to visit Lord Vishnu in Vaikuntha. These Kumaras were the first creation of Lord Brahma, were very pure in thoughts and actions, however, they looked like 5 yrs old. As gatekeepers of Vaikuntha for long time, Jaya and Vijaya started thinking of themselves as 'know it all' and developed excessive pride, ego and arrogance. With their minds clouded with these negative emotions, they didn't recognize Kumaras, thought of them as small children and stopped them from visiting Lord Vishnu with arrogant words. Kumaras were surprised to see arrogance and excessive pride in someone who live so close to Lord Narayana. They cursed Jaya and Vijaya to leave Lord Narayana's presence and be born on earth as mortals. Hearing about this incidence, Lord Vishnu came to the gate, welcomed Kumaras and apologized for His gatekeepers' behavior. Realizing their mistakes, Jaya and Vijaya fell to Lord Vishnu's and Kumaras' feet with great remorse. Lord Vishnu intervened to modulate the curse with Kumaras' assent. He gave Jaya and Vijaya two choices; be born as Lord Narayana's Bhaktas (devotees) with good thoughts and actions (good people) on earth for 7 janmas or as His enemies with negative thoughts such as krodha (anger), kama (lustfulness) and mada (arrogance) and hatred of Lord Narayana for 3 janmas. In the later option, in all three janmas, they would have inordinate hatred for Lord Narayana to an extent that they would constantly remember Him and eventually be killed by Lord Narayana Himself and come back to Vaikuntha. Jaya-Vijaya picked later option since that was shorter time away from Lord Narayana. In the first janma, they were born as Hiranyaksh and Hiranyakashpu; killed by Lord Narayana as Adi Varaha (the boar) and Narsimha (half lion-half man) due to excessive arrogance (mada) as primary trait that led to their downfall. In the second janma, they were born as Ravana and Kumbhakarna, killed by Lord Narayana as Lord Rama due to lustfulness (kama) that led to their downfall and in their third janma, they were born as Shishupala and Dantavakra, Lord Krishna's cousins and were killed by Lord Narayana as Lord Krishna due to anger



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as a primary trait (krodha) leading to their downfall.

We then revised what we covered in our last class and continued the story of King Shantanu who was the best king ruling his kingdom with great precision, just, compassion and honesty but was really sad, lonely and mourning for his beloved queen, Ganga in his personal life. His only solace from loneliness was roaming round and hunting in jungles and was especially fond of sitting on the banks of Ganga, meditating where he felt that he was close to his queen on some level. Sixteen years passed in this manner. One day Shantanu was at the riverbank and realized suddenly that water is not flowing and familiar sound of water waves is missing. To investigate, he started walking upstream and came across a dam made with arrows which had stopped flowing water. King was surprised and impressed with the skill of archer. He saw a handsome, 16 year old boy with bow and arrow and realizing him as a creator of intricate dam, started enquiring about his whereabouts. Suddenly there was a loud noise of water breaking the dam and King realized that goddess Ganga was standing next to him and praising this young man, who was none other than Dyu, the 8<sup>th</sup> vasu now in the form of Devavrata, 8<sup>th</sup> child of King Shantanu. Ganga introduced father and son with each other and told the King that she had come to present the King with his son. During his childhood, Devavrata was taught political science and other subjects by Brihaspati and Sukracharya, gurus of the Devas and Asuras respectively; Vedas and religious scriptures by the sage Vasishtha; Sage Markandeya was his spiritual guru. On Ganga's persuasion, Devavrata was taught martial arts, military sciences and the use of weapons by Parashurama (aka Bhargava).

King was ecstatic with this union and after thanking Ganga, father and son happily returned to Hastinapura. The kingdom was overjoyed and people welcomed Devavrata whole heartedly and King crowned him as Yuvaraja (prince, successor of the crown). Celebration and festivities lasted for months. Devavrata started learning day to day workings of Kingdom and duties of the King from Shantanu and his court ministers. King Shantanu was finally happy.

In this manner, four years passed. One day King Shantanu was hunting in forest and came across unusual, enticing fragrance. Curious to investigate its source, he started following it and after many miles came to the banks of river Yamuna where a beautiful maiden was standing tying up a river boat to the pier. He realized that the fragrance was emitting from the maiden herself. She was very beautiful with perfect, faultless form. He fell in love at first sight and asked her for her name and her father's whereabouts. Her name was Satyavati and she was a daughter of fisherman king, Dusharaj. She had a boon from Sage Parashara that made her naturally fragrant and was called Yojana-Gandha (one whose fragrance travels for miles) or Kasturi-Gandha (one who smells like Kasturi (Musk)). King Shantanu went to her father and introducing himself asked Dusharaj for Satyavati's hand in marriage. Fisherman king was honored and praised Satyavati's good fortune that King of Hastinapura wants to marry her. However, he, (Satyavati's father) put forth a condition for the marriage that Satyavati's first born son needs to be the crowned prince and later King of Hastinapur kingsom. The King was



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astonished and couldn't give promise as that would be unfair to Devavrata, his beloved firstborn. He turned back without a word and came to Hastinapur sad and heartbroken. He loved Devavrata very much and truly believed him to be capable of ruling kingdom besides it was his birthright. Shantanu became despondent and aloof after this incidence. Prince Devavrata also loved his father a lot and picked on his father's disinterest in the things and the cloud of sadness around him all the time. Devavrata tried to talk to his father but King Shantanu only misled him by saying that he worries about there is only one prince and in case anything happens, how he worries that there would be no heir for the Kuru dynasty. Devavrata read this for what it was that his father had fallen in love and found out from his father's charioteer about the girl. Devavrata then confronted the Fisherman King and ask about his hesitation in accepting King Shantanu's offer of marriage to Satyawati. Fisherman King repeated his demand after acknowledging that being a queen of Hastinapur was an honor but he wanted think about his daughter's future. Without a second thought and for his father's happiness, Devavrata announced that he would renounce the throne. Fisherman King did not expect it and was taken aback, however he was a very shrewd man. He praised Devavrata to be a very noble and man of his words but what if his children in the future wanted to reclaim the throne. After hearing that Devavrata took a vow that he would not only renounce the throne but would never get married. As soon as Devavrata took this terrible vow, Heavens started showering him with flowers with words "BHEESHMA" (He of the difficult oath). Fisherman King readily agreed and sent Satyawati with him to get married to King Shantanu. King Shantanu was pleased about Satyawati but was devastated about injustice to Devavrata. However, vows once taken, couldn't be undone. Eventually, as a token of appreciation, King Shantanu used all his 'tapas' (penance) and gave Devavrata a boon of long life with "Ichcha Mrityu" (control over his own death — he could choose the time of his death).

King Shantanu and Satyawati got married and had two sons. Chitrangada and Vichitraveerya. In time, King Shantanu passed away and the elder son Chitrangada ascended the throne of Hastinapur. Chitrangada had his namesake in Ghandharva King who didn't like another person with his name. He challenged the King Chitrangada of Hastinapur to battle and prove him to be worthy of the name. In this duel, Ghandharva King came out as victorious and King Chitrangada of Hastinpur met his demise. After the death of his brother, Vichitraveerya ascended the throne of Hastinapur. However, he was still a child then and hence Bheeshma ruled as his regent.

## Homework

Make sure to talk to your parents and get login for weekly updates.

**Make sure you check weekly updates.**

Complete exercise on page 8 in the green book.

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