

# The Salvation Of Sudarśana

## Lesson Message

- ◆ What happened when Kṛṣṇa touched the back of the snake with His foot? When Kṛṣṇa touched the back of the snake with His foot the ugly python changed into a handsome and shining *vidyādhara*.
- ◆ Who was this handsome *vidyādhara* and why he had become a snake? The handsome *vidyādhara* was Sudarśana, a celestial magician. Being arrogant of his looks and skill, he made fun of the ṛṣi Aṅgirā's clan. He was cursed to become a python.

### OPENING PRAYER

3 MINUTES

ॐ सह नाववतु ।  
 सह नौ भुनक्तु ।  
 सह वीर्यं करवावहै ।  
 तेजस्विनावधीतमस्तु मा विद्विषावहै ॥  
 ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥  
*om saha nāvavatu,*  
*saha nau bhunaktu,*  
*saha vīryam karavāvahai,*  
*tejasvināvadhītam-astu mā vidviṣāvahai.*  
*om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ.*

May He protect us both.  
 May He nourish us.  
 May we acquire the capacity  
 (to study and understand the  
 scriptures).  
 May our study be brilliant.  
 May we not cavil at each other.  
*Om Peace Peace Peace.*

### ATTENDANCE

5 MINUTES

Take attendance, and let each child respond *Harīḥ Om*, when his/her name is called.

### MEMORY TIME

10 MINUTES

Children will learn to chant sixth verse of *Śrī* Tapovanaṣaṭkam given in the Introduction section.

The topic of the day consists of:

- ◆ **Tale:** The Salvation Of Sudarśana
- ◆ **Tale:** Śaṁkhacūḍa
- ◆ **Project:** Road Map To Kṛṣṇa
- ◆ **Homework:** Control Of Senses
- ◆ **Activity:** Quiz

### Tale: The Salvation Of Sudarśana

Kṛṣṇa was now twelve years old. Nanda had taken a vow that when Kṛṣṇa turns twelve, he would offer a special worship to the family's idol of worship, Goddess Aṁbikā. Along with the neighbors and friends, Nanda and his family went to the temple of the goddess with gifts of milk, curd, butter, and sweets. The procession entered with resounding drums and trumpets. Nanda devotedly performed the sacred ritual in all its beauty. Then he fed the *mahātmās* (great souls). By the time the *pūjā* was over, it had become dark. So they decided to spend the night in the temple courtyard.



Nanda and his followers lay down to rest. The night had advanced. Suddenly, the party was woken up by a disturbed shout from Nanda. They lit their torches and saw that his foot was in the mouth of an unimaginably huge python. They beat the snake with sticks and thrust their burning torches onto its body, but the snake would not leave its hold. In fact, it continued to hold on even more firmly and refused to let go.

स चुक्रोशाहिना ग्रस्तः कृष्ण कृष्ण महानयम् ।  
सर्पो मां ग्रसते तात प्रपन्नं परिमोचय ॥ १० ३४ ६ ॥

*sa cukrośāhinā grastaḥ kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa mahānayam,  
sarpo mām̐ grasate tāta prapannaṁ parimocaya. 10.34.6.*

10.34.6. Nanda cried out, “I am caught! Kṛṣṇa! Kṛṣṇa! This big serpent has caught me, son! I surrender to Thee! Save me.”

Nanda shouted to Kṛṣṇa for help. Kṛṣṇa rushed to His father’s rescue. He touched the back of the snake with His foot. At once, the ugly python changed into a handsome and shining *vidyādhara* (a learned person), who bowed down before Kṛṣṇa with folded hands. Kṛṣṇa asked him who he was.

ऋषीन् विरूपानङ्गिरसः प्राहसं रूपदर्पितः ।  
तैरिमां प्रापितो योनिं प्रलब्धैः स्वेन पाप्मना ॥ १० ३४ १३ ॥  
*ṛṣīn virūpānaṅgirasah prāhasaṁ rūpadarpitaḥ,  
tairimāṁ prāpito yonim pralabdhaiḥ svena pāpmanā. 10.34.13.*

10.34.13. *Vidyādhara* said, “One day I saw ugly *ṛṣis* of Aṅgirā’s clan. Being proud of my own looks, I made fun of them. Being angry, they cursed me, I became the serpent. This is the result of my own bad *karma*.”

He replied, “My name is Sudarśana. I am a celestial magician. I had become very proud of my skill and beauty. One day, I had gone to the forest in my chariot and was in the mood for fun. There, the *ṛṣi* Aṅgirā was sitting in deep meditation. I flew over him in my chariot 100 times. Awakened from his meditation, he cursed me to become a python, saying that I would one day be released by the grace of Lord Kṛṣṇa. This is why I came and seized Nandabābā’s foot. Please forgive me.” Offering deep prostrations, Sudarśana mounted his chariot and sped away to Suraloka.

### Tale: Śaṁkhacūḍa

Once, it so happened that the brothers, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma, were in the forest with the *gopīs*. The brothers sang and played their flutes and the *gopīs* listened in rapt attention. Just then, there came a *yakṣa*, a vile attendant of Kubera, the lord of wealth. His name was Śaṁkhacūḍa. He seized the unsuspecting *gopīs* and drove them northwards. The girls wept and screamed for help.

Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma, each uprooted a *sāla* tree and chased the *yakṣa*. Frightened by the brothers, Śaṁkhacūḍa dropped the *gopīs* and fled as fast as he could. “Brother, you look after them,” cried Kṛṣṇa, who continued speeding after the fleeing *yakṣa*. Soon, Śaṁkhacūḍa was killed by a blow from Kṛṣṇa’s fist, and his crest jewel, a precious gem, rolled down. Kṛṣṇa picked it up and presented it lovingly to Balarāma.

From then on, as before, the *gopīs* were constantly singing the glories of Kṛṣṇa, their savior. Throughout their daily tasks and duties, their minds were

ever cheerful and fixed in an unbroken stream of thought on their blue boy of Vṛndāvana.

### Project: Road Map To Kṛṣṇa

Give a copy of the maze to each child. Ask them to unscramble the sixth word, i.e., Control of senses.



**What do we understand by the control of senses?**

Remember in previous lesson we made a flower and had promised Kṛṣṇa the values we will live by? Yes, that is having control of senses. Though our tongue wants to gossip, we will not; though we feel like eating the whole box of candies, we won't; though our ears want to hear wrong things, we will not; though our eyes want to watch wrong shows, we will not. That is having the control over our senses.

In the tale of Sudarśana, he crossed his boundaries and did not have sense control. He knew the *ṛṣi* was meditating. Just for fun, without thinking he just kept on going over the *ṛṣi* because he felt like doing it and disturbed meditation; he got punished. He was born as a python!

Why should one have control over senses? Show the following pictures given in the Appendix and let children see the importance of self control.

Uncontrolled



Controlled



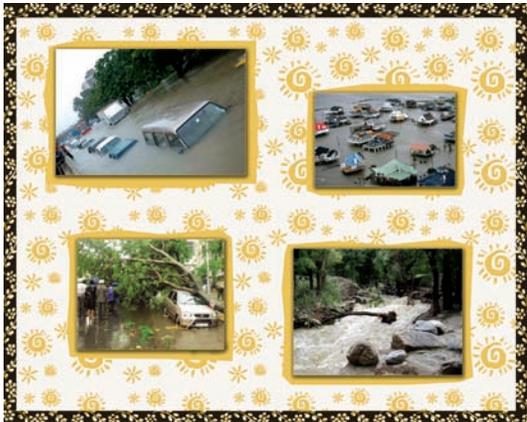
Uncontrolled



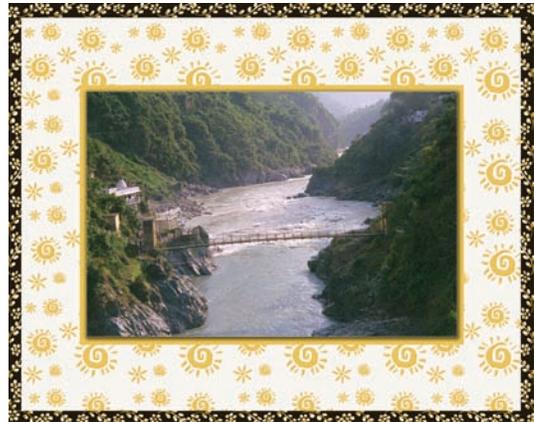
Controlled



Uncontrolled



Controlled



Now, you know why the control of senses is important.

### Homework: Control Of Senses

Ask the children to remember and consciously practice Kṛṣṇa's quality "control (of senses)." All through Kṛṣṇa's life we see, He never did anything that He felt like doing that was wrong to do!

Ask them to keep track of their behavior throughout the week. Remind them that this is their homework and that in the next class they will be given an activity sheet where they will fill in their homework observations.

### Activity: Quiz

Divide the class into two groups. Let each group choose any two stories they have learned in this curriculum year. Ask each group to come up with ten quiz questions on the stories. Conduct a lively competition. Have each group ask their prepared questions to the other group. The group with the highest score wins.

Follow one of these techniques described in the Introduction section to make children's mind quiet. A quiet mind is an inspired, creative, peaceful, courageous, truthful and happy mind.

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः ।  
सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिद् दुःखभागभवेत् ॥  
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

*om sarve bhavantu sukhinah sarve santu niramayāḥ,  
sarve bhadrāṇi paśyantū mā kaścid duḥkhabhāgbhavet.  
om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ.*

May all be happy.  
May all be healthy.  
May all enjoy prosperity.  
May none suffer.  
Om Peace Peace Peace.