

HANUMAN - LESSON 1



Story: Hanuman Flies to the Sun

Hanuman is one of the dearest of all the great gods of Hinduism. He has the shape and form of a monkey. Isn't monkey fun to watch? A long time ago, there lived a race of monkeys that were very smart and very powerful. These were called Vanaras. They don't live on Earth anymore. They are not like ordinary monkeys. They were semi – divine. Hanuman was a Vanara.

Hanuman's mother was named Anjani, and his father was Vayu, the God of Wind. Remember Lord Shiva? Hanuman is an incarnation of Lord Shiva.

Because he was an incarnation of Shiva, even when he was practically a baby he could do just about anything. Do you have any younger brothers or sisters? Do you know how, when they see anything interesting, they try and reach out and grab it? Hanuman was just like this when he was a baby.

When he was a small child, Hanuman was looking at the sky. In the sky he saw the Sun. It looked like a big orange. He thought "Oh, I think I will fly up and grab that orange and eat it." So he flew up in the sky towards the sun. Can you or I fly to the Sun? Of course not! We don't have this power. We would need a rocket ship! And even with a rocket ship, we could not fly to the Sun, because it would get too hot. But Hanuman was not like you or I. Anything was possible for him, even when he was a baby.

So Hanuman flew up with great speed. Because he was the son of the Wind God, Vayu, he could travel anywhere at great speed. In no time at all, he flew millions of miles to the Sun.

Do you know who lives in the Sun? Do you know who Surya is? Surya is the Sun God. He lives on the planet Sun. He is the source of all the energy on the Sun. Surya provides the light and energy which sustains everything in our solar system. If it were not for Surya and the energy in the Sun, everything would die instantly. Surya is a great individual and deserves our gratitude and worship.

Hanuman reached the Sun, and he saw Surya, who looked like a big tasty orange. So he opened up his mouth and put Surya inside. Surya, who is peaceful, did not object. What do you think happened? Without Surya, the whole solar system went dark. On Earth, they

thought it was a solar eclipse, which is where the Sun goes dark. Hanuman was a vegetarian. He soon realized that Surya was not a fruit but a living being. Surya did not taste like an orange. So he spit Surya back out. Then the light in the solar system came back.

When the universe became dark, all the gods became very alarmed. Indra is King of the gods. He lives in Indraloka, his own heaven. When Indra saw the universe go dark he wondered “Who is doing something to the Sun God? Are we under attack?” He mounted his big elephant Airavata, and moved very quickly to see the Sun and see what was going wrong. Remember, Hanuman is only a little baby, right? When little babies see an elephant, what do they do? They would think it is another toy to play with, right? So Hanuman began rushing towards Indra.

Even though he is King of the gods, Indra does not know everything. He did not know Hanuman was a baby or an incarnation of Shiva. He thought he might be a big demon. Only he saw this creature, who had just swallowed and spit out Surya, coming towards him. So he became frightened.

Indra has a terrible weapon. Does anyone know what this is? It is the thunderbolt! When seeing Hanuman rush at him, he threw his thunderbolt at Hanuman. It hits Hanuman right on the chin. This is why Hanuman has a split in his chin. It knocks Hanuman unconscious, like he is dead.

Remember now, who is Hanuman’s father? Vayu. Vayu is the god of wind. Hanuman was very dear to Vayu. He was very upset that Indra would kill his son. He says, “Well, if that is the way they want to treat my son, then I also will not treat anyone very well. I will stop all winds from blowing in the whole solar system (but not on Earth, as they are not responsible). So all the winds tried up. Pretty soon there was no air for anyone to breathe! Now everyone was alarmed again! They all came to Vayu to beg his forgiveness.

Remember Lord Brahma? He created the universe. He came and brought Hanuman back to life. In fact, he gave Hanuman a boon. Who knows what a boon is? It is like a gift. Brahma gave Hanuman the boon of immortality. Surya, the Sun God, gave him one 1/100’th of his brightness. Indra gave him his thunderbolt. Agni, the Fire God, said fire will never burn him. All the gods apologized to Vayu and gave Hanuman different gifts, especially all their powerful weapons, which were more powerful than nuclear bombs. This is the story of the day Hanuman swallowed Surya, the Sun God.

Questions: Why did Hanuman think the Sun was an orange in the sky? How was Hanuman able to fly to the Sun? Who was his father? What was Indra's weapon?

Hanuman Mantra:

**Manojavam Maarutatulyavegam
Jitendriyam Buddhimataam Varistham
Vaataatmajam Vaanarayoothamukhyam
Sriramadootam Sirasa Namami**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QiSqpM2V2A>

Meaning:

*I surrender to Hanuman, the messenger of Lord Rama,
whose speed is as swift as the mind and as swift as the wind.
Who has controlled his sense organs and is the most intellegent
among the intelligent ones; who is the son of Vayu and the chief
of the monkey tribe.*

Drawing Exercise: Use Crayons to Color Hanuman

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