

Holi

The Legend of Prahlad and Holika



A long time ago, there was a demon king. He thought that he was more powerful than any god. He had taken over the whole world and he wanted everyone to worship him. They were not allowed to worship any other god.

The demon king had a son called Prahlad. Prahlad worshipped a god called Vishnu. Prahlad said that he would never worship his father.



One day, the demon king asked Prahlad a question.

“Am I the greatest or is God the greatest?”

“God is the greatest,” said Prahlad. “You are only a king.”

Prahlad’s answer made the demon king very cross and he wanted to kill his son. The demon king made lots of different plans to hurt Prahlad. He threw him over a cliff, made an elephant stand on him and made snakes bite him. But every time that Prahlad was in danger, the good Vishnu stopped him from getting hurt.

The demon king was getting tired of waiting so he asked his sister Holika to kill Prahlad. Holika had a magic cloak. She could not get hurt by fire if she was wearing it. Knowing this, the demon king asked Holika to sit on a bonfire and hold Prahlad in her lap. Prahlad would be killed but Holika would not be hurt because she was wearing her magic cloak.



The gods were not happy when they heard about Holika’s plan. As the fire was lit, Vishnu made something magical happen. The cloak flew from Holika’s back and wrapped itself around Prahlad. The fire burned Holika but Prahlad was safe. The gods also decided to punish the demon king for his evil plans. They took him away and he was never seen again.

Prahlad was happy because his wicked father and aunt were gone forever. He became the king of his land and was always fair to his people. This story shows that good will always find a way to win and evil will always be beaten.



Questions

1. What was the demon king's son called? Tick one.

- Holika
- Vishnu
- Prahlad
- aunt

2. What was the name of the demon king's sister? Tick one.

- Prahlad
- Holika
- Vishnu
- the demon king

3. Who did Prahlad think was the greatest? Tick one.

- the demon king
- God
- Holika
- Prahlad

4. Who stopped Prahlad from getting hurt? Tick one.

- Vishnu
- Holika
- the demon king
- elephants

5. What magical item did Holika have?

6. How did the demon king try to hurt Prahlad?

7. Explain how good won over evil in this story.

Answers

1. What was the demon king's son called? Tick one.

- Holika
- Vishnu
- Prahlad**
- aunt

2. What was the name of the demon king's sister? Tick one.

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3. Who did Prahlad think was the greatest? Tick one.

- the demon king
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- Prahlad

4. Who stopped Prahlad from getting hurt? Tick one.

- Vishnu**
- Holika
- the demon king
- elephants

5. What magical item did Holika have?

Holika had a magical cloak.

6. How did the demon king try to hurt Prahlad?

Accept any of the following: The demon king tried to throw Prahlad off a cliff; The demon king tried to make an elephant stand on Prahlad; The demon king tried to make snakes bite Prahlad; The demon king asked his sister to put Prahlad on a bonfire.

7. Explain how good won over evil in this story.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Good won over evil in this story because the good Prahlad was not hurt but the evil demon king and Holika were defeated because they plotted against Prahlad.

Holi

The Legend of Prahlad and Holika



Many years ago, there lived a demon king named Hiranyakashyap. He believed that he was more powerful than any god. He had taken over the whole of Earth and he demanded that everyone must worship him, making it forbidden to worship anyone or anything else.

However, Hiranyakashyap was annoyed because he found out that his only son worshipped Vishnu who was a real god. Prahlad knew that he would never worship his father.



One day, Hiranyakashyap asked his son a question, "Who is the greatest, God or I?"

"God is," answered Prahlad. "You are only a king."

Prahlad's answer made Hiranyakashyap very angry and he wanted to kill his son. Hiranyakashyap made many different plans and tried lots of different ways to harm Prahlad. He was thrown over a cliff, trampled by an elephant, bitten by snakes and attacked by soldiers but the god Vishnu saved Prahlad from harm each time.

Finally, Hiranyakashyap asked his sister Holika to kill Prahlad. Holika was a demon and she owned a special cloak which protected her from being harmed by fire. Holika agreed to use this power to kill Prahlad once and for all.

Hiranyakashyap asked his sister Holika to wear her protective cloak and sit on a bonfire. She tricked Prahlad into sitting on her knee in the middle of the bonfire, thinking that he would be killed by the flames while she was safe inside her cloak.



However, the gods did not like her evil plan. As the fire roared to life, the magical cloak flew from Holika's back and wrapped itself around Prahlad. Holika was burnt away but Prahlad was not harmed at all. Knowing where the plan had come from, the god Vishnu also decided to punish Hiranyakashyap for his evil plot and took him away. He was never to be seen again.

With his wicked father and aunt gone forever, Prahlad was free to live happily. He became the king of his land and was always fair to his people. The moral of this story is that good will always find a way to triumph over evil.



Questions

1. Draw **three** lines to match each name to their role in the story.

Hiranyakashyap

the demon king's sister

Prahlad

the demon king

Holika

the demon king's son

2. Which of these statements is true? Tick one.

- Prahlad thought that Hiranyakashyap was greater than God.
- Prahlad thought that God was greater than Hiranyakashyap.
- Prahlad thought that both Hiranyakashyap and Vishnu were equal.
- Prahlad thought that Holika was greater than God.

3. Why was Hiranyakashyap angry? Tick one.

- because Prahlad had called for Holika to come
- because Prahlad had taken over the whole of the Earth
- because Prahlad said that God was greater than him
- because Prahlad was burnt in the fire

4. Which of these did Hiranyakashyap order to happen to Prahlad? Tick **two**.

- to be trampled by an elephant
- to be bitten by snakes
- to be given a special cloak
- to be made a soldier

5. Find and copy one phrase that shows this story is set a long time ago.

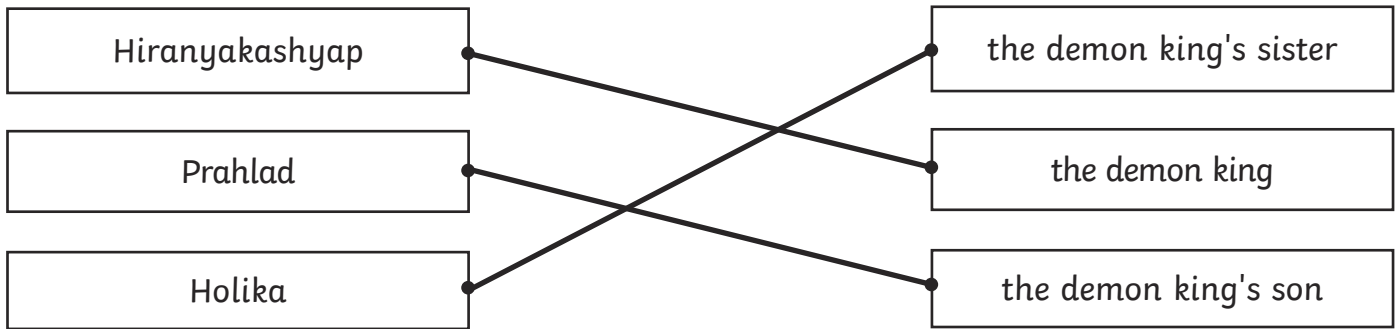
6. What magical power did Holika's cloak have?

7. Why do you think that Holika agreed to hurt Prahlad?

8. Explain how you know that good triumphed over evil in this story.

Answers

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- Prahlad thought that Hiranyakashyap was greater than God.
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many years ago

6. What magical power did Holika's cloak have?

Holika's cloak protected the wearer from being burnt by fire.

7. Why do you think that Holika agreed to hurt Prahlad?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Holika agreed to hurt Prahlad because she was a demon and demons are evil; because she did not like that Prahlad didn't worship her brother.

8. Explain how you know that good triumphed over evil in this story.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I know that good triumphed over evil in this story because the good Prahlad wasn't hurt but the demon king and Holika were defeated at the end.

Holi

The Legend of Prahlad and Holika



Long ago, there lived a demon king named Hiranyakashyap, who believed that he was more powerful than any god. With his immense strength and control, he had taken over the whole of Earth and he demanded that everyone must worship him, making it forbidden to worship anyone or anything else.

To Hiranyakashyap's great annoyance and disappointment, he found out that his only son was a devoted worshipper of Vishnu who was a real god. Prahlad would never agree to worship his father.



One day, Hiranyakashyap asked his son a question, "Who is the greatest, God or I?"

"God is," replied Prahlad. "You are only a mere king."

Prahlad's answer made Hiranyakashyap so angry that he decided that his only option would be to kill his son. Hiranyakashyap planned, plotted and schemed. He tried many different methods to bring Prahlad to harm. Prahlad was thrown over a cliff, thrown into a well, trampled by an elephant, bitten by venomous snakes and attacked by soldiers but the god Vishnu stepped in and saved Prahlad from harm each time.

In desperation, Hiranyakashyap asked his sister Holika to kill Prahlad. Holika was a demon and she owned a special cloak which would prevent her from being harmed by fire when she wore it. Holika decided to use this power to kill Prahlad once and for all.



Hiranyakashyap asked his sister Holika to sit on a bonfire, knowing that it would cause her no harm while she was wrapped in her special cloak. She tricked Prahlad and lured him to sit on her knee in the middle of the bonfire, thinking that Prahlad would be killed by the flames while she remained safe inside her cloak.

However, the gods did not like her evil intentions. As the fire roared to life, the magical cloak flew from Holika's back and wrapped itself around Prahlad. The wicked demon Holika was burnt away while Prahlad survived unharmed. Knowing where the plan had come from, the god Vishnu also decided to punish Hiranyakashyap for his evil plot and took him away. He was never to be seen again.

With his wicked father and aunt gone forever, Prahlad was free to live in happiness and became king of his land, ruling fairly and wisely for the rest of his days and showing that good will always triumph over evil.



Questions

1. 'With his immense strength and control...'

What do you think the word immense means in this sentence? Tick one.

- large or great
- weak or feeble
- small and hard to see
- wicked and magical

2. Draw **three** lines and match each question to its correct answer.

What was the name of the demon king?

Who did Prahlad worship?

Who helped Hiranyakashyap to hurt his son?

Vishnu

Holika

Hiranyakashyap

3. What did Hiranyakashyap do to try to kill his son?

4. Fill in the missing words.

Prahlad was free to live in _____ and became king of his land,
showing that good will always _____ over evil.

5. Find and copy one word which shows how Prahlad ruled.

6. Why do you think that Prahlad would never agree to worship his father?

7. Explain what you think the moral of this story is.

8. Give an example of another story you know where good triumphs over evil.

Answers

1. 'With his immense strength and control...'

What do you think the word immense means in this sentence? Tick one.

- large or great**
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2. Draw **three** lines and match each question to its correct answer.

What was the name of the demon king?	Vishnu
Who did Prahlad worship?	Holika
Who helped Hiranyakashyap to hurt his son?	Hiranyakashyap

3. What did Hiranyakashyap do to try to kill his son?

Accept any of the following: Hiranyakashyap tried to throw his son off a cliff; he tried to throw him into a well; he tried to make an elephant trample him; he tried to make snakes bite him; he tried to make soldiers attack him; he tried to make Holika hold him on a bonfire.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Prahlad was free to live in **happiness** and became king of his land,
showing that good will always **triumph** over evil.

5. Find and copy one word which shows how Prahlad ruled.

Accept any of the following: wisely; fairly.

6. Why do you think that Prahlad would never agree to worship his father?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Prahlad would never agree to worship his father because he knew that Vishnu was a real god and so chose to worship him instead.

7. Explain what you think the moral of this story is.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the moral of this story is that you should always treat other people kindly and fairly and that good will be rewarded but evil will be defeated.

8. Give an example of another story you know where good triumphs over evil.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Another story I know where good triumphs over evil is the Three Billy Goats Gruff because the three goats get to live in the field but the troll is never seen again.