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**Garuda**

It is always a rule that a wicked mans pride is punished and a good mans pride is corrected. During a great war between Rama and Ravana, Ravana’s son Indrajit binds Rama and Lakshmana with Nagapasa. (Arrows comprising snakes) Rama and Lakshmana lie on the battlefield in a helpless state. Narada observes this situation and sends Garuda to help. Garuda flew to the earth and relieves Rama and Lakshmana. Rama and Lakshmana express their gratitude to Garuda in glowing terms and Garuda takes leave of them in all reverence.

As Garuda thinks upon the incident, he feels more proud and thinks high of himself, which makes his jnana (knowledge) slip away. Garuda starts to doubt if Rama is really God. He then approaches Lord Shiva, and tells him how he rescued Rama and Lakshmana from Nagapasa and that pride made him doubt that Rama may not be God. Garuda asks Lord Shiva to enlighten him. Lord Siva directs Garuda to a sage called Kakabushundi who is in the form of a crow.

Garuda offers his respects to the sage and explains his story how he has fallen into Lord’s illusion. Kakabushundi explains the story of the great sage Narada, how he fell into pride by his victory over Manmadha and heavenly damsels. Sage Narada boasts about his victory before Lord Vishnu. Because Narada is a great devotee of Lord Vishnu, the merciful Lord saves Narada from ego by disguising himself as a beautiful princess. This is how Lord Vishnu saves his devotees from Maya.

Kakabushundi also explains Garuda the story of Sati Devi, the divine consort of lord Shiva. Once Sati Devi disguises herself as Sita and appears before Lord Rama to test his divinity. Then Lord Rama smiles at Sati Devi and asks her to convey regards to Shiva. Sati devi feels ashamed about the incident and later she has to take a rebirth as Parvathi and marry Lord Shiva again. Since then Parvathi chants Rama nama always.

Kakabushundi then tells the whole story of Lord Rama without leaving any incident in his life. Kakabushundi also explains why Lord Rama has to take a birth as human. The evil-minded Ravana is immune to death in the hands of God as well as Superhuman Powers. So Lord Vishnu descends on this earth as a normal human being and conceals his divinity. Kakabushundi shows Garuda the Idol form of Rama ,Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman to whom he worship everyday in the temple. Garuda offers his respects to Rama Parivaram with all devotion. To his thrilling the Idols infront of him smiles at him. Garuda is blessed with Darshan of Lord Rama,Sita,Lakshmana and Hanuman. Thus Garuda is relieved of his gloom and serves Lord forever.