

Once upon a time, a maid servant and her little boy lived in an ashram. The sages in the ashram were kind to the boy, and let him listen to their discourses. The little boy also respected the sages deeply and served them by giving them water when they required. As the boy had no name, the sages called him 'Narada', as he served water.

But the children in the ashram were unkind to him and made fun of him. They teased him, and called him a servant's son. One day, Narada's mother died of a snake bite, and he became lonely and depressed. He could no longer bear the taunts of the children, so he left the ashram.

As he wandered in the forest, he remembered what one of the sages had said - anything can be achieved by deep prayer. Narada wanted to be born as a great man, and he wanted to see mighty Lord Vishnu. So, he performed a great penance for years together. Finally, Lord Vishnu was pleased. He appeared in front of Narada and said "Son! I am pleased

with your devotion. Therefore, I grant you a boon to be born as a deva. Henceforth, you will be the son of Lord Brahma. You can also roam the three worlds at your will." After saying this, Lord Vishnu disappeared. And through great devotion and penance, Narada, the servant's son became a Deva and the son of Lord Brahma, loved and respected by all. **ROHINI CHINTHA** Magic Pot o December 21, 2011