



## Sage Narada

Narada was a son of lord Brahma, the creator. He was often known as Narada Muni. The word 'Nara' means a man and 'Da' means a 'giver'. Thus Narada means the one who gives (useful knowledge) to the mankind.

Narada was a sage of a kind. Like other sages, he would not spend time in penance and meditation. Instead, he strove for human welfare. He wandered places facilitating the good of the world, guiding the perplexed, engaged in helping the pious in times of challenge and danger. He devised plans for protecting the righteous and punishing the wicked.

Narada had blessings that he could show up anywhere, anytime and anyplace. He used these blessings and appeared in all yugas (satya, treta and dwapara) from time to time to spread the good word and help the needy. He traversed distant worlds (or planets) but never went anywhere without a purpose. He used to make his purposeful entry by chanting the name of the lord Vishnu (Narayana) and playing a veena (a musical instrument). You must have learnt how Narada helped Dhruva, Prahlad, Savitri in Pauranic stories and Pandavas in Mahabharata.

Narada could not keep any secrets. He was usually known for revealing secrets on a bad time or spreading gossip. Therefore he was often mistaken as a quarrel-monger and a talebearer. His deeds often brought a trouble and friction among gods, demons and men. But one must remember that Narada's intention was to espouse a good cause. It was his constant desire that bad people should be punished for their deeds. Whatever Narada did, though sometimes it seemed bad, turned into a happy ending.

He was a first-order celestial musician. He was a great devotee of lord Vishnu (Narayana). He was always found chanting the name of lord Vishnu and playing a veena - a musical instrument. He was well versed with Vedas and Upanishadas. He had an extraordinary proficiency in Samaveda which is dedicated to the music. He knew the art of articulating each syllable and was also well versed in semantics. He also knew the precise use of each word.

There are so many wonderful and inspirational stories about Narada muni mentioned in our Hindu scriptures. Try to learn them from other sources.

