



**JAI
HANUMAN
COLORING
AND
ACTIVITY
BOOK**

ॐ NORTH AMERICAN
HINDU ASSOCIATION

Jai Hanuman
COLORING
&
ACTIVITY
BOOK

© 2011

It is illegal to reproduce this workbook or its contents in any form.

Bhupendra R. Hajratwala

North American Hindu Association

To Parents:

All children like super hero characters. In Hinduism, no character is more beloved than Hanuman. Any child who has heard or watched stories of Hanuman remains spellbound with his super powers. He comes to the rescue of even gods, jumps over mighty ocean in a single leap, fights with demons and wins.

My grand-daughter Zoë is no exception. In 2006, when she was 4, I introduced her to Hanuman by showing her Hanuman cartoon episode. She loved it so much that I felt perhaps a little more introduction would one day result in some bhavna (faith in the Lord) in her. I designed this little coloring and activity book for and my grand-daughters. I am sure other children will enjoy this book.

That year, we celebrated my 65th birthday by inviting family and friends to Satyanarayan Katha at the Hindu Temple in Canton, Michigan. I had taught my grand-daughters not to ask for material things for birthday presents but only ask for blessings. Zoë quietly comes around and says, “you know what I would like for my birthday, Dada?” “What?” I said. “I would like you to build me a temple as big as a house,” she said.

By saying that she had indeed given me the best birthday present of my life.

After that and receiving extremely positive comments from all those who saw this little coloring book, I wrote in my 2007 Christmas letter that I will have this available to other children as well. To promise and to deliver are two different things. As things go, 2008-10 were busy years. Now it is 2011. It is time to deliver on my promise.

Some common concerns with coloring books.

1. Parents are often concerned about the ‘ill treatment’ the divine character Hanuman might receive at the hand of a child and somehow the child will be ‘not blessed’. We as parents need only remember that the images of all deities remain images until we start to worship that image, then the images are considered ‘alive’. The gods are not vindictive. If they are, they would not be gods. They do not get

mad because a child did not properly ‘handle’ His image. However, this represents a good opportunity for parents to teach a young child about respecting inanimate objects and properly handling images of deity. Obviously, we need to set an example for the young child to emulate. That means not to use pages in this booklet for wrapping food, etc.

2. How does one dispose these images? In India, it is a common practice to immerse these objects in the flowing body of water. In the West, this is not possible and besides illegal. As we mentioned before, these images remain images until they are worshipped. Otherwise it would be impossible to sell and dispose of the images and idols of gods. If your community has a recycling program, by all means put this booklet in the recycling bin. This is similar to disposing of an image in the water.

3. Are these images ‘alive’ each time a child says for example Jai Hanuman? We can give gods more credit than that. They know if it is a child who is learning. Don’t put these pages in home temple for worship. They are not meant for that purpose. No matter how cute, refrain from tearing off pages and sticking them on refrigerator with magnets. Although the divine is present everywhere, for all practical purposes, these images are not be considered ‘alive’.

We do hope that all your other questions related to worship at home would be answered in our book ‘Temple Set up and Worship at Home’. Thank you for choosing to educate your child in the basics of Hinduism. Not every child will develop bhavna as quickly as Zoë, but in years to come they will remember. To give your child an elementary exposure to Hinduism, please do consider our Dharma program when he is about 8 years old.

With our blessings for a happy, healthy life for you and your family.

Jai Shree Rama.

Bhupendra Hajratwala,
President
North American Hindu Association

