

CLEAR- Cahoots-Like Event at Rutgers

Indian Mythology

Packet by Jeremy Hixson

1. According to the *Matsya Purana*, everywhere that this hero stepped a chasm opened up; this hero became the son of Aditi and Kasyapa after the former performed the payovrata. This figure banished his chief enemy to rule the Sotala region of the underworld. A toenail belonging to this hero pierced the upper shell of the heavens and, in order to wash the foot, Brahma caused the celestial Ganges to begin flowing there. Shukracharya cursed his student after the latter refused to take his advice and not grant a promised boon to this hero, allowing this hero to then defeat Mahabali by encompassing the three lokas in three steps after taking the form of the giant Trivikrama. FTP, name this fifth avatar of Vishnu, taking the form of a dwarf.

ANSWER: Vamana

2. In one tale, this figure disguised a pack of jackals as horses in order to avenge the imprisonment of a follower, and another myth relates that the sage Durvasa was born to Anasuya as a partial incarnation of this figure after this deity shed an aspect of himself which annoyed the other devas. The river Gandaki was born of the sweat produced during sex between this figure and Vishnu in the latter's form as Mohini, and another story relates how this figure, pretending to be a fisherman from Madura, won a wife by catching a shark with a single net cast. In another story, this figure incited curses from the seven sages when, nude and covered in red and white chalk, he excited their wives, and another account says that Bhrgu cursed this figure, who held the poison of Vanuki in his throat after the churning of the ocean, to be worshipped only in the form of the linga. FTP, name this Hindu destroyer god.

ANSWER: Shiva [or Siva]

3. In the Vedas, this deity is charged with either declaring or making humans guiltless before the other gods. One story relates that this figure was swallowed by the decapitated head of Rahu, though he came out through the latter's neck, and in another account, this deity originally gave the Syamantaka to Santajit, which caused the death of the latter's evil brother. In another account, this figure fathered Sugriva on one of his own servants, Aruna, when the latter took the form of a woman. The wife of this god, when she could no longer stand his presence created a double of herself, Chaya, which gave birth to two of this god's children, including Sani. A seven-headed horse representing the rainbow is said to pull the chariot of, FTP, what Vedic sun god?

ANSWER: Surya [or Vivasvat or Visvakarma or Ravi or Vivasvan]

4. This figure cursed Havyaghna with black skin, the fairness of which was restored by Bharadvaja, but this deity also granted that that demon might eat of any sacrifice of his choosing. In one tale, the sight of Shiva touching the thumb of his wife resulted in this god releasing the semen that became Valakhilyas, while in another story, Bhairava was born of the anger that Shiva felt toward this god when insulted. In some traditions, this deity was born from Hiranyagarbha, a golden egg which was created by Vishnu and which this deity split into the heavens and the earth. The anger of Bhairava for the insult to Shiva and speaking a lie about reaching the end of a giant lingam resulted in the loss of a fifth head by this god, who famously grew that head and three others to lustfully watch his daughter Vak. Less worshipped than his partners in the Trimurti, this is, FTP, what Hindu creator god?

ANSWER: Brahma [prompt on Prajapati]

5. According to the *Atharvaveda*, this figure is responsible for guiding the dead to one of the three afterlives, and, atop the elephant Pundarika, this figure is the "fifth Lokapala", guardian of the southeast. In the *Mahabharata*, this deity helps Nila by destroying the army of Sahadeva, after he took the king's daughter Puloma as a wife. In one story, he removes the power of parrots to speak, though this is later partially restored, while some traditions hold that his chariot is pulled by parrots. Another story relates how he was cursed after demons took the wife of the sage Bhrgu. He is the messenger of the gods and is also responsible for the sacrifice. Usually depicted with two red heads and seven tongues licking the ghee, this is, FTP, what Vedic god of fire?

ANSWER: Agni

6. Deborah Soifer has argued that this hero's unusual step of locking his hands together so as to defeat an enemy without using his palm or fist indicates that this hero's myth descended from the Naumaci episode in the Vedas. In the *Shiva Purana*, this hero is defeated when Shiva assumes the form of Sharabha and carries him into the heavens to tear him apart. In the *Baghavata Purana*, this hero was born from a pillar and saved the bhakti Prahlada from his father's rage. Taking the asura on his lap so that he would not be on the earth or in heaven because of a boon granted by Brahma, this hero then slew Hiranyakasipu, whose rule of the world, this hero was born to stop. FTP, name this fourth avatar of Vishnu, which took the form of a half-man, half-lion.

ANSWER: Narasimha [or Nrsimgha]

7. This figure is sometimes thought to have joined Ida and Bharati in an early triad. In one story, this figure sustains a son on fish, so that he might maintain the Vedas in the wake of a twelve-year drought that weakens other sages; that son was given the power to bring rain which would end the drought, by the sage Dadhici, who fathered the child after his semen fell into this deity's river. Another myth tells how this figure was cursed to be born as that river by, and replied with the same curse to, Ganga after the two fought over love of Vishnu, though in a more famous myth about this figure the six sons of Kalanemi were reborn as demons after ridiculing this goddess's husband for both loving and fathering her in her form as Vak. The consort and daughter of Brahma, FTP, name this Hindu goddess of learning and music.

ANSWER: Sarasvati [or Saraswati or Srutadevata]

8. According to the *Katha Aranyaka*, it is this figure's head, and not Vishnu's, which was cut off by a bowstring, becoming the sun, while the *Aitareya Brahmana* states that this figure became the lord of cattle and ghosts after he was created from the assembling of all evil things in order to punish Prajapati for mating with Ushas. This figure is the husband of Prisni, whose name means "cloud" or "water bag", and is thus associated with the fertility brought by rain, though more often this god is named as the father, by Diti, of the Maruts. According to another myth, this deity blinded Bhaga after he was accidentally left out of a sacrifice, though either this god or Shiva later returned those eyes, which in some accounts represents the wrath of Brahma. Now considered an embodiment of Shiva in his anger, FTP, name this Vedic storm, hunting, and war god.

ANSWER: Rudra [prompt on "Shiva" until he is mentioned]

9. According to one tale, this figure gave Naciketas three boons, including knowledge of the eternal and of the fire ritual, because Naciketas had not been given food or drink for three days after visiting this deity. Due to a promise made to this figure in the incarnation of Atibala, Lakshmana committed suicide after Durvasha threatened to reduce an entire camp to ashes. When this figure attempted to kill Markandeya, Shiva rose from an idol and killed this deity, winning immortality for the eternally teenaged Markandeya. More famously, this god was the second to visit Kunti, fathering the oldest of the Pandavas, Yudhishtira. According to another story, this figure's father learned that Chaya was not really his wife, because she cursed this figure's leg with sores and worms, though more famously, he was deified after being the first mortal to die. FTP, name this green-skinned Hindu god of the underworld and death.

ANSWER: Yama [or Yamaraja or Kala or Yan Luowang or Enma-Dai-O]

10. One popular myth says that this figure wed a woman who was born from a deer, after he saw her guarding a millet field with a slingshot, Valli Amma. When this figure was born, all of the opposites of the world switched, including male and female, and some accounts state that the world became golden with the birth of this figure. This figure was born after Agni caught the seed of his father and transported it to the Ganges, though it was too hot for the river to bear, while another account says that he was fathered by Agni on six of the wives of the seven sages, who may have also nursed this figure, resulting in one of his names. The most famous myth about this figure saw him lose a golden mango in a race around the world, though riding quickly on his peacock, while his brother, Ganesha, simply walked around their parents. FTP, name this son of Shiva and Hindu god of war.

ANSWER: Skanda [or Kartikeya or Murugan or Senthil or Saravana or Guha or Subrahmanya or Velan]

11. According to one story, a certain species of squirrel received three stripes after this figure petted his fingers across the animal's back as a reward for that animal carrying sand. In some stories, the touch of this figure's foot will break the curse placed on Ahalya, the faithless wife of Gautama, who turned her to stone. This figure's sandals were kept on a throne for fourteen years by his brother Bharata, who, like this figure, was born to a wife of Dasaratha after the king acquired magical pudding. Kaikeya, Bharata's mother, used a boon to force this figure's exile to Dandaka. During that exile, he was accompanied by another half-brother, Lakshmana, who was also present when this figure won his bride by breaking a bow belonging to Rudra or Shiva, Sita. FTP, name this seventh avatar of Vishnu, the namesake of an Indian epic.

ANSWER: Rama

12. In the Rigveda, this deity is described as uniquely having a chariot pulled by goats, as well as being both the wooer of his mother and the lover of his sister. One myth in the *Sapatha Brahmana* relates that this deity, like the blinded Bhaga, was gravely injured when he tried to eat the semen spilled by Prajapati when Rudra slew him. According to the *Taittiriya Sanhita*, this god at the portion that should have gone to Rudra at the Daksha's sacrifice, causing all of his teeth to break, which in turn prompts descriptions of this god subsisting only on gruel. Like the other Adityas, this deity became a solar god, though M.L. West has argued that this god is cognate with the Greek Pan. Celebrated in the Vedic hymns as the protector of cows, this is, FTP, what Vedic divine shepherd and guide?

ANSWER: Pusan

13. One figure by this name, a son of Kasyapa and Muni, is the worst player at dice and is seen as a god of bad luck. In one story, the more famous figure by this name was forced to vacate a forest after being defeated in a dance contest by Shiva, when the latter unleashed his universe-destroying Tandava dance. Another tradition holds that this figure slew a band of thieves after they attempted to placate this deity by sacrificing a brahmin. This figure slew 60,000 asuras led by Chanda and Munda simply by humming, before going on to slay Shumbha and Nishumbha, in one story, while a more famous account of this deity sees her hold the asura Raktabija aloft on her spear, while drinking the demon's blood. Often depicted dancing on the body of Shiva and wearing a necklace of human heads, this is, FTP, what aspect of Devi, a violent and black mother goddess?

ANSWER: Kali [do not accept other names for Kali]

14. According to the *Vamasa Purana*, the river Kalindi became black after, at the instigation of this figure, Shiva jumped into it. In some stories, an avatar of this figure was found inside of a fish that swallowed him when he was six days old; eventually this figure's avatar wedded the woman who raised him, Mayavati, and slew the demon, who had tried to destroy him as a child, Shambara. That avatar was the hero Pradyumna, and in some accounts, this god was said to have been born from the right breast of Brahma. In the most famous myth about this figure, he was destroyed, as he stood poised to fire an arrow from his sugarcane bow,

by the third eye of Shiva. Accompanied by his wife Rati, this is, FTP, what Hindu god of love and desire, namesake of a famous sutra?

ANSWER: **Kama** [or **Kamadeva** or **Ananga** or **Manmatha** or **Pushpadhanva** or **Pushpavan**; accept “Pradyumna” until it is said]

15. According to the *Matsya Purana*, these creatures ran amok, devouring all of the gods, demons, and people of the world, till Narasimha created a group of 32 benign goddesses to calm them, after Shiva created these deities to drink the blood of Andhaka and prevent it from birthing more demons. In the *Mahabharata*, these deities were dispatched to slay Skanda at his birth, but chose not to upon seeing him. According to the *Devi Bhagavata Purana*, these deities came into being from the shaktis of several male gods in order to help Kali in a fight with Shumbha and Nishumbha, and these goddesses correspond to a number of the more popular Vedic gods. Including the goddesses Brahmi, Vishnavi, and Indrani and usually consisting of seven or eight deities, this is, FTP, what group of goddesses, whose name stems from their nursing of Skanda?

ANSWER: **Matrikas** [or **Matara** or **Saptamatrikas** or **Ashtamatrikas**]

16. In Tibetan Buddhism, this figure, two of whose features are symbols of the equality of duality, represents the Dzogchen yogin, and this figure is associated with the Khyung of Bon myth. In the *Mahabharata*, this figure, due to the deceit of Svaha, who took this figure's form when disposing of Agni's semen, is mistakenly blamed for the birth of Skanda. One myth claims that this figure, by dropping a broken tree branch, created the island of Lanka, while other traditions claim that, due to this figure's striking golden appearance, the gods mistook him for Agni and began to worship him. This figure drained many rivers and bested a razor-spoked wheel in order to steal the amrita needed to ransom Vinata, this deity's mother, who had been cursed to servitude to Kadru by this figure's brother Aruna. The avowed enemy of the nagas and the king of birds, this is, FTP, what Hindu eagle god, the vehicle of Vishnu?

ANSWER: **Garuda** [or **Garutman**]

17. One story relates how this deity married Srutavati, the daughter of Bharadvaja, after she used her own legs as fuel to cook his dinner, while in another, he seduces the wife of Vatsaknavi, Mukunda, by taking on the guise of Rukmangada. His primary wife is sometimes called Suci, and he wed her after slaying her father Puloman. This deity won his retinue after stealing into the vagina of Diti and slicing the fetus therein into 49 pieces, which became the Maruts. After sleeping with Ahalya, this god is cursed by her husband Gautama to be covered in vaginas, though these are later changed to eyes. Having used his divine weapon, the thunderbolt Vajra, to free the waters from the draconic demon Vritra, this is, FTP, what Vedic storm and war god?

ANSWER: **Indra**

18. In one myth, this figure, with Anala, Yama, and Aryaman, was one of the disembodied pitris born to Brahma. In another story, a daughter or wife of Brahma, Gayatri, in the form of a bird, was sent to heaven to fetch this figure, but this king of penance, brahmins, and plants was captured by the Gandharvas, only to be released when Vak came to save him. This figure fought alongside Rudra and the asuras against the devas in a war known as the Tarakamaya, which was sparked by this figure stealing a wife of Brihaspati who bore Budha to this god, Tara. Another story relates that this figure was punished with the loss of part of his body for two weeks at a time after he was cursed by Daksha for loving Rohini more than the sage's other daughters. More often conceived of as a powerful substance beloved by Indra, this is, FTP, what Vedic god of the moon, as well as an intoxicating divine drink?

ANSWER: **Soma** [or **Chandra**]

19. According to the *Devi Bhagavanta Purana*, this man fought a battle in which he killed over 30,000 yaksas, after those demons had slain his half-brother, Uttama, with whom he shared a father, Uttanapanda. The spot where this man performed his austerities over a period of years is known as his namesake mandala, as those austerities caused the Ganges to descend from the heavens and begin flowing there. In his heavenly form, this son of Suniti is bound to all other celestial bodies by invisible ropes made of the winds. In one version of the story, this boy began his austerities at the age of five, in order to acquire a place on Vishnu's lap, after his stepmother denied him such a place on his own father's lap. FTP, name this rishi, who because of his devotion to Vishnu became the North Star.

ANSWER: **Dhruva**

20. One story relates that this figure is standing on a brick for all eternity, waiting for the sage Pundalik to finish rubbing his parents' feet, and two Tamil texts strangely describe this figure's otherwise unattested kuravai dance. This figure granted a naga and his clan a place on Ramanaka Island safe from the wrath of Garuda, though earlier this figure had avenged the death of cattle and cowherds near the Kalindi River by dancing on the heads of that naga, Kaliya. More famously, as a child, this figure killed a demoness with poisoned breasts by sucking out her life force. In addition to killing Putana, this figure slew his evil uncle, who had tried to kill this figure as a baby, Kamsa, and this figure was also renowned for his relationships with the Gopis, especially Radha. A brother of Balarama and son of Vasudeva and Devaki, FTP, name this avatar of Vishnu, whose teachings are found in the *Bhagavad Gita*.

ANSWER: Sri **Krishna** Vasudeva [or **Hari Krishna** or **Kistna** or **Kristna**]

Indian Mythology: Packet 2

1. One story says that these figures were born from Agni's tears, while another says that they rescued Bhujyu, who had been thrown overboard in the sumudra. In the *Mahabharata*, these figures offered cake before restoring the sight of Upamanya who, starving on his teacher's orders, was blinded by eating arka leaves, and these figures won their shared bride, who had been intended for Soma, by winning a race, Surya, the daughter of Savitri. These figures tried to trick Sukanya into choosing one of them to replace her husband after they restored that man's sight and youth; in return for those gifts, Chyavana, granted them the soma which Indra had forbidden them. They were born after a certain god learned that his wife had become a horse to escape him, thus explaining their equine heads. Consisting of Dasra and Nasatya, FTP, name these divine twins, the sons of Surya and gods of medicine.

ANSWER: Ashvins [or Asvins or Aswins or Ashwins or Ashvinau or Asvinau or Ashwinau or Aswinau; accept "Nasatyas" and "Dasra and Nasatya" before the latter is said]

2. According to a Javanese legend, the prince Natakusuma was led to the palace of this figure by two purple does, never to be seen again. According to one story related in the *Devi-Mahatmya*, this figure saved Brahma by slaying Mandu and Kaitabha, two demons born from Vishnu's earwax, and this deity also controlled the yoginindra of Vishnu which followed each kalpa. In the most famous account about this figure, she appeared, beautiful and eighteen-armed, at the gates of heaven, promising to marry whoever could defeat her; however, this figure then beheaded the buffalo demon who tried, Mahisha. In some stories, this goddess was produced by the combined anger of Vishnu and Shiva, while others credit her anger with causing Kali to spring from her brow. FTP, name this sometimes wife of Shiva.

ANSWER: Durga

3. According to one story, in order to escape from the attack of this figure, Varuna had transformed into a swan, and consequently granted those birds a pure white color, and another story relates the failure of this figure to free Mahabali from Patala. Some traditions hold that this figure and one of his brothers were the second incarnations of Jaya and Vijaya, the cursed doorkeepers of Vishnu, while another story relates that the demons Mahabal and Atibal were created from particles of the atmalinga that this figure had stolen from Shiva. This figure removed the wings of a son of Aruna, Jatayu, after the latter attempted to stop this figure from fleeing in a flying chariot, the Pushpaka, which he had stolen from his half-brother. As Jatayu was dying, he informed a certain hero that this figure had abducted the latter's wife, Sita. FTP, name this rakshasa and king of Lanka, the chief foe of Rama.

ANSWER: Ravana [or Ravan]

4. According to one popular myth, this deity beheads Adisesa, when the latter's hoods are covering Mount Meru. In a tale related by Visvamitra in the *Ramayana*, this god became desirous of the daughters of Kusanabha, but twists and deforms their bodies when they refuse, though they become beautiful again when they marry Brahmadata. In the *Bhagavata Purana*, Garuda spent an entire year protecting the summit of Mount Meru from the attacks of this deity, who had been incited by Narada to break it off; when Garuda departed, this god succeeded in his attack, tossing the summit into the ocean to become Ceylon. In soma rituals, this god, who rides a chariot drawn by as many as 1000 red horses, is given the first offering. In the *Mahabharata*, this god, who is known as Pavana in his aspect as the purifier, fathered the second-eldest of the Pandavas, Bhima. Created from the breath of the primeval Purusha, this is, FTP, what Vedic god of the wind?

ANSWER: Vayu

5. In one story, this figure punished a sage, who had pierced butterflies with a broomstick as a child, with a non-lethal trident spearing; that sage, Ani Mandavya, then cursed this deity to be reborn to a maidservant and the sage Vyasa. This deity had thirteen wives, including ten of the daughters of Daksha, and sired an incarnation of Vishnu who stopped a rampaging Shiva with an axe formed from a grass blade, Narayana. One avatar of this deity was the sage Vidura, who served as a major advisor to the Pandavas, and this figure was also credited as being born as one of those sons of Kunti, Yudhishtira. Some traditions state that this figure was born from the right nipple of Brahma and was the father of Kama. A deification of an idea developed from rta and satya, this is, FTP, what Hindu concept-turned-god which encompasses duty, ethics, and truth?

ANSWER: Dharma [or Dharmadeva; accept "Vidura" until Vyasa is said; prompt on "Vidura" until it is said]

6. In one myth, the gandharva king Citraratha fought this hero, when he saw the former bathing with his wife. In another story, this hero, who is sometimes said to be a reincarnation of Nara, appeared as the kliba Brhannala, in the kingdom of Virata and served as the charioteer for Uttar before marrying one of his sons to Uttara. According to one story, this man was killed in battle by his own son by the princess Citrangada, Babhravahana, but was restored to life by his naga wife Ulupi, but he is better known for slaying his half-brother Karna, the son of Surya. By winning an archery contest, this figure took Draupadi as his wife, though he had to share her with Bhima and others. The youngest son of Kunti by Indra, this is, FTP, what member of the Pandavas and hero of the *Mahabharata*, best known for his conversation with his charioteer Krishna?

ANSWER: Arjuna

7. According to one account, Indradyumna was cursed to become one of these creatures under the name Gajendra, and fought with man-turned-crocodile Huhu for thousands of years before regaining his shape at Vishnu's touch. When Agni was hiding in the asvattha tree, one of these creatures informed the gods, and Agni cursed all of these animals to have backward-bending tongues. According to one tradition, a daughter of Indra, Teyvayanai, was raised by one of these creatures before wedding Murukan. Mount Meru was formed when Indra removed the wings from several of these creatures, which were annoying him, and Indra is also associated with the celestial king of these creatures, Airavata, who served as Indra's mount. FTP, name this large mammal, a white one of which heralded the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, but which is best known for providing the head of Ganesha.

ANSWER: Elephants

8. The sage Bhrigu produced two family lines, one for Brahma and one for this deity, who oversaw the ceremony which saw that sage's birth, while this figure appeared with Agni, Indra, and Yama in the form of Nala in order to trick Damayanti. This god awarded Gandiva to Arjuna, who also returned the bow to this figure, while another story says that Urvashi was offered a pot with the semen of this god and Mitra. A protector of rta, this god, like Yama, is symbolized by the noose, which he used to punish the unjust, while another symbol of this figure was his vahana, the water beast adopted by Kama, the makara. In the earliest Vedic tradition, this figure is heavily connected to the deity Mitra, though because this figure is an Asura, he is later associated with maya and the night. Formerly head of the Devas before being surpassed by Indra, this is, FTP, what early Vedic god of the rain, water, and the ocean?

ANSWER: Varuna

9. According to Sayana, Dadhyancha was beheaded by Indra when the latter stole this deity's cow, which produced soma from its udders. In the *Mahabharata*, this god tried to avenge the death of his son Trisarisi by creating a beast, whose chief attribute, that he was "Indrasatru" is undermined by a misspoken accent by this god. Though in the Vedic tradition, this god birthed the demon Vrtra, he also used the bones of Dhadici to create the thunderbolts used by Indra to slay Vrtra. This god used his lathe to trim some of the brilliance from Surya, allowing the latter to retain his relationship with this god's daughter, Samjna. In some of the Vedas, this god comes into existence at the same time as the Cosmic Waters, and he is credited with forging both the earth and the sky. Credited with designing and fashioning all things, this is, FTP, what Vedic smith god, who is sometimes equated with Visvakarman?

ANSWER: Tvashtr [or Tvashtri or Twashtri; accept "Visvakarma" or "Viswakarma" or "Visvakarman" before the last is said]

10. One account holds that this deity was born from the austerities of Prajapati, only to have ten items stolen by the other gods upon first being seen, while in the *Devi Baghavata Purana*, this deity was split from Radha after the two were born from the creator's left side. According to one myth, this deity was cursed to be born as a horse for lusting after Revanta, leading to the birth of Ekavira, while in another myth, this deity was cursed and born as the Tulasi plant raised by Dharmadvaja, before wedding the demon Sankhachuda. According to one account, this goddess was indirectly responsible for the death of Ravana as punishment for that demon's rape of a meditating Vidhyadhara girl, Another incarnation of this goddess was kidnapped from her wedding to Sisupala by Krishna, but this goddess is more famous for her birth as Sita. FTP, name goddess of wealth and good fortune, the wife of Vishnu.

ANSWER: Lakshmi [or Laksmi]

11. According to the *Shatapatha Brahmana*, Visvakarman promised, after performing the sarvamedha, to give this goddess to Kashyapa as his wife, causing her to throw herself into the ocean; as a result of this Brahma took the form of the boar Emusha to return her to the surface. After being rubbed by tusks of either a demon or a deva, this goddess gave birth to the demon Naraka, who was given a boon to never be slain by anyone but Vishnu, who in the form of Krishna did just that. In the *Ramayana*, after Rama accepted Kusha and Lava as his sons, Sita returned to live with this goddess, her mother, who gave birth to Sita when a furrow was plowed. FTP, name this Hindu earth goddess, who along with Laksmi, is frequently depicted as a wife of Vishnu.

ANSWER: Bhumi [or Bhudevi or Prithivi]

12. According to the *Brahma Purana*, this creature returned from the underworld at a certain tirtha in the Ganges, named for himself, where bathers were granted a special boon; this creature had been dispatched to the underworld to slay the demon Sindhusena, after the latter had stolen the yajna, or fire sacrifice, and hidden it there. According to the *Shiva Purana*, this creature was flayed and killed by the horns of Shiva, who had taken the form of a great bull, and also killed this creature's sons. In the *Vishnu Purana*, this creature was born from the nostril of Brahma and immediately dove into the sea. This creature rescued the goddess Bhumi, who had been kidnapped by Hiranyaksha, after goring that asura with one of his tusks. FTP, identify this third avatar of Vishnu, which took the form of a great boar.

ANSWER: Varaha

13. Balarama slew the demon Dwivida, who had taken the form of one of these creatures, with a single punch, when the latter interrupted his sacrifices, and, in another tale, Visvakarma was cursed to live as one of these creatures, due to a boon given by Ritadhvaja to Tsitsrangada, a daughter cursed not to marry by her father. In another myth, Vishnu tricked Narada by giving the sage a face like one of these creatures so that he could not win the love of Srimati in an illusory city, and one king of these creatures was given the ability to take half of the strength of anyone who fought him and add it to his own. That creature, Bali, became enraged at his brother when the latter blocked a cave in which Bali fought a son of Maya, which ultimately led to Rama killing Bali

in a sneak attack to place Sugriva on the throne of these creatures. FTP, name these primates, which aided Rama in his war against Ravana.

ANSWER: Monkey [or Ape; prompt on “Vanara”]

14. According to the *Padma Purana*, this deity cursed Hemamali with leprosy because the latter was too busy cavorting with his wife to retrieve the flowers this god needed for his worship. This deity has a mace which was made from the fragments of the sun shaved off in Visvakarman’s lathe. In the *Mahabharata*, Bhima invades this deity’s kingdom to collect the special lotuses that grow there for Draupadi, while in another story, this god tries to humiliate Shiva for his poverty and as a result is nearly eaten with everything he owns by Ganesha, who is only satisfied when Shiva gives him a small amount of food. The leader of the Yaksas or the Guhyakas, this god controls all of the gems and precious metals inside the Earth. Though the chief of the demons according to the *Atharvaveda*, this is, FTP, what Hindu god of wealth, the half-brother of Ravana?

ANSWER: Kubera [or Kuvera or Kuber]

15. According to the *Bhagavata Purana*, this figure nearly conducted 100 horse sacrifices, which would have given him more power than Indra, but he was convinced to stop at 99 by Brahma. According to the *Vishnu Purana*, this man could only be born after all of the sin in his father’s body was removed in the form of a Nishada, born by rubbing the thigh of this man’s father; after this man’s father had been beaten to death with blades of holy grass by the sages, this king was born by rubbing the wicked Vena’s right arm. Bhumi, in the form of a cow, ran away from this man, who made Svayambhuva Manu take the form of a calf so that he could milk that cow, whose milk became all of the fruits of the earth. Sometimes regarded as a partial avatar of Vishnu, this is, FTP, what man, whom the *Satapatha Brahmana* identifies as the first human king and who in the Vedas lends his name to the earth?

ANSWER: Prithu

16. In one story, this figure snuck into the Golden Fortress by hiding on the head of Turantantikai as a beetle, before defeating Ahiravan, who had kidnapped two of this figure’s friends in the hopes of sacrificing them. According to one tradition, the birth of this figure lifted the curse on the goddess Punjikastala, who had been incarnated as Anjana, and this figure’s birth to Anjana was a result of a boon given by Vayu, who is also sometimes the father of this figure. More famously, this figure received a scar on his chin from a thunderbolt of Indra after this figure mistook the Sun for a giant piece of fruit, though more famously, this general under Sugriva lifted a mountain with medicinal herbs after swallowing the moon to save those injured by Indrajit. Famously burning the city of Lanka after Ravana set his tail on fire, FTP, name this monkey-god and ally of Rama.

ANSWER: Hanuman [or Hanumat or Anjaneya]

17. The smell of one of these objects resulted in a frog giving Seraman a headache in a Sinhalese myth on the origin of the gammaduva ritual, while, according to the *Sri Tiraupatatevi Manmiyam*, several golden examples of these objects formed from the tears of Nalanyi, resulting in that woman’s birth as Draupadi and marriage to the Pandavas. In another myth, Indra hid in one of these objects after slaying Vritra, until convinced to come out by Agni and Brihaspati. More famously, in some traditions, one of these objects will serve as the foundation of the three worlds after sprouting with Brahma from the navel of Vishnu, while another story relates how Lakshmi first appeared during the churning of the world ocean both atop one of these plants and holding another in her hand. FTP, name this sacred flower of Hinduism.

ANSWER: Lotus [or Padma or Nelumbo nucifera; prompt on “water lily”; prompt on “flower” or “blossom” before “flower” is said]

18. According to Sayana, these deities’ hiding from Savitr under the names Hotr, Adhvaryu, and Udgatr is the origin of the practice by which priests take a name from their function during a sacrifice. W. Norman Brown argues that, along with the “Gambler’s Hymn”, the best known act of these deities involved one of only two uses of the “Act of Truth” incantation in the Vedas. These deities created a self-moving, horseless carriage for the Asvins and restored youth to their aged parents. In the *Rigveda*, these deities refashioned the cup of the gods made by Tvastr into four separate cups, driving Tvastr to hide among the wives of the gods in shame, and prompting Savitr to grant them immortality. Sometimes identified as representations of the seasons, these are, FTP, what deified craftsmen, the mortal sons of Sudhanvan?

ANSWER: Ribhus

19. According to the *Brahmanda Purana*, this hero, at the request of some brahmins from Gokarna, drove back the sea, creating the modern coast of Malabar, after threatening Varuna with an arrow. This hero, famed for his penance and austerities performed at Mahendra Mountain, earned the admiration of his father when he became the only one of Jamadagni’s five sons to kill his mother, Renuka, for having impure thoughts, and later he avenged the death of Jamadagni and recovered his divine cow, Sushila, when he cut off the thousand arms of Kartaviryarjuna. When this hero was repeatedly denied entrance to see Shiva by Ganesha, he broke off one of Ganesha’s tusks. Named in part for the weapon given to him by Shiva, this is, FTP, what sixth avatar of Vishnu, which partially shares his name with two other avatars of that god.

ANSWER: Parasurama [or Rama-with-an-Axe]

20. According to the *Valmiki Ramayana*, because of a curse from this figure, Bhumi became the wife of both Vishnu and Hiranyaksha, among others, while in another tale, the demon Adi was killed after his immortality failed because he took the form of this figure. In a Tamil story, Vishnu rescued this figure, who had been awarded to Ravana because of the latter’s devotion, by convincing the demon that he had received an illusion, while in another tale, an avatar of this deity served as a doorkeeper for Ravana, before a hit

on the head from Hanuman reminded this deity of her identity. Virabhadra was born along with a form of this deity's anger, Bhadrakali, when this goddess's husband let down his hair in anger at the death of this figure in the sacrificial flame of her father, Daksha. Reborn following the immolation of Sati, FTP, name this mother of Ganesha and wife of Shiva.

ANSWER: Parvati [or Parvathi or Uma or Aparna; accept "Bhadrakali" or "Sati" before either is said]