

Film Presentation

Topic: Indian History & Mythology

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of

Masters in Design, Animation

By

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Animation and Film Design

IDC School of Design

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BOMBAY

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## Declaration

I hereby declare that the project work done in relation to my Graduation Project I film and submitted as a written report to the Industrial Design Centre, IIT Bombay is a record of the original work done by me under the guidance of Professor Phani Tetali. Unless otherwise stated, the contents of this report in the form of the text and images are entirely my own. The views expressed in the documentation as part of the written submission of the project are my own and do not necessarily represent the views of Industrial Design Centre, IIT Bombay.

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May, 2019



## Approval Sheet

The report committee for Animation Design, IDC School of Design, IIT Bombay certifies that this is the approved version of the following report on : Indian History and Mythology by Abhishek Soni, 176340004

Guide:



Internal Examiner:



Chair Person:



External Examiner:





## Acknowledgement

This film as a part of my P3 presentation was an incredible experience and learning opportunity for me. The expert level guidance and amazing insights given by my guide and colleagues on the topic and the production process helped me enrich my personal as well as professional growth. Words cannot express how grateful I am to my guide, Professor Sumant Rao, who has not only guided me throughout the entire process but also pushed me to venture out beyond my comfort zone and accomplish my second animation film with a little more in-depth knowledge of the concerned topic.

I am grateful to Prof. Nina Sabnani, Prof. Shilpa Ranade, Prof. Phani Tetali and Prof. Mazhar Kamran, who have also guided me from time to time and encouraged me on the right path with their valuable criticism and suggestions.

And last but not the least, I'd like to convey my gratitude towards my parents, friends and peers who constantly supported my off book endeavour and kept me grounded enough to see this project through completion.

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## Abstract

The Fall of Dwarka is the action saga from the life of most worshiped Indian deity Lord Krishna, Working on Indian History & Mythology as a subject to study for my p3 has been a topic connected to way back to my childhood, as we grew up watching Ramanand Sagar's Ramayana, Shree Krishna, Mahabharata, Vikram Betal, etc these series were not as advanced in terms of visual development but they provided good moral ground. In the late 90's Yugo Sako's Ramayana: The Legend of prince Rama aired which made a big impact in the lives of rural kids as concepts, animation technique and story treatment which was quite unusual from what we have been watching regularly and inspired us with the possibility that we can give wonderful animation films with our Indian stories.

As a part of my p3 project I preferred to research on the life of Krishna as there are still many part of his life that people are unaware of. The city of Dwarka is one of them, The city was built on command of Lord Krishna with land emerged out of the sea (over the Gulf of Khambhat and near the coast of Modern Dwarka at present). The ruins of Ancient city is today found submerged underwater which brings out the fact that all of the stories and folk tales were not mere mythology but an actual history. There were series of bad omens and curse casted on Krishna which led to the destruction of Yadu clan and death of Lord Krishna, thereafter entire city was flooded and submerged underwater.



## Chapter 1: Research

### Why Dwarka was Established-

As Krishna slays Kamsa and frees his father Vasudeva and King Ugrasena  
 With death of Kamsa his allies (Shishupala, Jarasandha, Salva) turned enemies to Krishna and Mathura and repeatedly attacked the city,  
 This created a constant fear among the citizens of Mathura  
 To avoid any harm to citizens, Lord Krishna decides to commission Vishwakarma to build Dwarka city  
 Vishwakarma urges sea to provide him land to build city upon, all the 'Suras' helped Vishwakarma to build the legendary city by providing the technologies from 'Swarga'.  
 Before Jarasandha planned his next attack, Krishna moved Yadu clan and citizens of Mathura to Dwarka city

### Curses casted upon Krishna and Yadu clan-

As the war of Mahabharata ended with the death of entire Kuru clan, over death of her sons grieving Gandhari blames Krishna responsible for the bloodshed and tremors  
 She curses him with the same fate like Kuru clan, his entire Yadu clan will die due to outbreak of a civil war,

Krishna himself will die no noble death but as a common man.  
 Under protection of Krishna, Yadu clan emerged as the most powerful race on the planet, but he knew overtime his clan will become a burden on Earth, so he took on the curse to himself.  
 With all the luxuries Yadus went dissipated and forgot the righteous morals they got from Lord Krishna  
 On arrival of sages, Krishna's son 'Sambh' dressed like a pregnant woman and went along with his friends to ask the sages if he carries a boy or a girl in his womb  
 On being disrespected Sages said, "you'll neither have a boy or a girl, but an iron maze which will destroy your entire filthy clan.  
 Sambh eventually found an iron maze inside his fake belly pot, frightened with the bad omen he informed Ugrasena about the incident who then orders him to destroy the maze and dump it in sea  
 Sambh ground iron maze into fine particles but still left with a small iron piece which he dumped in sea along with iron powder  
 Fine iron particles get deposited on seaweed on shores and iron piece was engulfed by a fish. A huntsman caught the fish and cut open to find iron piece which he turned into an arrow.



## Destruction of Yadu Clan-

On an evening, all of the Yadu's were having party and drinks near the shore. Each one bragging about themselves, bragging eventually turned into blaming and which resulted in breakout of fights between drunk yadus.

One of them took iron hardened seaweed and pierced body of other, followed by everyone killing each other with seaweed swords. Balarama being depressed by the sight sat on penance and departed earth.

## Attack on Dwarka city-

Meanwhile Kamsa's last ally demon Shalya attacks Dwarka city with Vimana

Bombarding city with weapon

Krishna called Arjun to evacuate citizens of Dwarka city take them to Hastinapur

Krishna responds and slays Shalya, but gets wounded on his right leg

On the last day of his life as he left Dwarka and was resting under a tree in forest, Jara the huntsman shot his right feet from a distance expecting it to be a silhouette of a deer

Krishna bleeds to death.

## Thoughts behind the Action:

Knowing the Difference  
between 'Nyaaya' and 'Dharma'  
(Nyaaya= Justice; Dharma=Path to Righteousness)

Atman over Aham  
(Atman= To everyone; Aham= To self)

Words to Fate  
Action of Blessing and Curse)



## Chapter 2: Pre-Production

### Analysis

- Why are we using animation as a medium to tell the story of Dwarka fall?
- Setting up a structure (Shuffling back and forth if required)
- Interpretation with respect to modern context
- Contraction and expansion of time & Turning world upside down.

### Concepts

- Shalya's Attack on Dwarka city
- Taking the curse on Himself & Death of Krishna
- August sage's curse on Yadus & Civil war

### Final Concept: Death of Krishna



## Stories

### Intro-

After the bloody war of Mahabharata, Gandhari blamed Krishna for demise of kuru clan and that he did not tried enough to stop the war. Grieving over the loss of her sons Gandhari curses Krishna to witness civil war and death of his entire dynasty just like the kuru clan.

The war was inevitable and though it was to protect Dharma, Krishna had to face the consequences of his Karma, moreover he knew that Yadav clan being most powerful will corrupt with time and become burden on earth. In spite of being a divine being, Krishna took the curse onto himself.

### Plot-

Exposition- The omen acted after 32 years when all his sons fought and killed each other.

Rising Action- Demon Shalya being perspicacious about the critical time prepares for attack on Dwarka city. Hovering over the kingdom he showers missiles and bombards on palaces, while army attacks on aircraft Krishna orders rest of the civilians to evacuate the city through tunnels. City turns into battle ground with Krishna riding atop Garuda and fighting Shalya.

Climax- Shalya shoots missile and wounds Krishna on his right leg, Krishna then crashes to the ground with his right leg fuming. He then evokes Sudarshan Chakra and shoots at aircraft which blows the vimana of Shalya into pieces.

Falling Action- Wounded Krishna goes into woods where he rests beneath a tree aside shore where he gets shot on the same leg by the arrow of a huntsman who mistakes his shadow to be a silhouette of a deer.

Resolution- Krishna with bleeding leg accepts his time of departure, dives into lake and surrealistically sinks into space.

### Points to be considered:

Understanding the concept of curse and blessing  
Placing depiction with a personal context

Duration : 3 min



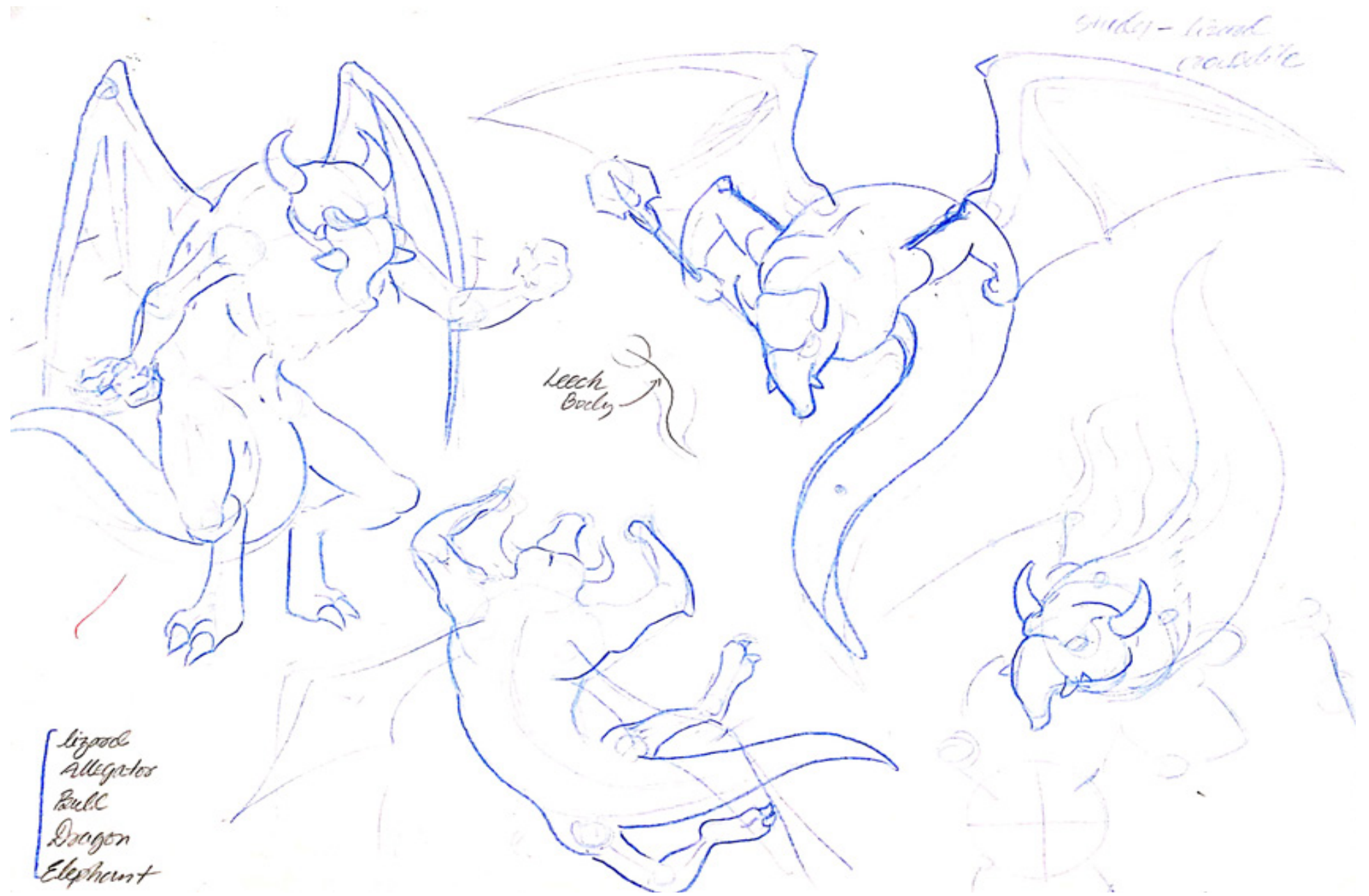
## Final Story

Krishna resting on side of lake wounded  
 Recalls Gandhari curse for him being responsible for the loss of her sons  
 In the water we see the fighting between his sons and the destruction of the Yadava clan  
 Somewhere in Naga parbat ,Storm gusts across the valley as Shalya climbs up to the temple of Maya Danava  
 He being aware of the death of Yadava clan, requests Maya to grant him powers to defeat Krishna,  
 Maya grants him powerful Vimana  
 Shalya flies to Dwarka to seek revenge  
 Shalya surrounds Dwarka, ready to attack  
 Folks inside Dwarka scared  
 Krishna orders evacuation of the city  
 Attack begins  
 People taking shelter/escaping  
 Krishna searches for Shalya and locates him  
 Mounts Garuda  
 Krishna urges Shalya to return back and do no further harm  
 Shalya recalls defeat of his allies Kamsa, Jarasandha, Shishupala and denies to return back  
 Encounter between Krishna & Shalya  
 Krishna uses Sudarshan chakra  
 But before perishing Shalya manages to injure Krishna  
 Seeing his people are safe, Krishna flies off on Garuda towards a forest.

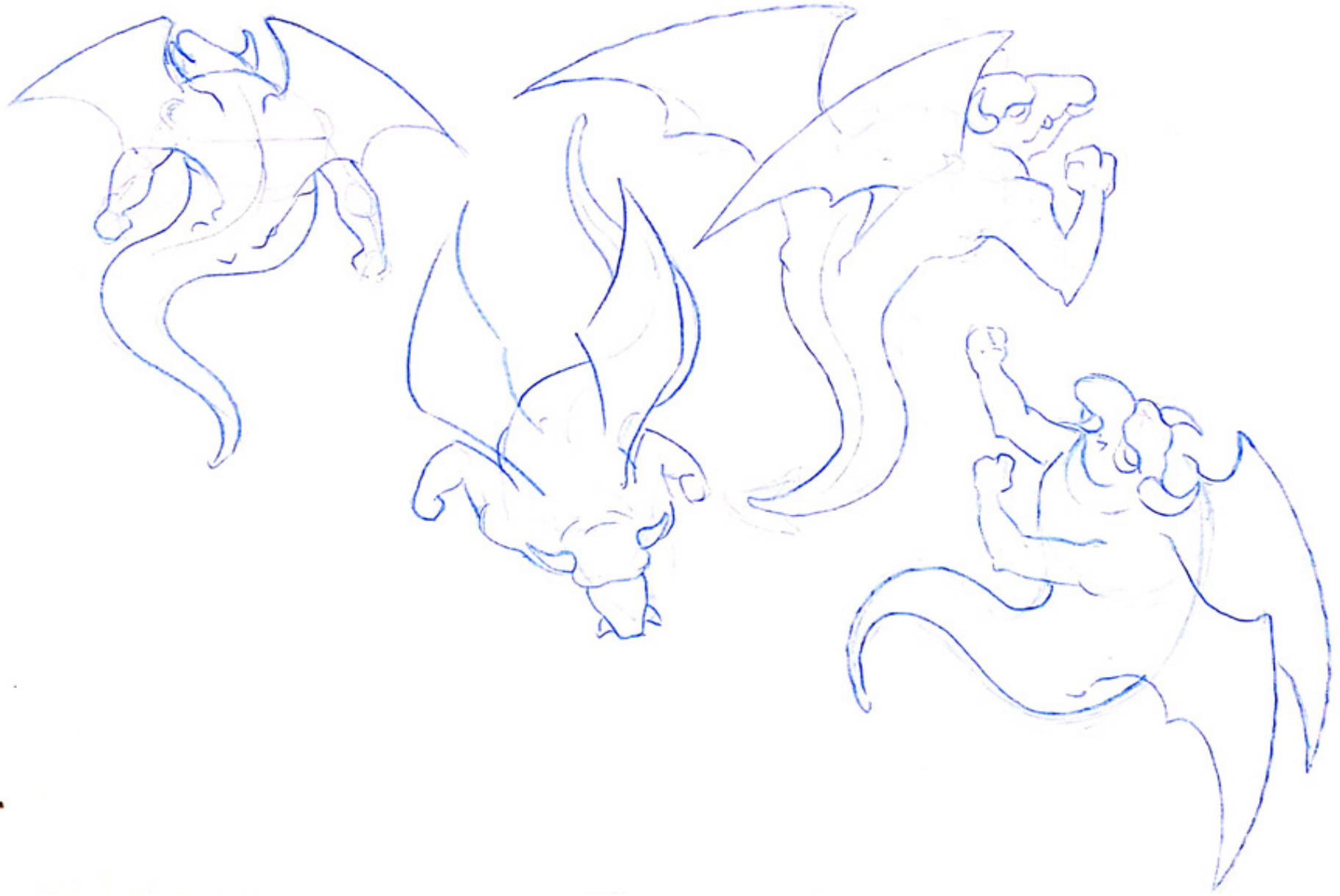
Continue scene 1  
 Hunter seeing silhouette of Krishna which looks like a deer?  
 Krishna aware of what's happening but does nothing  
 Hunter shoots arrow  
 Krishna with bleeding leg accepts his time of departure,  
 Dives into lake and surrealistically sinks into space.

## Character Explorations-









## Character Design - Krishna



## Character Design- Malya (Shalya + Maya)

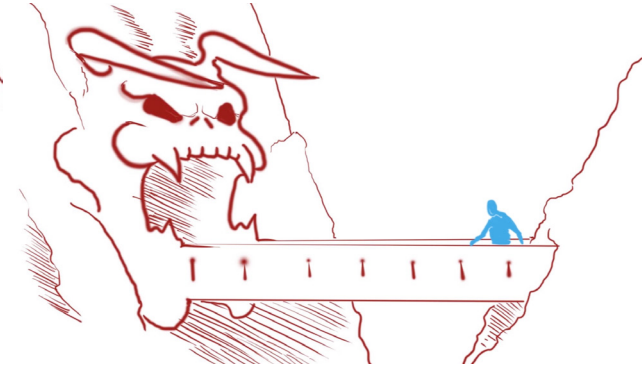


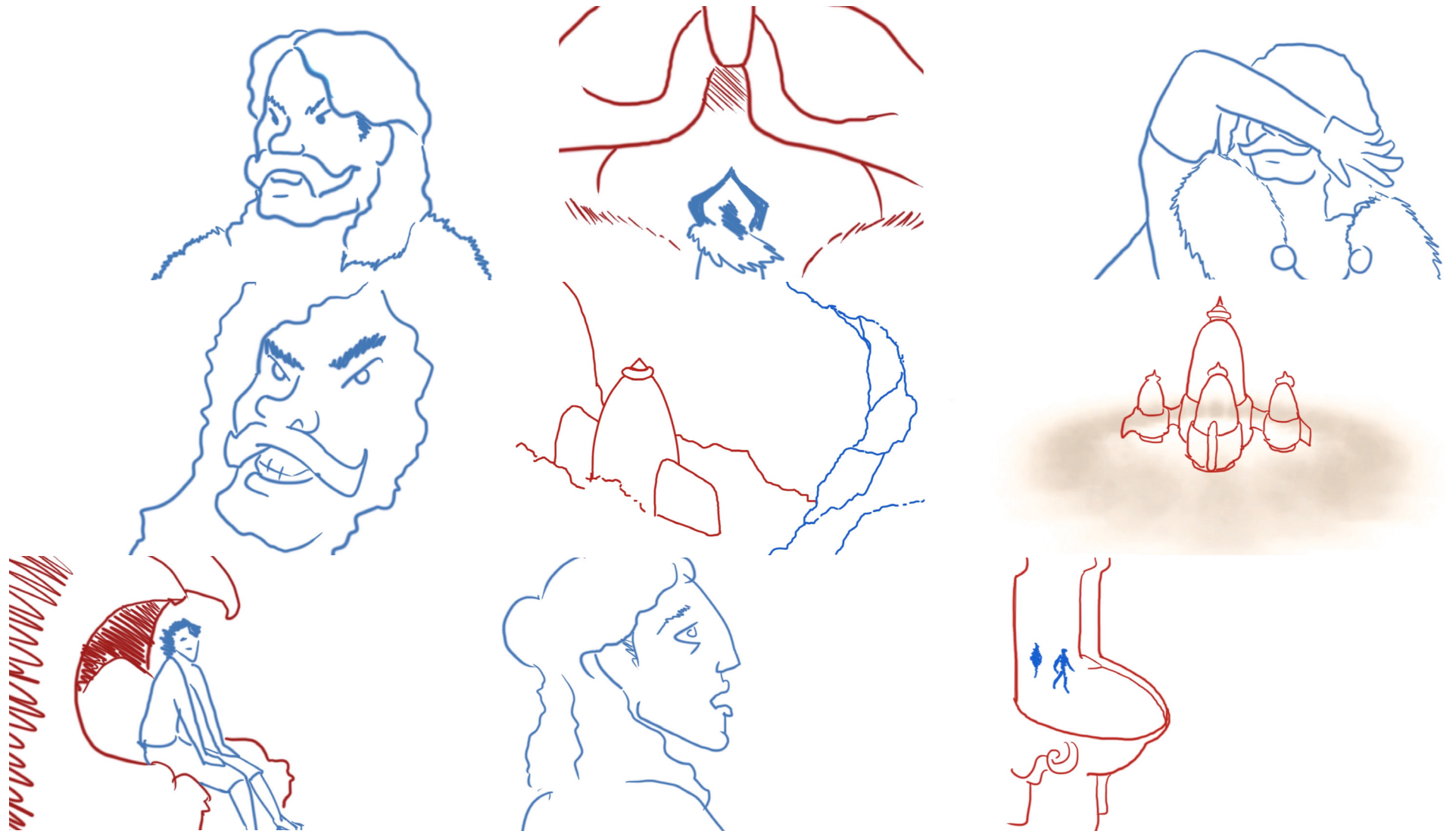
## Concept Art-

The following sketch illustrates valour of lord Krishna, when he being aware of the arrival of his death and prepares for his final fight with Shalya. He encounters Garuda to tell him about his plan to depart from Earth to Vaikunta. Krishna was aware that his deeds earned him enemies who could do anything to see him die and yet he was assured that his deeds preserved righteousness.

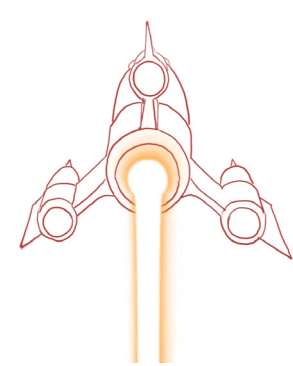
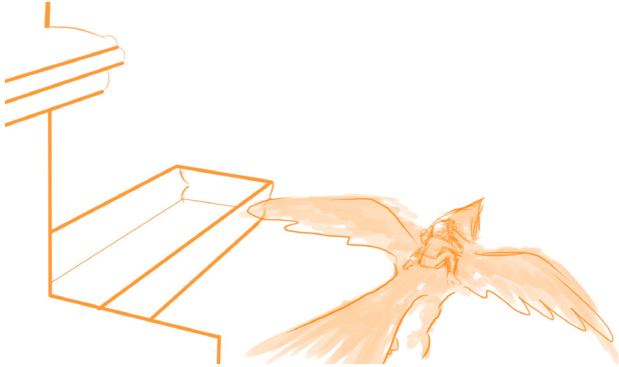
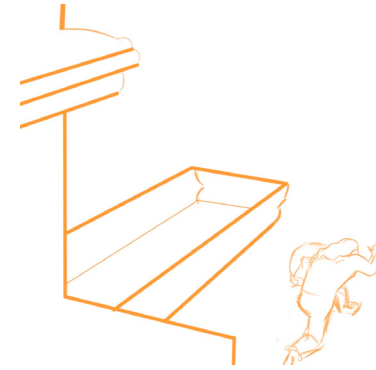


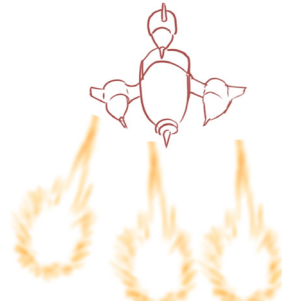
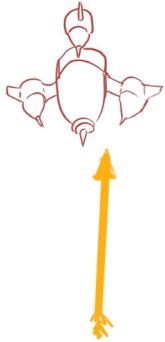
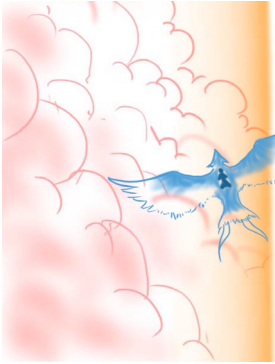
# Story Board-

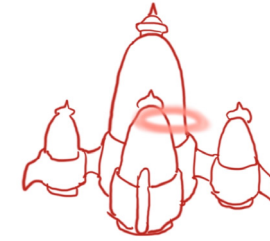
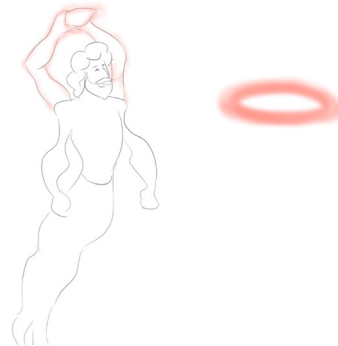


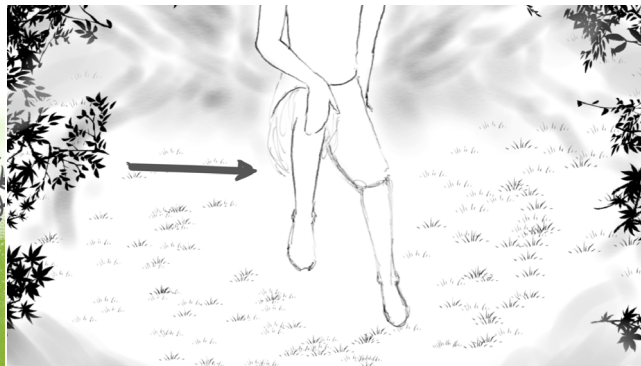
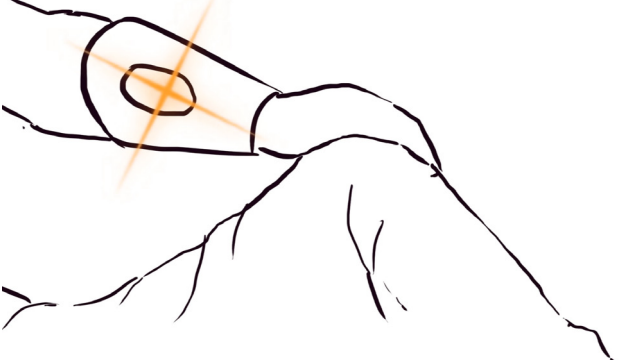
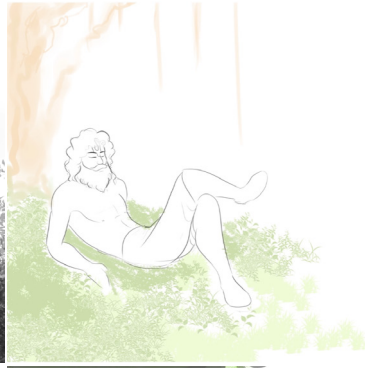


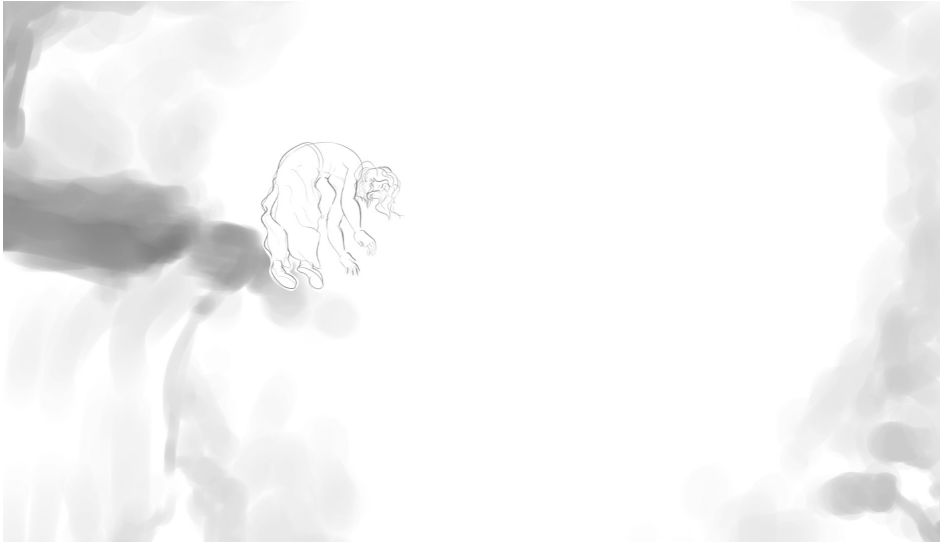












## Visual Development-

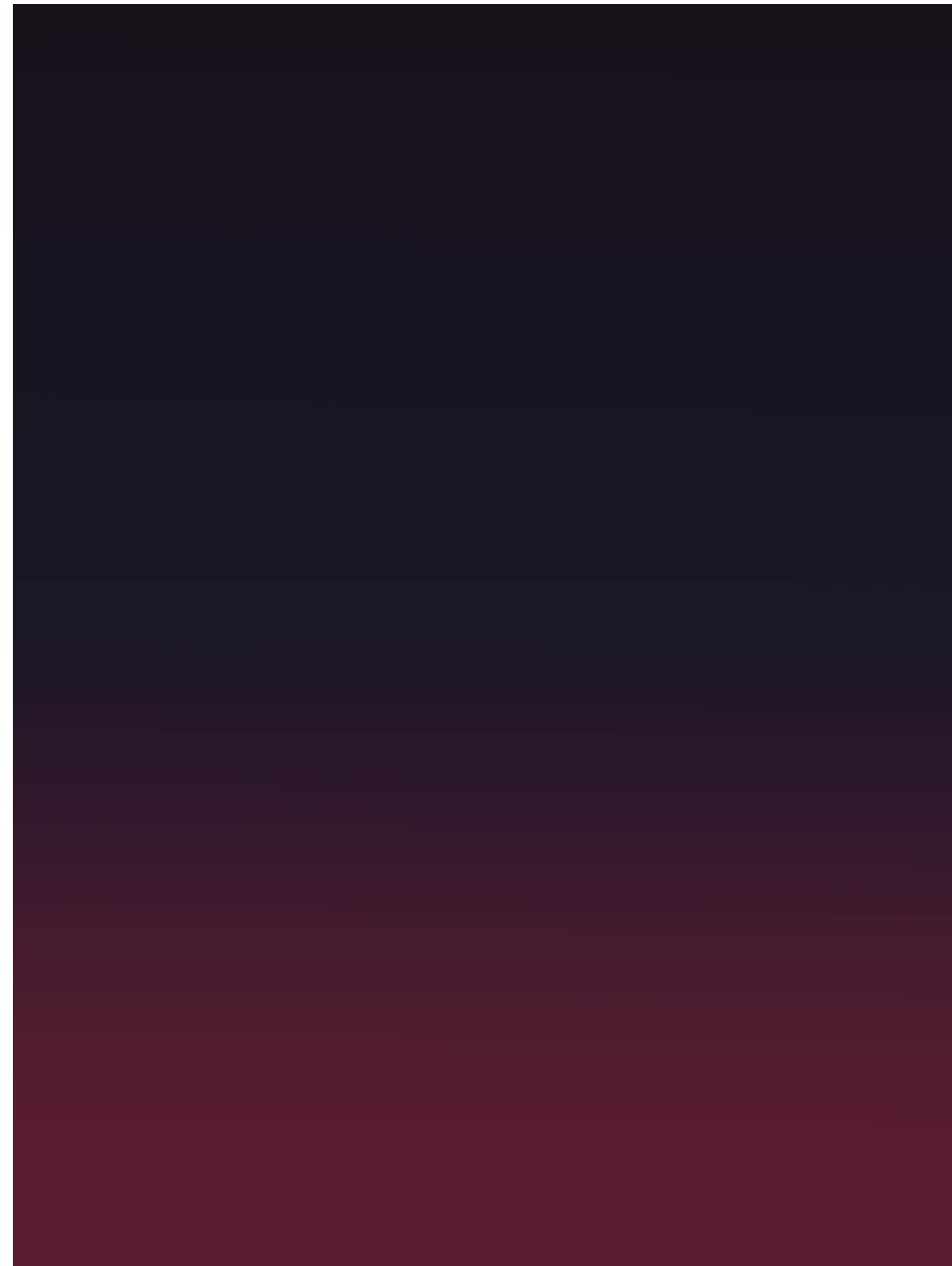
### Shot- Maya Unleashed

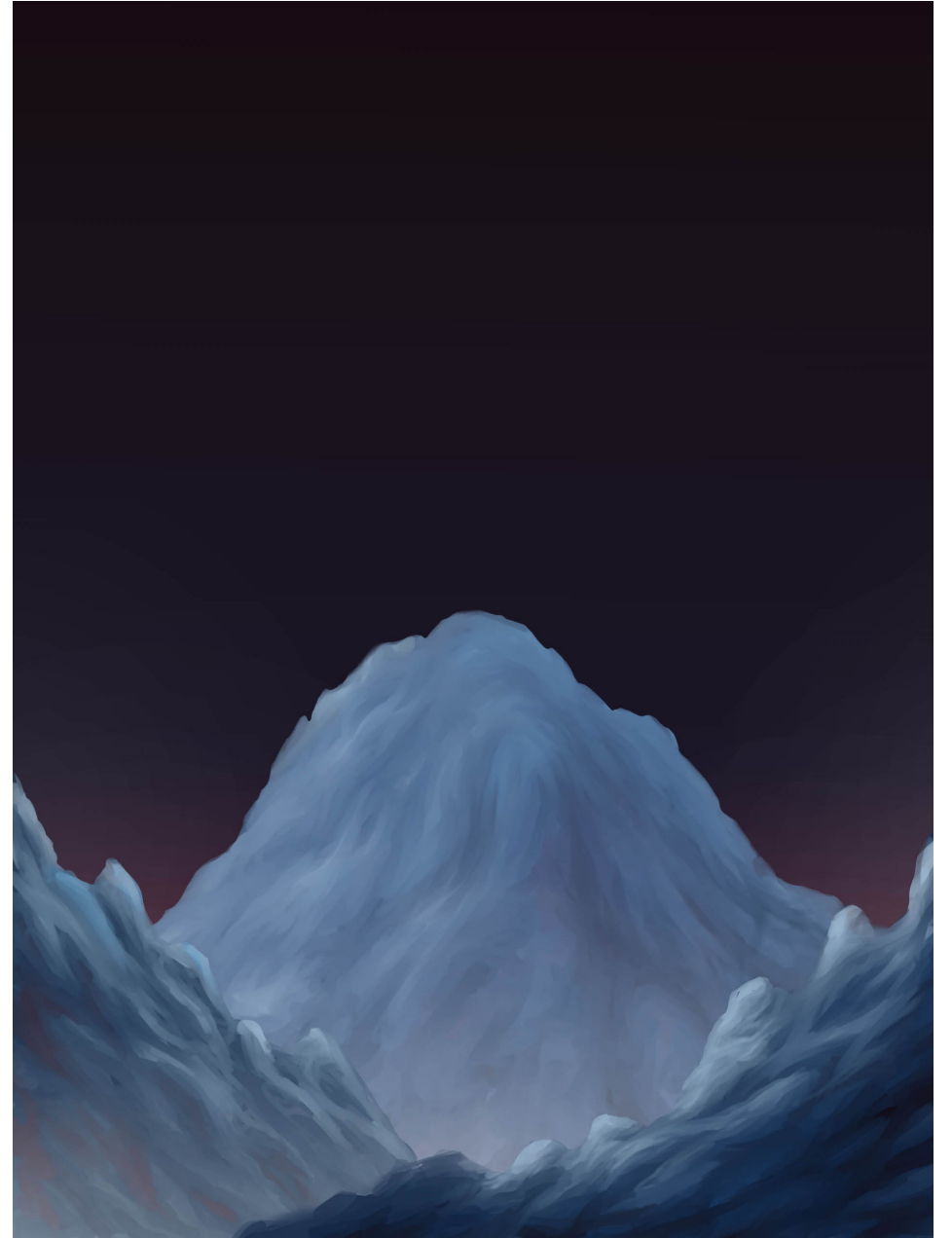
Visual development of a shot starts with selecting the mood board for the shot. as per the color palette gradient is laid as the base layer,

followed by digital painting of the environment, in the following imageries the mountains are painted in different layer so that they can be imported in After Effects in form of composition. Being comprised of several layer gives the scene advantage for parallax to be achieved which panning camera across.

Then the final character (malya) is added, the shot reques the character to unfold his wings while emerging out of the mountain and hence wing are drawn in seperate layer which are then parented to the main character, scaling wings along x axis in AE gives the effect of wing unfold.

Fx like thunder, dust and clouds are added to the squence while compositing. Camera panning is done to complete the shot.



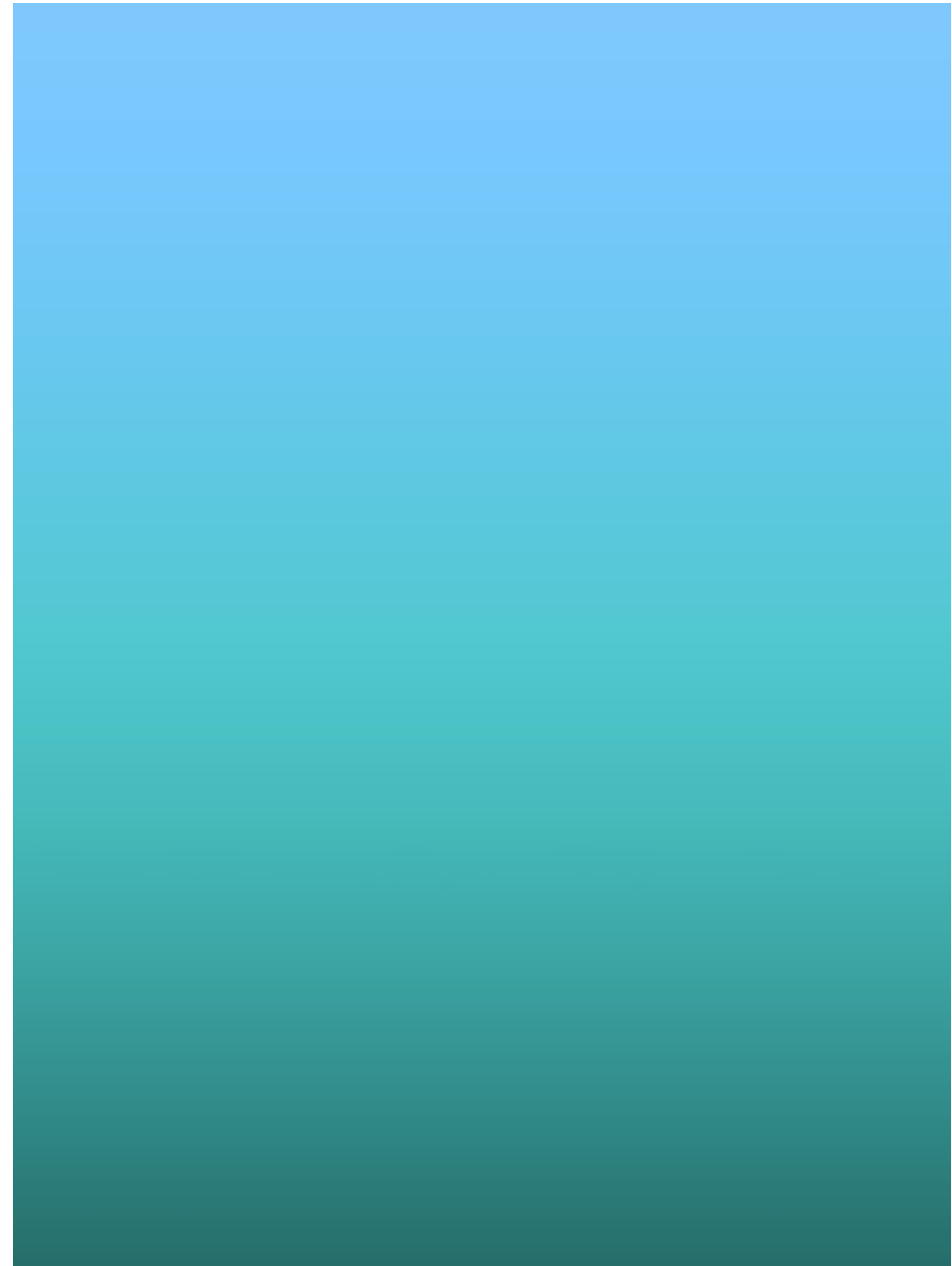


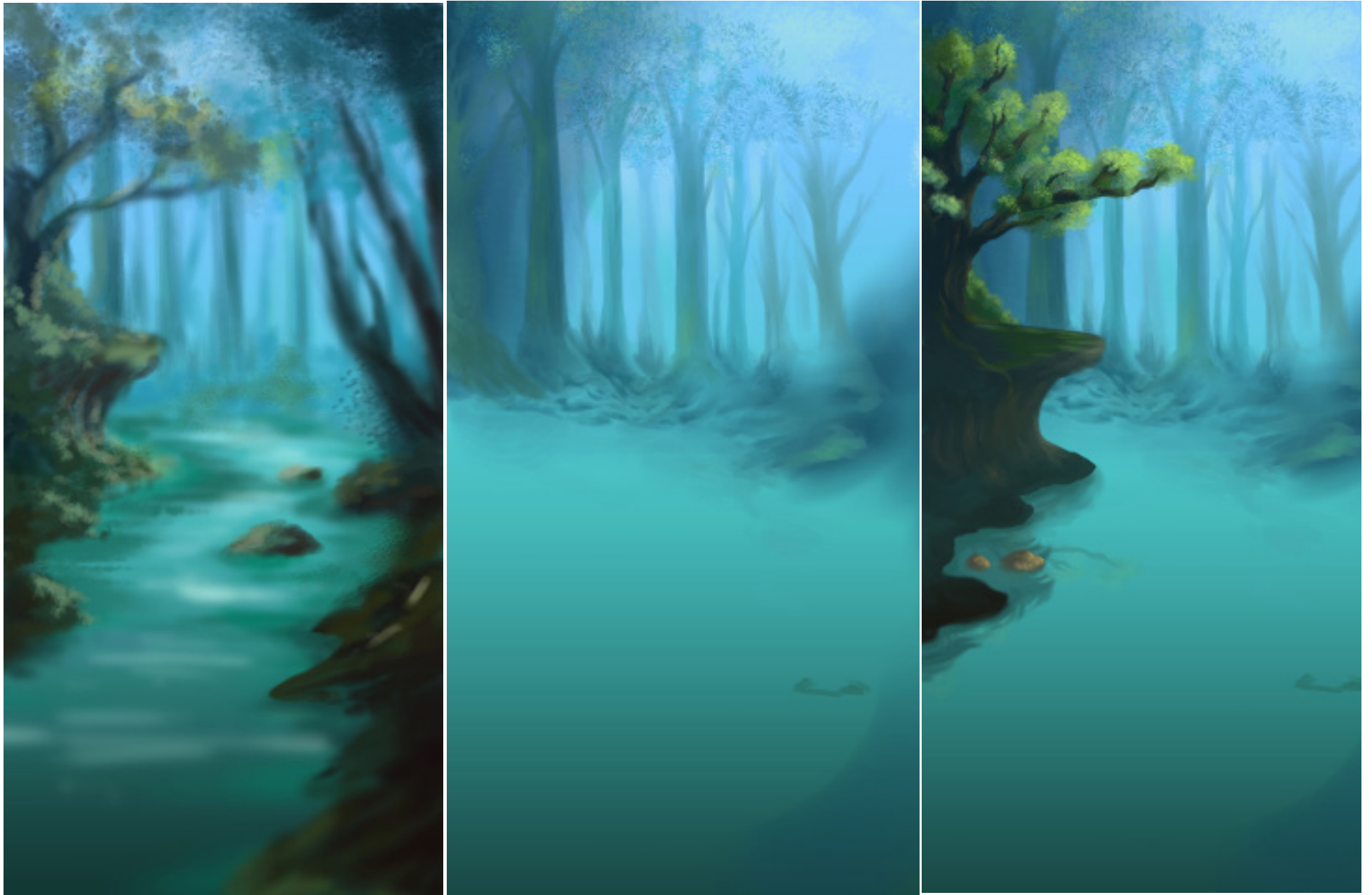


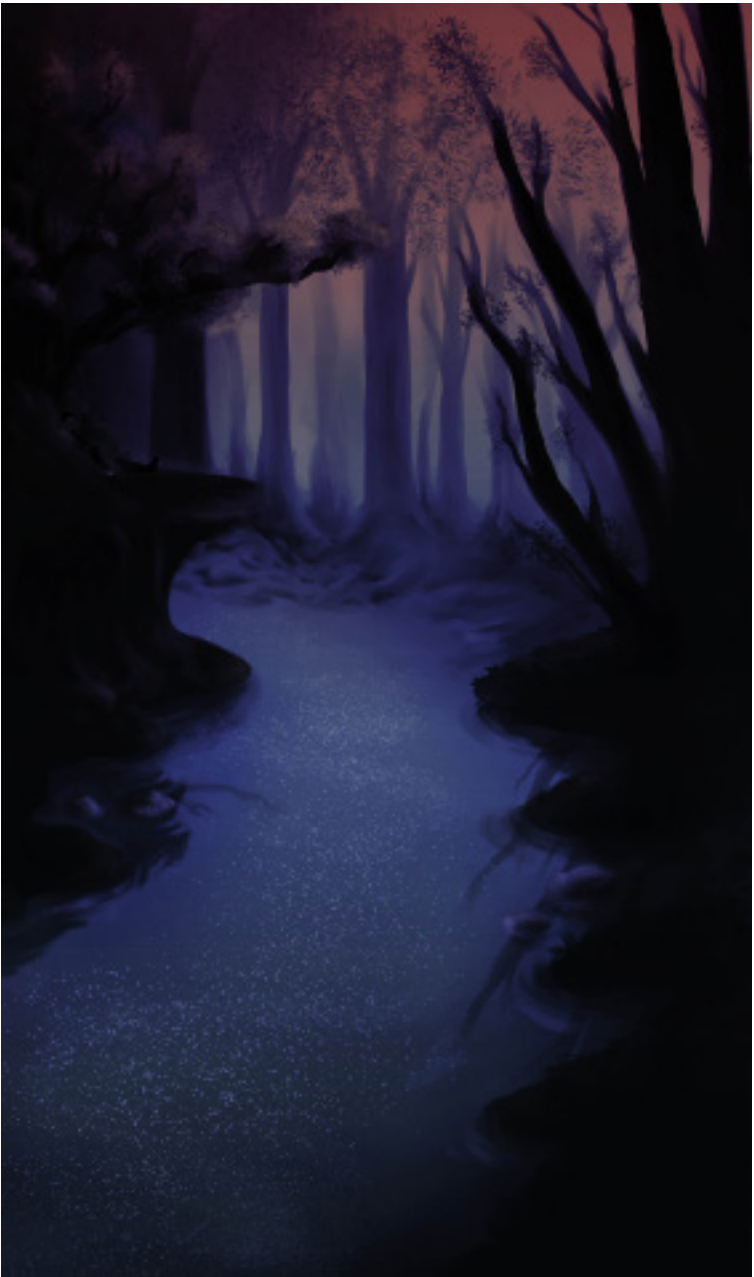


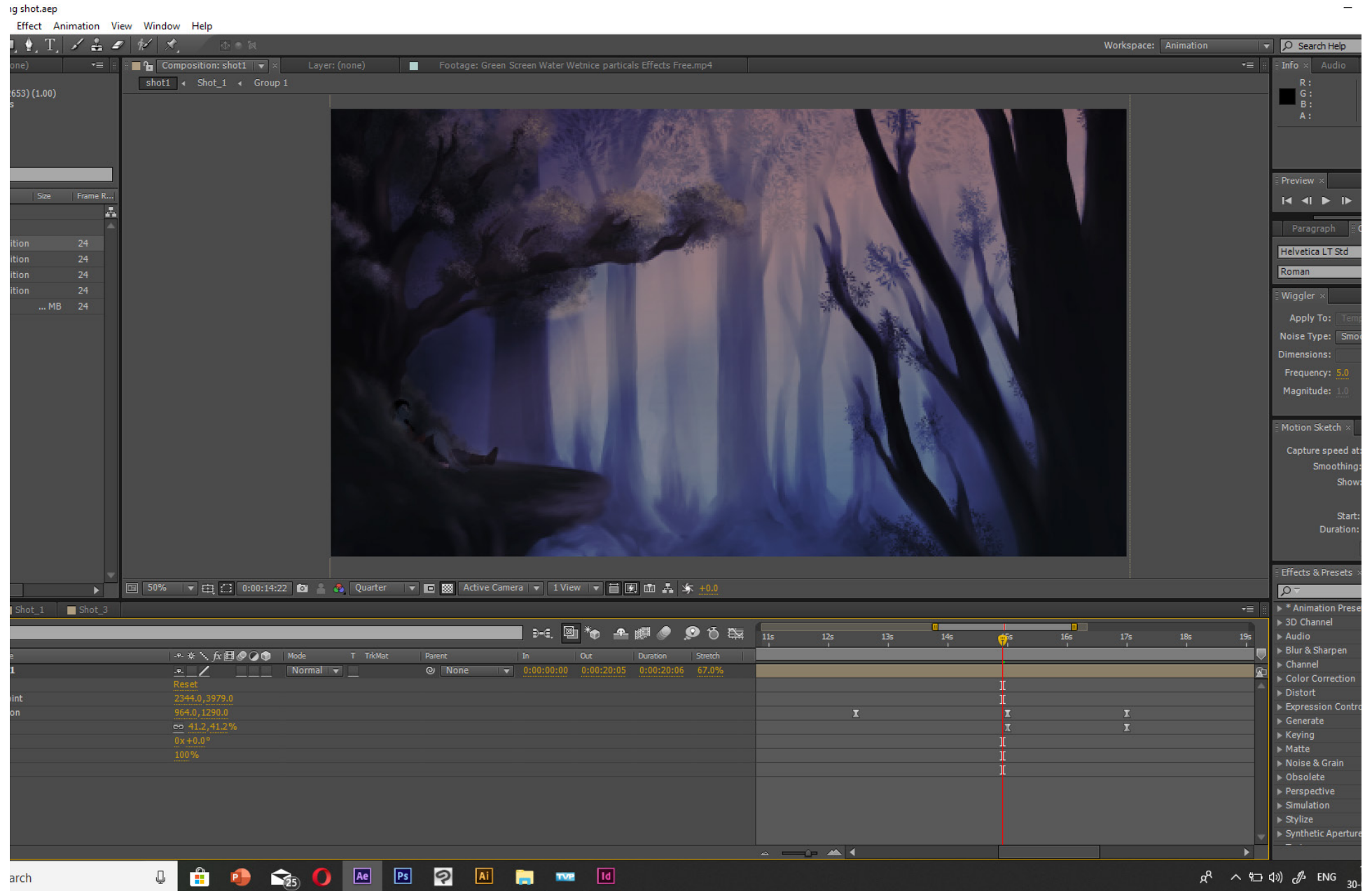
## Establishing Shot-

Establishing shot design started with creating the base gradient followed by planning rough layout of the environment. Next to it, i started painting background and foreground in different layers. As the painting process is completed, i applied filters like Hue/Saturation, Curves, etc in order to achieve the mood board required for the shot.









## Look & Feel :

Animation and Illustration process has completely been done digitally, working on digital medium gave leverage to alter the visual development process at any point of time, it also reduces time and effort for the production process, The illustration part (Mostly background) is done in Photoshop and Clipstudio Paint where as the character animation is being done in TvPaint.

These files are then composed together with application of fx in After Effects.





## Sound and Music

“Sound and sound design has always been very important to my approach to film, because it is a more subversive and allusive aspect of the medium”

-Larry Fessenden

Due to the specific topic chosen, the background music needed to be melancholic, that could match the pesky environment with the dawn of Kaliyuga. The setup ancient time period is matched with tunes of Sitar with wisdom of Lord Krishna. Arrival of antagonist is also accompanied with a disrupted flute music, and abrasive wind sound.

### Voice-over

The rough voice over used in the animatic was all done by myself just for timing purposes. However, for the final voices I sought the help of my fellow batch mates for their voice talents. The dialogues are in Hindi.

### Foleys and Effects

Most of Foleys are sound bites downloaded from the internet. While few were from Zapsplat.com, others were mostly taken from Freesound.org and YouTube sound library. A few of the sound effects were recorded as foley sounds.



## Thoughts and Learnings:

Working on P3 academic project has been a great learning and skill development, There were many challenges that fell on the way while carrying out the project, keeping up the motivation to work on the project. Initial challenge was to condense all the ideas that sprouted in me during the early research phase and channelize them into something tangible. The story has been altered several times and evolved according to the research process and time played a crucial role.

Fortunately, I had people to guide me throughout the process that is to be carried out in different stages from Research to Pre-Production and in Production phase.

The Challenges i faced while carrying out project were:

- 1) Maintaining a similar style throughout the animation film
- 2) Maintaining the proportion of the characters.

Iteration after iterations on the work i did, my will to progress further even though i could figure out the mistakes i did in previous shots gave me the valuable lessons to learn and improve in the Art of Animation and Film making.

Film is a very powerful medium. It has the ability to take a person into the world and shoes of another, it has the ability to kindle our innermost human emotions and it has ability to create and destroy. I am grateful to have given this opportunity to recreate an event from the life of Lord Krishna and present it to the world.



## Reference

### Articles-

Krishna Uses Jarâsandha and Establishes the City of Dvârakâ :  
<http://bhagavata.org/canto10/chapter50.html>

The Curse Upon the Yadu Dynasty:  
<http://bhagavata.org/canto11/chapter1.html>

The Disappearance of the Yadu dynasty:  
<http://bhagavata.org/canto11/chapter30.html>

The Ascension of Lord Krishna:  
<http://bhagavata.org/canto11/chapter31.html>

### Videos-

Death of Krishna:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsiAdXU0-uQ>

Krishna's Character:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRyETD0iGY4>