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# *tales of lord Krishna*

**ISSUE 68**

**MAGAZINE**







## *Issue 68*

# ENJOY IN THIS ISSUE

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# *Krishna and the beloved town*

DEVAKI AND VASUDEVA'S EIGHTH CHILD, KRISHNA, WAS DESTINED TO BE THE DESTROYER OF EVIL. THIS MADE DEVAKI'S BROTHER, KAMSA, VERY NERVOUS. HE HAD THROWN DEVAKI AND VASUDEVA IN PRISON AND KILLED THE SIX CHILDREN BORN TO THEM. DEVI YOGAMAYA HAD PROTECTED THE SEVENTH CHILD USING HER MAGIC. A FEW MONTHS LATER, ON A RAINY NIGHT, KRISHNA WAS BORN.

KAMSA HAD VASUDEVA TIED UP IN CHAINS. ANY ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE WAS IMPOSSIBLE. BUT AS SOON AS KRISHNA WAS BORN, TO VASUDEVA'S SURPRISE, THE CHAINS FELL OFF! HE KISSED HIS NEW BORN SON AND HUGGED HIS WIFE.



THIS IS NO ORDINARY CHILD. HE WILL BE OUR DELIVERER. IT IS OUR DUTY TO PROTECT THIS EIGHTH CHILD OF YOURS, THE SAVIOUR OF THE UNIVERSE



BUT HOW CAN WE PROTECT HIM?  
KAMSA WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT

VASUDEVA FOLDDED UP THEIR BLANKETS TO MADE A SOFT BEDDING AND PLACED IT IN THE BASKET. HE TENDERLY PICKED UP THE NEW BORN CHILD AND PLACED IT INSIDE. HE COVERED THE BASKET WITH A SHAWL.

"WHERE ARE YOU TAKING MY CHILD?" DEVAKI CRIED OUT. VASUDEVA LOOKED AT HER AND SPOKE GENTLY, "YOUR CHILD?" THEN DEVAKI REMEMBERED WHAT HAD HAPPENED JUST BEFORE THE CHILD WAS BORN. LORD VISHNU HAD APPEARED TO THEM. AS THE COUPLE FELL AT HIS FEET, THE LORD HAD SAID

I'M GOING TO  
BE BORN AS  
YOUR EIGHTH  
CHILD.



THUS, THE LORD OF THE UNIVERSE HAD  
TAKEN BIRTH AS HER CHILD. DEVAKI  
JOINED HER HANDS IN SALUTATION.



GOVINDA, YOU  
HAVE CHOSEN TO  
BE BORN TO ME.  
YOU SHOW US  
THE WAY.

VASUDEVA PICKED UP THE BASKET AND  
PLACED IT ON HIS HEAD. EVERYTHING HE  
DID WAS FULL OF CARE AND  
TENDERNESS. AS VASUDEVA WALKED  
TOWARDS THE PRISON DOOR, THE  
LOCKS FELL OFF, AND VASUDEVA  
WALKED OUT. WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE  
GUARDS WHO WERE FAST ASLEEP, HE  
WALKED AWAY, UTTERING THE NAME OF  
THE LORD, "GOVINDA, GOVINDA,  
GOVINDA..." IT WAS THE DEAD OF NIGHT.  
THE STREETS OF MATHURA WERE  
DESERTED. NOT EVEN A DOG BARKED.  
VASUDEVA WALKED UNMINDFUL OF THE  
RAIN. HE WAS NOT EVEN AWARE THAT A  
SEVEN-HEADED SERPENT HAD OPENED  
ITS HOODS OVER THE BASKET LIKE AN  
UMBRELLA, SHIELDING THE CHILD FROM  
THE RAIN.





IT WAS THE DEAD OF NIGHT. THE STREETS OF MATHURA WERE DESERTED. NOT EVEN A DOG BARKED. VASUDEVA WALKED UNMINDFUL OF THE RAIN. HE WAS NOT EVEN AWARE THAT A SEVEN-HEADED SERPENT HAD OPENED ITS HOODS OVER THE BASKET LIKE AN UMBRELLA, SHIELDING THE CHILD FROM THE RAIN. VASUDEVA HEADED STRAIGHT TO THE RIVER FRONT. YAMUNA WAS SWELLING WITH WATER. NO ONE WOULD DARE CROSS THE RIVER WHICH WAS RISING BY THE MINUTE. SAYING, "GOVINDA, GOVINDA..." VASUDEVA STEPPED INTO THE RIVER.

AS SOON AS HE TOOK A STEP FORWARD, THE RIVER PARTED, MAKING A PATH FOR VASUDEVA TO CROSS OVER. VASUDEVA WALKED, CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY THE SEVEN-HEADED SERPENT WITH ITS HOODS SPREAD OVER THE BASKET

AS SOON AS VASUDEVA REACHED THE OTHER BANK OF THE RIVER, HE STARTED WALKING TOWARDS GOKULA. AS HE NEARED THE HOUSE OF HIS FRIEND NANDA, WHO WAS THE VILLAGE CHIEF, HE FOUND THE DOORS OPEN. HE WALKED THROUGH THE DOORS. AT NANDA'S HOUSE, HIS WIFE YASHODA HAD JUST GIVEN BIRTH TO A GIRL CHILD, WHO WAS NONE OTHER THAN DEVI YOGAMAYA. UNDER THE SPELL OF YOGAMAYA, YASHODA WAS FAST ASLEEP. AS VASUDEVA LOWERED THE BASKET, BABY YOGAMAYA SMILED AT THE CHILD IN THE BASKET.

VASUDEVA PLACED HIS SON NEXT TO THE SLEEPING YASHODA. HE PICKED UP THE GIRL CHILD AND PLACED HER IN THE BASKET. HE PLACED THE BASKET ON HIS HEAD AND LEFT. HE DID NOT EVEN GLANCE AT THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR WHERE ROHINI, HIS FIRST WIFE, WAS LIVING WITH HIS SEVENTH SON. HE BEGAN TO WALK TOWARDS THE RIVER WITH THE SEVEN-HEADED SERPENT FOLLOWING HIM, SPREADING ITS HOODS OVER THE CHILD IN THE BASKET. AS VASUDEVA APPROACHED THE YAMUNA, THE RIVER PARTED AGAIN, MAKING A PATH FOR HIM TO CROSS OVER.

## *krishna and butter*

AS KRISHNA GREW OLDER AND BIGGER, HE OFTEN WORE ONLY A GOLDEN CHAIN AROUND HIS WAIST, WHICH TINKLED AND JANGLED AS HE WALKED. HE ALWAYS WONDERED,



WHERE IS  
THAT SOUND  
COMING  
FROM?

HE USED TO LOOK HERE AND THERE, NOT REALISING THAT HE WAS MAKING THE SOUND HIMSELF. THE GOPIS CAME TO SEE KRISHNA IN HIS HOUSE, BUT THEY CAME TO YASHODA MA TO COMPLAIN ABOUT HER SON:




SOMETIMES KRISHNA COMES TO OUR HOUSES, AND HE STEALS OUR BUTTER, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE HIDDEN IT IN DIFFERENT PLACES. HE HAS SO MANY FRIENDS – SUDAMA, SRIDAMA, SUBALA, MADHUMAIGALA – AND THEY'RE ALWAYS WITH KRISHNA. THEY'RE JUST LIKE MISCHIEVOUS LITTLE MONKEYS. KRISHNA'S BABY FRIENDS WERE ALL NAKED, AND THEY WERE HIS CONSTANT COMPANIONS.

WHEN THE GOPIS CAME TO MOTHER YASODA TO COMPLAIN ABOUT KRISHNA, THEY WERE NOT AT ALL ANGRY. ON THE CONTRARY, THEY FELT SORRY FOR YASODA. THEY THOUGHT, YASHODA IS NOT AS FORTUNATE AS WE ARE. KRISHNA COMES TO OUR HOUSES AND PLAYS HERE AND THERE, AND STEALS THINGS ACCORDING TO HIS OWN SWEET WILL; BUT HE DOESN'T STEAL THINGS IN HIS OWN HOUSE, AND HE DOES NOT PLAY SO SWEETLY THERE. SO YASHODA IS NOT AS FORTUNATE AS WE ARE, BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T SEE ALL THESE SWEET PASTIMES. WE ARE SO BLESSED." IT SEEMED AS IF THEY WERE COMING TO COMPLAIN TO YASODA. BUT REALLY, THEY WERE ONLY PRETENDING TO COMPLAIN, SO THEY COULD RELISH SHARING STORIES ABOUT KRISHNA, AND LET YASHODA KNOW HOW SWEET HER SON WAS. HERE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT YASHODA'S FRIENDS WOULD TELL HER:

OH! YOUR BOY HAS BECOME SO NAUGHTY!  
HE ENTERS OUR HOUSES, AND PLAYS SO  
MANY MISCHIEVOUS TRICKS. HE STEALS  
OUR BUTTER, AND THEN HE HANDS IT OUT  
TO HIS FRIENDS, AND EVEN TO THE  
MONKEYS. SOMETIMES HE MAKES A  
CRAFTY PLAN, AND TELLS ONE OF HIS  
FRIENDS, YOU GO TO YOUR MOTHER,  
WHILE WE HIDE IN THE SHELTER OF A TREE,  
OR ANOTHER GOOD HIDING PLACE JUST  
OUTSIDE THE HOUSE. SAY TO YOUR  
MOTHER, OH, COME QUICKLY! SOMEONE  
HAS UNTIED THE CALF'S TETHER, AND IT'S  
RUNNING FREE. NOW IT'S TAKING ITS  
MOTHER'S MILK, AND SOON THERE WON'T  
BE ANY LEFT. WHEN THE BOY TELLS HIS  
MOTHER, THE GOPI GOES CHASING AFTER  
THE CALF, AND WHILE SHE IS AWAY,  
KRISHNA AND HIS FRIENDS ENTER HER  
HOME, AND STEAL BUTTER AND  
WHATEVER ELSE THEY WANT.



TO TEACH KRISHNA A LESSON SHE HIDE IN  
HER OWN HOUSE THINKING,



KRISHNA MUST  
COME, AND THEN I  
WILL CATCH HIM.

SURE ENOUGH, KRISHNA WOULD CREEP IN AND PUT HIS  
HAND IN THE POT OF BUTTER. THE GOPI WOULD  
SUDDENLY POUNCE ON KRISHNA AND SCOLD HIM:



OH! YOU  
ARE  
STEALING  
IN MY  
HOUSE?



OH, MOTHER, I CAME  
HERE BECAUSE I  
THOUGHT THIS WAS  
MY HOME AND YOU  
ARE MY MOTHER. IT  
NEVER OCCURRED TO  
ME THAT YOU'RE NOT  
MY MOTHER, AND I  
CERTAINLY DIDN'T  
THINK YOU'D CATCH  
HOLD OF ME AND  
BEAT ME.

SAYING THIS HE SMILED, AND THE GOPI'S  
HEART MELTED. ALTHOUGH SHE HAD  
CAUGHT HOLD OF KRISHNA'S WRIST, HE  
WRENCHED HIS HAND FREE AND RAN AWAY.

## *Krishna and the untuorned motor*

ONCE, SEEING THAT HER MAIDSERVANT WAS ENGAGED IN DIFFERENT HOUSEHOLD WORK, MOTHER YASHODA PERSONALLY CHURNED BUTTER.

WHILE SHE CHURNED BUTTER, SHE SANG THE WONDERFUL CHILDHOOD PASTIMES OF HER SON KRISHNA AND RELISHED THINKING OF HIM. AT THAT TIME KRISHNA APPEARED THERE AND WAS HUNGRY.

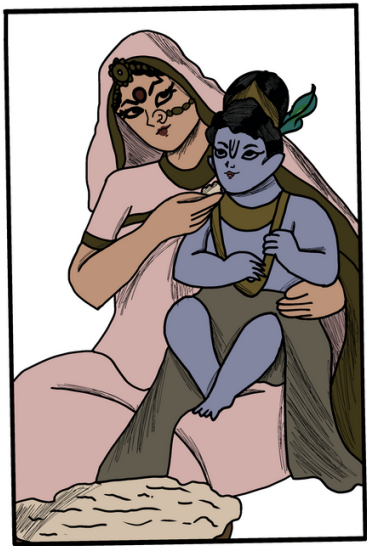
HE WANTED HER TO STOP CHURNING THE BUTTER AND FEED HIM FIRST. MOTHER YASHODA TOOK HER SON ON HER LAP AND STARTED FEEDING HIM. WHILE

KRISHNA WAS SUCKING THE MILK, MOTHER YASHODA SMILED AND ENJOYED THE BEAUTY OF HER CHILD KRISHNA. SUDDENLY, THE MILK WHICH WAS ON THE STOVE BEGAN TO BOIL OVER. JUST TO STOP THE MILK FROM SPILLING, MOTHER YASHODA


AT ONCE PUT KRISHNA ASIDE AND WENT TO THE STOVE. LEFT IN THAT STATE BY HIS MOTHER,

KRISHNA BECAME VERY ANGRY, AND HIS LIPS AND EYES BECAME RED IN RAGE. HE PRESSED HIS TEETH AND LIPS, AND TAKING UP A PIECE OF STONE, HE IMMEDIATELY BROKE THE BUTTER POT. HE TOOK BUTTER OUT OF IT, AND WITH FALSE TEARS IN HIS

EYES, HE BEGAN TO EAT THE BUTTER IN A SECLUDED PLACE.



IN THE MEANTIME, MOTHER YASHODA RETURNED TO THE CHURNING PLACE AFTER SETTING THE OVERFLOWING MILK PAN IN ORDER. SHE SAW THE BROKEN POT, IN WHICH THE CHURNED YOGURT HAD BEEN KEPT. SINCE SHE COULD NOT FIND HER BOY, SHE CONCLUDED THAT THE BROKEN POT WAS HIS WORK. SHE SMILED AS SHE THOUGHT,



THE CHILD IS VERY CLEVER. AFTER BREAKING THE POT HE HAS LEFT THIS PLACE, FEARING PUNISHMENT.

AFTER SHE SOUGHT ALL OVER, SHE FOUND HER SON SITTING ON A BIG WOODEN GRINDING MORTAR, WHICH WAS KEPT UPSIDE DOWN. HE WAS TAKING BUTTER FROM A POT WHICH WAS HANGING FROM THE CEILING ON A SWING, AND HE WAS FEEDING IT TO THE MONKEYS.



SHE SAW KRISHNA LOOKING THIS WAY AND THAT WAY IN FEAR OF HER BECAUSE HE WAS CONSCIOUS OF HIS NAUGHTY BEHAVIOR. AFTER SEEING HER SON SO ENGAGED, SHE VERY SILENTLY APPROACHED HIM FROM BEHIND. KRISHNA, HOWEVER, SAW HER COMING TOWARD HIM WITH A STICK IN HER HAND, AND HE IMMEDIATELY GOT DOWN FROM THE GRINDING MORTAR AND BEGAN TO FLEE IN FEAR. MOTHER YASHODA CHASED HIM TO ALL CORNERS, TRYING TO CAPTURE THE SUPREME PERSONALITY OF GODHEAD, WHO IS NEVER APPROACHED EVEN BY THE MEDITATIONS OF GREAT YOGIS. IN OTHER WORDS, THE SUPREME PERSONALITY OF GODHEAD, KRISHNA, WHO IS NEVER CAUGHT BY THE YOGIS AND SPECULATORS, WAS PLAYING JUST LIKE A LITTLE CHILD FOR SUCH A GREAT DEVOTEE AS MOTHER YASHODA. MOTHER YASHODA, HOWEVER, COULD NOT EASILY CATCH THE FAST-RUNNING CHILD BECAUSE OF HER THIN WAIST AND HEAVY BODY.

STILL SHE TRIED TO FOLLOW HIM AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. HER HAIR LOOSENED, AND THE FLOWERS IN HER HAIR FELL TO THE GROUND. ALTHOUGH SHE WAS TIRED, SHE SOMEHOW REACHED HER NAUGHTY CHILD AND CAPTURED HIM. WHEN HE WAS CAUGHT, KRISHNA WAS ALMOST ON THE POINT OF CRYING. HE SMEARED HIS HANDS OVER HIS EYES, WHICH WERE ANOINTED WITH BLACK EYE COSMETICS. THE CHILD SAW HIS MOTHER'S FACE WHILE SHE STOOD OVER HIM, AND HIS EYES BECAME RESTLESS FROM FEAR.

MOTHER YASHODA COULD UNDERSTAND THAT KRISHNA WAS UNNECESSARILY AFRAID, AND FOR HIS BENEFIT SHE WANTED TO ALLAY HIS FEARS. BEING THE TOPMOST WELL-WISHER OF HER CHILD, MOTHER YASHODA THOUGHT, "IF THE CHILD IS TOO FEARFUL OF ME, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM." MOTHER YASHODA THEN THREW AWAY HER STICK. IN ORDER TO PUNISH HIM, SHE THOUGHT OF BINDING HIS HANDS WITH SOME ROPES. SHE DID NOT KNOW IT, BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER TO BIND THE SUPREME PERSONALITY OF GODHEAD.



MOTHER YASHODA WAS THINKING THAT KRISHNA WAS HER TINY CHILD; SHE DID NOT KNOW THAT THE CHILD HAD NO LIMITATION. THERE IS NO INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF HIM, NOR BEGINNING OR END. HE IS UNLIMITED AND ALL-PERVADING. INDEED, HE IS HIMSELF THE WHOLE COSMIC MANIFESTATION. STILL, MOTHER YASHODA WAS THINKING OF KRISHNA AS HER CHILD. ALTHOUGH HE IS BEYOND THE REACH OF ALL SENSES, SHE ENDEAVORED TO BIND HIM TO A WOODEN GRINDING MORTAR. BUT WHEN SHE TRIED TO BIND HIM, SHE FOUND THAT THE ROPE SHE WAS USING WAS SHORT BY TWO INCHES.

IN ATTEMPTING TO BIND HER SON, SHE BECAME TIRED. SHE WAS PERSPIRING, AND THE GARLAND ON HER HEAD FELL DOWN.

THEN LORD KRISHNA APPRECIATED THE HARD LABOR OF HIS MOTHER, AND BEING COMPASSIONATE UPON HER, HE AGREED TO

BE BOUND UP BY THE ROPES. KRISHNA, PLAYING AS A HUMAN CHILD IN THE HOUSE OF MOTHER YASHODA, WAS PERFORMING HIS OWN SELECTED PASTIMES. OF COURSE, NO ONE CAN CONTROL THE SUPREME PERSONALITY OF GODHEAD. THE PURE DEVOTEE SURRENDERS HIMSELF UNTO THE LOTUS FEET OF THE LORD, WHO MAY EITHER PROTECT OR VANQUISH THE DEVOTEE. BUT FOR HIS PART, THE DEVOTEE NEVER FORGETS HIS OWN POSITION OF SURRENDER.

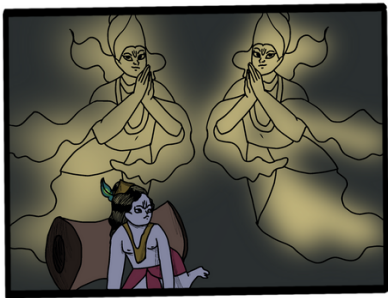
SIMILARLY, THE LORD ALSO FEELS TRANSCENDENTAL PLEASURE BY SUBMITTING HIMSELF TO THE PROTECTION OF THE DEVOTEE. THIS WAS EXEMPLIFIED BY KRISHNA'S SURRENDER UNTO HIS MOTHER, YASHODA.

KRISHNA IS THE SUPREME BESTOWER OF ALL KINDS OF LIBERATION TO HIS DEVOTEES, BUT THE BENEDICTION WHICH WAS BESTOWED UPON MOTHER YASHODA WAS NEVER EXPERIENCED EVEN BY LORD BRAHMA OR LORD SHIVA OR THE GODDESS OF FORTUNE. THE SUPREME PERSONALITY OF GODHEAD, WHO IS KNOWN AS THE SON OF YASHODA AND NANDA MAHARAJA, IS NEVER SO COMPLETELY KNOWN TO THE YOGIS AND SPECULATORS. BUT HE IS EASILY AVAILABLE TO HIS DEVOTEES.

AFTER BINDING HER SON, MOTHER YASHODA ENGAGED HERSELF IN HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS. AT THAT TIME, BOUND UP TO THE WOODEN MORTAR, KRISHNA COULD SEE A PAIR OF TREES BEFORE HIM WHICH WERE KNOWN AS ARJUNA TREES. THE GREAT RESERVOIR OF PLEASURE, LORD SRI KRISHNA, THUS THOUGHT TO HIMSELF, "MOTHER YASHODA FIRST OF ALL LEFT WITHOUT FEEDING ME SUFFICIENT MILK, AND THEREFORE I BROKE THE POT OF YOGURT AND DISTRIBUTED THE STOCK BUTTER IN CHARITY TO THE MONKEYS. NOW SHE HAS BOUND ME UP TO A WOODEN MORTAR. SO I SHALL DO SOMETHING MORE MISCHIEVOUS THAN BEFORE." AND THUS HE THOUGHT OF PULLING DOWN THE TWO VERY TALL ARJUNA TREES.



THERE IS A HISTORY BEHIND THE PAIR OF ARJUNA TREES. IN THEIR PREVIOUS LIVES, THE TREES WERE BORN AS THE HUMAN SONS OF KUVERA, AND THEIR NAMES WERE NALAKUVARA AND MANIGRIVA. FORTUNATELY, THEY CAME WITHIN THE VISION OF THE LORD. IN THEIR PREVIOUS LIVES THEY WERE CURSED BY THE GREAT SAGE NARADA IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE HIGHEST BENEDICTION OF SEEING LORD KRISHNA. THIS BENEDICTION-CURSE WAS BESTOWED UPON THEM BECAUSE OF THEIR FORGETFULNESS DUE TO INTOXICATION.



# *Krishna and Kaliya*

KRISHNA OVERCOMES KALIYA THE DREADED, MULTI-HOODED SNAKE IN THE RIVER YAMUNA AND BEGINS TO DANCE ON ITS SEVERAL HOODS. WHEN THE HEELS OF KRISHNA STRIKE THE HOODS, SOME BREAK OFF AND THEN GET REPLACED BY NEW ONES. ALL THE WHILE KRISHNA KEEPS PLAYING HIS SWEET FLUTE.

SNAKE KALIYA WITH ITS NUMEROUS HOODS SYMBOLISES THE NUMEROUS DESIRES WE HAVE. WHEN ONE DESIRE GETS FULFILLED, ANOTHER ARISES, LIKE THE NEW HOODS OF KALIYA. THE HOODS KEEP BREAKING AND FORMING, BUT KRISHNA IS UNPERTURBED. HE KEEPS PLAYING HIS FLUTE, DENOTING THE POWER OF DISCRIMINATION, OF WISDOM, OF THE FOCUS ON THE BLISS OF SELF. THE WIFE OF KALIYA PRAYS TO KRISHNA, THAT IS, HER PRAYER IN WHICH SHE DESIRES HER HUSBAND TO COME BACK WHOLE LEADS TO RE-CREATION OF THE HOODS.  
KALIYA QUESTIONS KRISHNA:





O LORD! YOU ARE THE CREATOR. YOU HAVE CREATED VENOMOUS SNAKES LIKE ME; YOU HAVE ALSO CREATED GODS WHO DRINK NECTAR. WHAT IS MY FAULT IN THIS? I AM POISONOUS BECAUSE NATURE HAS MADE ME SO.

THE SRIMAD BHAGVATAM SAYS THAT ON HEARING THIS, KRISHNA FALLS SILENT. KRISHNA ACCEPTED KALIYA'S WORDS OF DISCRIMINATION. KRISHNA IS THE TRUE EMBODIMENT OF WISDOM. HE REPLIES:



ALRIGHT, I SHALL NOT  
KILL YOU, BUT PLEASE  
LEAVE THIS PLACE. YOU  
ARE CAUSING DISTRESS  
TO MANY. MY NATURE IS  
TO SHOWER BLISS AND  
YOUR ACTS ARE AN  
OBSTRUCTION TO THAT.



KRISHNA SPARES KALIYA'S LIFE. HE  
DOES NOT KILL HIM OR SNATCH  
HIS VENOM FROM HIM, BUT ASKS  
HIM TO GO TO ANOTHER PLACE,  
WHERE PERHAPS HE WOULD  
LEARN TO USE VENOM ONLY  
WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY,  
IN SELF-DEFENCE.

IN THE SAME WAY, I DO NOT ASK YOU TO ELIMINATE DESIRE, ANGER, GREED AND DELUSION THAT TROUBLE YOU, BUT TO CHANGE THEIR COURSE. YOU DESIRE TO OBTAIN SOMETHING OR THE OTHER. LET THIS YEARNING BE TURNED TO ATTAIN GOD, TO OBTAIN INNER PEACE, TO YEARN FOR SILENCE AND SOLITUDE OR IF YOU WISH TO ENTER PUBLIC LIFE, YEARN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE. THE ORIENTATION OF YOUR YEARNING, WHEN CHANGED, CAN LEAD YOU TO GOD. THE YEARNING FOR KAMA WILL GET SUBLIMATED TO ATTAINMENT OF RAMA. IN THIS MANNER, YOUR WISDOM WILL BE PUT TO GOOD USE. THE SAME APPLIES FOR ANGER. FOR HOW LONG WILL YOU TRY TO SUPPRESS IT? JUST RE-CHANNELISE IT IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION. IF GREED OVERPOWERS YOU, THEN CHANNELISE IT TOWARDS GREED FOR DOING MORE JAPA, MORE MEDITATION, MORE ACTS OF BENEVOLENCE AND ACQUIRING MORE DIVINE KNOWLEDGE. THE SAME GOES FOR OTHER ATTACHMENTS AND PASSIONS. SANT TULSIDAS HAS SAID: "DEVELOP ATTACHMENT TOWARDS THE LORD, AND EQUANIMITY TOWARDS THE WORLD."

"O LORD, I HAVE EXPERIENCED THESE WORLDLY PLEASURES, NOW HAVE MERCY..." –

SUCH A PRAYER SHOWS YOUR DISCRIMINATION. HOWEVER GREAT MAY BE THE AMOUNT OF PRAISE, PLEASURES AND COMFORTS YOU ATTAIN – HOW LONG WILL THEY LAST AND WHAT WILL REMAIN IN THE END? THEREFORE, YEARN FOR REAL JOY, THE BLISS OF SELF, THE ATMAN.

YOUR REAL SELF, THE ATMAN, IS BLISS PERSONIFIED. IF THERE IS SORROW, WORRY OR FEAR, IT IS DUE TO LACK OF DISCRIMINATION.

KEEP AWAKENING YOUR POWER OF DISCRIMINATION. AS YOU GROW IN DISCRIMINATION, YOU WILL ALSO GROW IN DISPASSION AND GAIN THE SHAT-SAMPATTI, THE SIX SPIRITUAL WEALTH OF SHAMA OR MIND CONTROL, DAMA OR SENSE CONTROL, TITIKSHA OR FORBEARANCE, SAMADHAN OR FREEDOM FROM DOUBT, SHRADDHA OR FAITH AND ISHWAR-PRANIDHAN OR CONCENTRATION OF MIND ON GOD.

THEN THE YEARNING FOR MOKSHA OR LIBERATION WILL AUTOMATICALLY ARISE.

MOKSHA MEANS LIBERATION FROM ALL SORROWS FOREVER AND ATTAINMENT OF SUPREME BLISS.

## *Krishna and govardhana*

THERE IS AN INTERESTING STORY IN THE BHAGWATA AND OTHER PURANAS ABOUT SHRI KRISHNA LIFTING THE 'GOVARDHAN PARVAT' OR GOVARDHAN HILL WHEN HE WAS ONLY A SMALL CHILD. THE STORY GOES LIKE THIS:

ONCE, WHEN THE ELDER PEOPLE OF BRAJ INCLUDING NANDA MAHARAJ WERE PLANNING FOR THE PUJA OF LORD INDRA, SHRI KRISHNA, A CHILD THEN, QUESTIONED THEM AS TO WHY THEY WERE DOING SO. NANDA MAHARAJ EXPLAINED TO KRISHNA THAT THIS WAS DONE EVERY YEAR TO PLEASE LORD INDRA SO THAT HE CONTINUED TO GRACE THE PEOPLE OF BRAJ BY PROVIDING RAIN AS AND WHEN REQUIRED. BUT LITTLE KRISHNA DEBATED THAT THEY WERE FARMERS AND THEY SHOULD ONLY DO THEIR DUTY OR 'KARMA' TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITIES, BY CONCENTRATING ON FARMING AND PROTECTING THEIR CATTLE, RATHER THAN PERFORMING PUJAS OR CONDUCT SACRIFICES LIKE THIS FOR ANY NATURAL PHENOMENON. FINALLY CONVINCED BY KRISHNA, THE VILLAGERS DID NOT PERFORM WITH THE PUJA.

FURIOUS WITH THE INHABITANTS OF BRAJ FOR LISTENING TO THE LITTLE CHILD KRISHNA AND WORSHIPPING THE GOVARDHAN HILL INSTEAD OF HIM, INDRA, THE KING OF HEAVEN, DECIDED TO PUNISH THEM BY SENDING TERRIBLE RAIN CLOUDS TO FLOOD THE LAND OF VRINDAVAN. CALLING THE SAMAVARTAKA CLOUDS OF DEVASTATION, INDRA ORDERED THEM TO LASH UPON VRINDAVAN WITH TORRENTS OF RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS AND CAUSE EXTENSIVE FLOODS THAT WOULD DESTROY THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE INHABITANTS.

AS TERRIBLE RAINS AND THUNDERSTORMS RAVAGED THE LAND AND SUBMERGED IT UNDER WATER, THE FRIGHTENED AND HELPLESS INHABITANTS OF VRINDAVAN APPROACHED LORD KRISHNA FOR HELP. KRISHNA, WHO UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION PERFECTLY WELL, LIFTED UP THE ENTIRE GOVARDHAN HILL AT ONCE WITH HIS LEFT HAND, AND HELD IT UP LIKE AN UMBRELLA. ONE BY ONE ALL THE INHABITANTS OF VRINDAVAN, ALONG WITH THEIR COWS AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD POSSESSIONS, TOOK SHELTER UNDER GOVARDHAN HILL. FOR SEVEN DAYS THEY STAYED UNDER THE HILL, SAFE FROM THE TERRIBLE RAINS AND SURPRISINGLY UNDISTURBED BY HUNGER OR THIRST. THEY WERE ALSO ASTOUNDED TO SEE THE HUGE GOVARDHAN HILL RESTING PERFECTLY BALANCED ON KRISHNA'S LITTLE FINGER.



STUNNED AND MYSTIFIED WITH THE ORDER OF EVENTS, KING INDRA CALLED BACK THE CLOUDS OF DEVASTATION, THUS STOPPING THE THUNDERSTORMS AND THE RAINS. THE SKY BECAME CLEAR AGAIN AND THE SUN SHONE BRIGHTLY OVER VRINDAVAN. LITTLE KRISHNA ASKED THE INHABITANTS TO RETURN HOME WITHOUT ANY FEAR, AND GENTLY PLACED THE GOVARDHAN HILL BACK TO EXACTLY WHERE IT WAS. ALL THE INHABITANTS OF BRAJ INCLUDING NANDA MAHARAJ, YASODA AND BALARAMA HAILED KRISHNA AND EMBRACED HIM WITH HAPPINESS.

THIS WAS HOW THE FALSE PRIDE OF KING INDRA WAS SHATTERED TO PIECES. HE CAME TO LORD KRISHNA WITH FOLDED HANDS AND PRAYED TO HIM FOR FORGIVENESS. SHRI KRISHNA, BEING THE SUPREME PERSONALITY OF GODHEAD, BESTOWED HIS GRACE ON INDRA AND ALSO ENLIGHTENED HIM ABOUT HIS 'DHARMA' AND DUTIES.