

Part Three Dr Mohendra Irengbam

THE DESCENT OF RADHA KRISHNA TO GOLAK DHAM BRINDABAN

Omniscient Krishna understood Radha's extreme agony. So, he contrived a species of jaunty smile, carrying the sunshine and languor of a spring day. He looked at Radha who possessed fresh blossoms of youth that delighted and pleased any onlooker. He approached her with the seriousness she deserved.

Aware of the extreme emotional distress and physical torment of Radha, the compassionate Krishna gently gathered Radha up on his lap and kissed her repeatedly. With a charming smile that exuded tender love, Krishna began to ease Radha's anguish.



Radha Temple in Barsana [Radha's birthplace]
(Photo credit: Wikipedia)

In a mellow voice, he swooned over Radha with a few well-placed words. "Why Radhe? Why are you so moribund? It is nothing? I am here with you. It is not like Krishna, to leave you Radha, even for a moment. In the *Varaha-kalpa* [First of 3 Vedic epochs], you will be born among the Gopi clan in Braj Bhumi. So, will I.

We will then be able to meet all the time in the forest of Brindaban. You should know this. Wherever you are and wherever you go, I will follow you like your shadow. There is no cause for concern. Dispel any doubt you have in your mind. My word is my bond." In this way, the gracious Krishna helped to mitigate Radha's anxiety. His affectionate words pacified her.

In the fullness of time, Radha was born to Brishbhanu and Kirtida (Father and mother). Brishbhanu was a Yadav chieftain in Barsana.[45 km from Brindaban; 40 km from Gokul in the north of Mathura. Radha was 5 years older than Krishna].

All these Lila were happening at the behest of all the gods including Brahma, for the redemption of the world. Eventually, Krishna was also born to Devaki [Sister of Kansa] and her husband Vasudev in the prison Fort of Kansa, the tyrant ruler of Mathura.

Meanwhile, at the same hour, day, month, and the year, Yashoda at the village of Gokul, gave birth to a baby girl, Yoganidra, or Yogamaya. As Yashoda fell asleep due to exhaustion of childbirth, she did not know the gender of her baby.



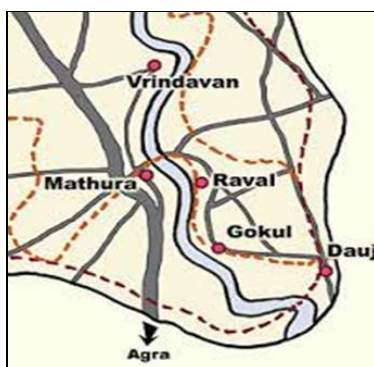
Radha's birthplace Barsana

Whilst, in Mathura, in the fort prison of King Kansa, furtively and immediately after birth, the baby boy [Krishna] was smuggled out to Gokul village, across the Jamuna River, by his father Vasudev.



Birthplace of Krishna.

Kansa Quila, Chawk Bazaar, Mathura. Believed to be Kansa's Fort where Krishna was born. You can see a bit of it while passing on the way to Delhi by Train from Kolkata. (Credit: Wikipedia).



Map of Mathura, Jamuna River, Gokul
Credit: Wikipedia... public domain)



Imagery of Basudev carrying baby
Krishna across Jamuna River in rain with thunder
(Credit: You Tube)

It was possible only because all the Kansa's guards in the prison and the palace were put to sleep under a spell with rain with thunder. When Basudev reached Gokul, he picked up the

baby girl from Yashoda's side and left his son in her place. Yashoda was also fast asleep due to a spell.

When Yashoda woke up, she took the baby boy as her own son. [The boy got the name of 'Krishna' after Yashoda and Nanda took him to the ashram of Garg Maharishi – Garg ashram. Rohini's son was also named Ram after Lord Ram. As he was strong, Bala was added. So, he came to be known as Balram. Garg Acharya Ashram is on the bank of Jamuna River, near Mathura. Yashoda's husband Nanda was a cousin of Basudev].

As Krishna grew up in Gokul, he enjoyed playing Ras leela [Play of Sweet taste or aesthetic flavour] in Braj Brindaban with Radha, and Gopis of Brindaban. Then, when he reached the age of 11, he was separated from Radha for one hundred years because of the curse by ShreeDam.



Gokul village where Krishna grew up.

As it was when my wife and I visited it in 1981.

Inside the building on the right side, there is a baby cot, swinging it by two Brahmins seated, one on each side, holding a length of rope each. It was meant to be Baby Krishna's cot that was rocked by his mother Yashoda.

Only when the duration of the curse of ShreeDam ended after one hundred years, did Radha and Krishna meet at Prabas Tirtha in Kurukshetra before they returned to Golak [Celestial abode].

ANNOTATION.

[It all began when Krishna was taken to Mathura by Akrura at the age of 11, as ordered by King Kansa of Mathura. Kansa knew the prophecy in Vishnu Puran that he was to be killed by his nephew. So, he sent Akrura, one of his ministers, in a chariot to fetch boys Krishna and Balram.

Krishna never returned to Gokul/Brindaban. In Mathura he slew Kansa and released his biological parents from Kansa's prison. He stayed in Mathura until he was 28 years of age, when he moved to Dwarka, where he married 16,108 wives. There, he lived for 96 years and 8 months, until he was 125 years old. He died 36 years after the Mahabharat war].

Krishna, however, continued to exist in Gokul/Brindaban in the minds of all the people in Braj. They remembered and talked about how Krishna had killed many demons, such as Daityas and Danaos, to give them salvation.

Since Krishna left Brindaban, there was nothing but chaos in it. All life came to a standstill. Young gopas stopped tending cows, with tearful eyes. The cows had stopped feeding grass and the calves did not suckle their mothers anymore. There was wanton devastation and general lethargy all over Brindaban.

Having listened carefully to Narayan, Nard asked him for more details. How did ShreeDam have a serious argument with Radha who he knew was the consort of Shree Krishna, the Lord, and cursed each other to be born as humans.

Narayan replied, "It is all about the Amrit-like Hari Leela, listening to which will wash away your sins. On a fun filled day, immortal Hari played Ras leela with Radha. Having danced at the circular dancing ground of Hari, they went to Nikunj ban for a passionate pastime.



Nikunjban, Panighat, Brindaban. On the banks of Jamuna (Yamuna) River
[cf. *Mohe panghat me Nand lal chera gayo re ... (Mughal-e-Azam)*]

While the angelic and heavenly Radha was lying dozy and relaxed after a very intensely passionate leela, Shree Govind felt like having another tryst with another gopi girl. As quiet as a mouse and without drawing attraction from Radha, he sneaked tiptoe to another forest to indulge in a second leela.

This was a rendezvous with Birja, a young woman whose beauty, charm and deportment were no less than Radha. She was amazingly and stunningly beautiful, with an invitingly charming and well proportionate body. She had a pumice-stone complexion with a glorious face that was complimented by wide eyes, full cheeks, refined nose, and a perfect jaw. They were all symmetrical and proportionate. As a bonus, she had red heart-shaped lips.