

Part Sixteen

DESCENT OF RADHA KRISHNA TO GOLAK DHAM BRINDABAN

Twenty-Second Chapter

NARD ENTERED MANI MANDIR



Modern Dwarka city with Krishna Temple with flag, on the coast of Gujarat.
[Royalty-free image]

Krishna knew Nard was coming and he wanted to surprise Nard. He was seated, surrounded by Rukmini [Princess of Vidarbha. First wife and Chief queen (Patrani) of Dwarka], and sixteen hundred thousand and one hundred and eight ladies. Everyone was attending to him with love and care. And he imparted equal pleasure and kindness to each of them.

As Nard approached him, Shree Govinda got up, as he is the avatar in human form. Govind hurriedly walked over to receive him. To pay homage, Krishna washed Nard's feet with water in the Aryan style [Krishna is indigenous, an Asura (Asura Krishna, mentioned in the Rig-Veda 8.96. 13-17)]. Then he was seated comfortably in a luxurious place.

Speaking with humble and venerable words, Krishna himself attended to Nard, fanning him with a *chamaram* [Fluffy white fan used by Hindus while to fan gods during Puja. It is made of the white hair of Tibetan Yak]. Rukmani and other ladies bowed and touched the feet of the Muni with their foreheads.

Seeing all the profuse showering of attention, Nard was humorously delighted. Every lady to him, was similar to Lakshmi in their comely countenance, carriage, and posture. In a little while, the two leading ladies, Rukmani, and Satyabhama went away and came back with snacks and drinks for Nard.

When Nard finished enjoying his refreshments, he was attended to with pan with betelnut. Then, while Nard and Krishna were engaged in deep conversation, facing each other, all the grand children of Krishna – boys, and girls, overly excited, came rushing to Krishna as if they were in a race.

Those who were the foremost runners, took seats on the lap of Krishna, happy and contented, while a few climbed on his back and others lay in front of him. Some of those who were left out, stood in front of him in a semi-circle and wept with disappointment, while a few more were rolling on the ground in temper tantrums.

Shree Hari reached out to each one of them and made them happy, stroking the hairs of a few, embracing a few others, and kissing many. Krishna made every child feel as if he or she was his favourite. Nard muni took all this in. The more he saw the sublime spectacle the more confounded he became. He thought to himself and wondered what an exotic leela the Lord was playing!

Nard contemplated, “It is no wonder he has forgotten Braj. On the other hand, to have children and bring them up is the law nature. If the Lord of the world is so jubilant with his family, it is only right that mankind stays close to the family, enjoying themselves, helping each other out through good and bad times and through the ups and downs of life. It is true that togetherness brings love, and separation will end up forgetting each other one day.

Nard had a gut feeling that, as Radha had been separated for one hundred years, it was most likely that Krishna had forgotten her completely. He hoped that he had not wasted his journey and that the wish of the creator Brahma did not remain unfulfilled.

Nard wondered if he had made a mistake by calling first on Radha in Braj, following the order of Brahma, and promising everybody there, that he would bring Krishna to Braj with him. He was quite worried that if he failed to bring Krishna to Brindaban with him, there would be death among the residents of Braj. Besides, the anger and the fury of Radhika would consume the destined world prematurely [with Pralay].

In an ambience of impatient generosity and having turned the matter over in his mind, he decided that it was useless to worry about. It was not in his hands how Hari played his leela. He would ask Hari anyway why he had come to Dwarka from Mathura.

While Nard was in that state of perplexity, ShreeKrishna asked him the purpose of his visit to Dwarka. He enquired about the welfare of all the devas in the three *loks* [Planes or realms of the universe], and whether he brought any message for him?

With all the formalities over, Nard replied that he brought tidings from the Creator Brahma, and If permitted, he would like to talk about it in private. So, Krishna took him to a quiet place.

It is Hari's leela that redeems all sins. It is the vehicle that helps us to cross the expanse of samsara (Cycle of birth, death, and rebirth, or the universe).

Twenty-Third Chapter

DWARKA LADIES BECAME SUSPICIOUS OF NARD

Watching the clandestine nature of Nard and Krishna's rendezvous, Satyabhama [Second wife of Krishna] became very worried. She was all shaken up, and hurried to see her senior, Rukmani [First queen of Krishna].

Sobbing, she blurted out that this visit of Nard was very stupendous. She was very suspicious that something was afoot. And that, there was nothing Nard could not do. He was the master of getting people in the three *loks*, to fight each other. And that, there was no one in comparison, who could be as cunning and devious as Nard. There was always trouble wherever he went.

“Oh sister, have you forgotten that, once he told all sorts of fibs and made me take a ritual fast, while he tried to take Krishna away with him. It was only your wisdom that prevented Krishna from going away. I am sure that some disaster is going to prevail in Dwarka again.”

Rukmani had a hunch that Satyabhama was right, and she in turn, became very apprehensive. She agreed with her, saying that she had known Nard as a troublemaker for a long time. He is such a man who gets very jealous when he sees someone happy and prosperous. He would visit someone in the guise of a well-wisher and then create trouble which would cause pandemonium after he left. That is why people treat him with fearful awe, not with love. That is why he is high profiled in this world for his shenanigans.

After an initial quiver of consternation, Rukmani became equivocal about the sudden arrival of Nard, without any prior information. Her anxiety, nonetheless, was loading up with the added suspicion of Satyabhama about him. Her throat became parched when she saw Nard taking her Lord to a desolate place.



Rukmani Temple, Dwarka (Courtesy: Pilgrimage Tour).

Seeing that they had been having a covert conversation for quite some time, a nasty wind of panic was blowing around her soul. Satyabhama was now sure that a serious calamity would befall their life. Her right arm and right eye were twitching. Her speech was incoherent. She could feel her heart racing in her chest. Her whole body began to shiver. Her foreboding began to rock her in her seat like a firmly rooted tree that a gale force wind trying to push over as the ground begins to heave.