

## Part Twenty-one

# DESCENT OF RADHA KRISHNA TO GOLAK DHAM BRINDABAN

### Thirty-Second Chapter

## ALL AGREED TO PERFORM YAJNA AT PRABAS



Kalpabriksha Tree (Whish-fulfilling tree). District Hamirpur. Himachal Pradesh. (Courtesy: Wikipedia)

Basudev commented, addressing his sons. “It is said that performing a yajna and giving out alms is a very bounteous one among all the yajnas. It is known that even all the deities cannot do it as it costs an arm and a leg. I was afraid of this. That is why I have not mentioned about it to you or anybody before. If you two are up to it, I would like to accomplish it once in my lifetime. It would be a cathartic experience for me and for everybody. I would be the luckiest person in the world if you two boys can make it.”

Govind was very delighted to hear his father’s plea. He replied with affection in his tone, “Papa, please do not worry. You will have anything you want. I will plant a *Kalpabriksha Tree* [A wish fulfilling divine tree] near the Yajna place. If you wish to give alms for all the years of an epoch, I will make sure that nothing is wanting.

There are, however, problems, but they are not difficult to solve. We must send invitations to all the inhabitants of three loks. Once they receive the invitations, many of them will come. We must provide accommodation for all of them. Sitting arrangements would be the same for everyone and everyone.

A pavilion large enough to shelter all these people must be built. As soon as the solar eclipse is over, everyone should be fed. For this purpose, a spacious dining hall, large enough to contain all of them needs to be built.”

Nard joined in. “Oh yes, we must remember that it should be at a Tirth place. This is what is bugging me. We need to go and build a city there, at this *Tirth stan* [Tirth place].”

Krishna continued, “We will house only the invitees inside its brick walls, while the non-invitees will be accommodated outside the brick walls and in the groves. We must decorate the city lavishly, to dazzle the world. It should be circular for aesthetic pleasure.

I will call Biswakarma [Biswakarma is the divine presiding deity of all the craftsmen and architects. He is the divine craftsman of the whole cosmos and the official builder of all the gods' palaces. He is a son of Brahma. I will give him the order to carry it out straight away. We need to start preparing the invitations. There are only eighteen days left before the eclipse. There is no time to waste.”

Krishna then took pains to listen to all that Nard had to say. Then he finally sought approval from his elder brother Ram [Balarama]. With Ram’s agreement the performance of the Yajna was fixed on the day of the solar eclipse. Everybody now settled down. Basudev was quite relaxed and was very proud of his sons.

The two brothers, Ram and Krishna took their bow of respect to their father and said goodbye to Nard. They returned to their homes. As soon as Govind reached home, he called Biswakarma and gave him the order for the construction of a city at Prabas. That was followed by drumbeat announcement for the Yajna in Dwarka. Everybody was now aware of this coming awesome and fascinating event.

*Such is Hari’s name. Listening to it is as sweet as Amrit. Always remember him at heart.*

## Thirty-Third Chapter

### BISWAKARMA BUILDS A CITY PALACE AT PRABAS

Biswakarma, knowing that it was Lord Krishna who wanted him, came immediately to see him. Govinda gave him a cordial welcome. Krishna gave Biswakarma the blueprints for building the palace at Prabas, based on Nard’s instructions. Govind said, “Biswakarma, you the greatest artisan, I bid you to go and build a beautiful palace at Kurukshetra for my father to perform a yajna. The specifications are here.”

“It should be so capacious as to accommodate all the inhabitants of three loks. It should be round and measure ten *krosh* wide [Krosh is a unit to represent the distance at which another human could be heard], and ten krosh long. It should have a massive mandab [Marquee] at its centre.

All around the mandab, you should construct many houses of various designs and architectural beauty. You should have them decorated with great paintings and studded with various bewitching jewels of different shapes, sizes, and colour.

The sitting arrangements should be arranged all around in arena or auditorium style so that everyone when seated, should be able to see clearly the performance at the centre of the arena theatre. And an exquisite brick wall should surround the palace in all four directions. There should be see-through sections in the walls with crystal clear gems, like transparent glasses, which would allow people to see what is going on inside from outside.

For public thoroughfare, running from north to south and east to west, large doors should be fitted on all four sides, Outside the walls, you should create green groves, each five krosh wide, and smaller groves. You should make sure that all the plants are exactly like those in Brindaban. I do not have to tell you. You know better. Only just that you fulfil my wish.”

Biswakarma was profoundly thrilled to receive the order from the Lord. He immediately set off for Kurukshetra. He was amazed and delighted when he saw such an expanse of barren land where the river Saraswati

was meandering majestically. He immediately made up his mind to go ahead to construct a palace that will have no equals in all the three lokas. He was quite self-assured.



Course of Saraswati River Courtesy: Wikipedia)

The course of the mythological Saraswati River, the sacred river to Hindus, mentioned in Hindu sacred Texts like Rigveda, believed to have dried up nearly 4,000 years ago. Map based on geological and remote sensing satellite studies.

[Saraswati River, was a tributary of Alaknanda River, originated near Badrinath and flowed into the Arabian Sea. *Saraswati as described in mythology, was no longer able to hold up the heavens. And as a result, it had gone underground (Vinashana).* Saraswati, also known as Ghaggar-Hakra River once flowed in Eastern Pakistan and Northwest India, between the Yamuna and the Sutlej, and emptied in the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat in the Arabian sea.

Biswakarma was the great architect for all the deities. There was nothing he could not build. He promptly constructed all the dwellings that had various gems, pearls, and a variety of precious stones at Prabhas, followed by the mandapa and the brick walls.

When he finished the whole project, the palace remained aglow like the sunshine during the day and the moonlight at night. It was because of the *surfatik* (Crystal) gems on the walls and *padmarag* (lotus coloured) stones on the doors.

They were not just the empty buildings, but full of furniture and decorations inside. There was nothing amiss. There was everything you could think of. There was no structure that was more stunning and dazzling in all the three lokas than this palace at Prabhas in Kurukshetra.

Exquisite mats made of red and green velvets were spread out in the middle of the Mandapa floor. There were separate sections for humans, deities, munis, and rishis, as well as for yakshas, rakshas and Gandharvas. The mandapa was supported all around by pillars made of gold, which were encrusted with various precious stones and gems. Above and on top, the palace had a white canopy that was as white as milk.

Such was the grandeur and magnificence of the Prabhas Palace that nobody in the three lokas had ever heard of. It was such an architectural wonder of breath-taking elegance and immense capacity. Not surprisingly, it was built by one and only Biswakarma, and that also with the blessings of Krishna.

## Thirty-Fourth Chapter

### THE ENCHANTING BANS AND UPABANS

When the construction of the palace buildings and walls around them were completed, Biswakarma began to create enchanting bans and Upabans outside the enclosure brick walls.

The walls had to be five Krosh in height all along. He designed the bans and upabans exactly as those in Brindaban. First, a variety of trees were planted in rows. Then various flower-bearing plants were added, such as bakul, tamal, tinti, jhinti, sudgar, kadam, Parijat, palsh and nageswar.

All sorts of fruit-bearing trees, such as apples, plums, dates, mangoes, jack fruits and plantains were in place. Lastly, many shrubs with fragrant-smelling flowers, such as Arabian Jasmine (malika). Rangoon clipper (malti). hibiscus (jubakusum), roses (ghulab), Gardenia (Gandhara), butterfly pea (aprajita), shiris [woman's tongue), tuberose (rajnigandh), champa (magnolia alba), Jasmine (Chameli), Kikar [Acacia; chnigonglei in Manipuri) have been added.

Biswakarma shaped twelve bans [groves] exactly like those that were naturally existing in Brindaban, such as **Madhuban**, Bhandhirban, Tapban, Nikunjban, Birjaban, and so on. When everything was created, carved out and bedded, Biswakarma went round to inspect them all.

[Madhuban also known as Nidhiban is the place where Lord Krishna participated in Ras leela with Radha and Gopikas of Brindaban. (1.9Km from Brindaban station). It is believed that every night, at Nidhiban, Krishna and Radha perform Ras leela. All the trees in the vicinity are believed to turn into gopis (female cowherds who were devoted to Krishna)].



Madhuban (Nidhiban) In Brindaban

[The legend is, every evening after sundown, a bed is laid for Krishna and Radha, along with some food, water, ornaments, clothes, and neem twigs (Toothbrush). Every morning these things appear to have been used. Nobody is allowed to stay in the premises after sundown and nobody is allowed to look at the meeting of Krishna and Radha. It is believed that whoever looks at the performance either dies, becomes insane or loses eyesight].

Biswakarma was very delighted with his handiwork, knowing that it is the place where Radha and Krishna would meet after one hundred years. He felt blessed with a very successful and noble part of his life. He then knelt and began to pray for Hari's benediction, that in all his future births, he may be allowed to be born as his zealot and to be able to partake in his leela, as well as to be reborn as an architect.

Following his prayers, Biswakarma went to Dwarka and reported to Krishna that everything was completed and ready for the yajna. Govind was very ecstatic and was very pleased with Biswakarma. He immediately ordered his Daruka [The charioteer of Krishna] to get his chariot ready.

Krishna took Biswakarma and Nard with him to Prabas. He inspected the palace first. Having observed all the splendid works inside the palace, he came out to see the bans and upabans.

Wherever Krishna looked at those groves, they reminded him of Brindaban so much so that he could not hold his tears. The delicate emotions of Radha's love for him, symbolizing the purest form of devotion and divine

love filled his heart. Torrents of tears filled his large lotus eyes and overflowed down his blue cheeks, which he discreetly wiped off without anybody seeing them.

Though steaming inside with the erupting volcanoes of passion for his long-lost love, he said nothing outwardly. Krishna then returned to Dwarka along with his two companions.

*Such was the leela of the Lord. Inscrutable are the ways of Shree Krishna.*