

Part Twenty-Two

DESCENT OF RADHA KRISHNA TO GOLAK DHAM BRINDABAN

Thirty-Fifth Chapter

KRISHNA ORGANISING FOR YAJNA



Krishna as king of Dwarka in coastal Gujarat (Courtesy: Pinterest)

In Dwarka, Govind sent messengers to all the members of the Yadu clan to come and see him. In a grand assembly, he apprised them of the coming yajna. He told them that his loving father had decided to have a yajna cum charity event. It is on the day of the solar eclipse, and he asked them to make sure they go to attend it.

Krishna then, sent for his youngest uncle Satyaki [Satyaki, also known as Yuyudhan, a Yadav prince belonging to the same Vrishni sub-clan as Sri Krishna. He was a great warrior and defeated Karna in the Mahabharat War].



Part of the submerged Dwarka City in the Arabian Sea near the present Dwarka City in Gujarat

Krishna requested him to kindly go to the palace of Kuber [King of Yakshas and god of wealth] at Alkapuri and ask him with great humility to provide all the expenses that would accrue from this yajna and charity work. And that Kuber should open the top of Sumeru. There should be no Shortage of gold, and he himself should oversee that there is no shortage of funds for the yajna.

[Kuber is the god of wealth, and the god-king of the semi-divine Yakshas in Hindu mythology. Alkapuri near Kailash is the home of Kuber, the god king of wealth. It is a five-peaked mountain. It is in the Gangotri Glacier region of Garhwal Himalaya, Uttarakhand, India. It is filled with gold, silver crystals, lazuli, [a kind of gem] and so on.

“Oh yes. One more thing. Ask him to kindly send his personal chariot pushpak to me. I can use it for transporting many goods, wares, and other commodities to Kurukshetra.”

Very soon, Satyaki set up Krishna’s chariot Vijay and along with his personal weapons, he went to see Kuber. There, he humbly presented a formal invitation to Kuber and gave him Krishna’s memorandum.

Kuber sent his reply, “It is great that the Lord, who is the creator and destroyer of the world, has done me this favour by choosing me for this task. I know he is not short of wealth. If he wishes, like his tears, he could have one crore Kuber with a blink of his eye. Please take my chariot Pushpak with you to Dwarka. And I will set off to Prabhas along with my family members and my people. I will stay there to superintend the stores for provision of food, drinks, and furniture, as well as the treasury.



Mt Meru (Sumeru) Himalayas, Utrakhand, Gangotri Park
(Courtesy: Stock photo images, Vector)

Kuber handed over his chariot to Satyaki. Then he immediately organised for all his people to depart for Prabhas. He took all his wealth with him.

Satyaki promptly returned to Dwarka with the chariot and relayed the message from Kuber to Govind, who showed his satisfaction.

Next, Krishna called his son Kamdev [also known as Pradyumna – the eldest son, born to him and Rukmini [a very capable one], and instructed him that he had to use the chariot pushpak to haul all the treasure from Dwarka and transport all the people to Prabhas and house them appropriately.

Thereafter, he requested Balaram whom he called ‘Dauji’ [Elder brother in Braj bhasha] that he may please move to Prabhas a bit in advance, so that he can keep an eye on everything that was going on there.

Krishna now, very respectfully approached his grandfather Ugrasen [Ugrasen was Kansa’s father and maternal grandfather of Krishna] and requested him, “Grandpa, could you also be kind enough to take all the ministers and all the members of the Yadu clan to Prabhas. Without the presence of a king, normal work would not be carried out systematically.”

Then Krishna turned to his man Udhav and using very polite words, he said to him, “Udhav, you are my best friend. You are religious, virtuous, and knowledgeable. You must always keep company to my father and look after him. Show your respects to everybody. [Udhav was a friend and counsellor to Krishna. Krishna directly taught him the process of yoga and bhakti].

Having organised everything in detail for the yajna, Krishna now got down to preparing himself for the yajna. Last of all, he called upon his father Basudev that he also should proceed now to Prabhas along with all the

ladies and children, followed by all the birds and animals from Dwarka. And that Krishna himself will follow him soon and see him at Prabas once he organised a few people as security guards for Dwarka.

Basudev was glad that he was entrusted with organising the egress of the inhabitants of Dwarka city to Prabas.

Krishna now turned to Nard muni and told him very politely that he organised the Yajna only because Nard ordered it. And without his grace nobody could put it in place. It was a task that was well nigh impossible to carry out without him, especially when the solar eclipse would be coming so soon.

Seeing Krishna being so courteous, Nard responded, “There is nothing more for Govind to be concerned about. Everything is meticulously and systematically organised. And the place for yajna is as secure and as any. Gold, silver, gems, and precious stones have all been stored in the yajna warehouse by Kuber.

Krishna interrupted Nard. He engaged Nard to be the bearer of personalized invitations. He said to Nard, “What is pending is only the matter of sending out the invitations to the three loks. And that is something you can take care of.”

Nard replied. “I can circumnavigate the whole universe in the blink of an eye. Please feel assured that it will be done and dusted. My concern is about organising this *utsab* [Ceremonial feast] that is more difficult than giving alms away. Please make the food sumptuous, appetising, and scrumptious.”

Govind acknowledged that was true. “*Anna dan* (Feeding people) makes people happiest. We will feed everybody including *Hari Chandal*. Can you please begin to invite everybody, *muni, rishi, yaksha, raksha, gandharba, kinur*, generals, kings, emperors, and even birds, snakes, and animals. All the living beings are of equal importance to me. Inanimate objects can provide comfort and occupation.

Shree Krishna prompted, “Please convey my humble respect to everyone in the three loks and say that I should be so grateful if they would turn up for this yajna and receive our humble alms. And Nard, make sure that it is on the day of the coming solar eclipse.”

Govind became diplomatic and said to Nard, “You know muni, it is you, who is going to start the yajna, but it is not proper that you take the invitation to Brahma yourself. I will send Kamdev.” [Hindu god of erotic love, desire, and pleasure].

Nard, after a while, took Krishna’s leave and was about to set off, carrying the customised invitations when Krishna abruptly called him back. Then, Govind gave him the most controversial directive he ever had in his life - “Nard, wait. There is something I forgot to tell you. *Do not send invitations to Brajbashis. If you do, this yajna will be worthless.*”

Krishna could see the gentle drain of blood from Nard’s face and darkening of his eyes. He could see the flush slowly rising around his neck. Without any explanation, Krishna turned and walked to his house, leaving Nard with a lot of scepticism and consternation in his mind.

For a moment or two, Nard thought Govind’s political correctness was losing its grip.

Thirty-Sixth Chapter

NARD’S DEEP CONCERN WITH BEWILDERED AGITATION

When Nard heard Govind's last diction, he felt as if he was hit by lightning. He was exceedingly aggrieved. Anger rose deep inside of him. His heart was jolting and jarring inside his chest. He leaned on Krishna's words. He could sense his physical or emotional feeling ebbing away. However, his anger soon channeled into a constructive way. he breathed calmly.

While Nard was sharpening his mind that lost its edge, he wondered quietly, whether the Lord who is well-known as the greatest and the most benevolent, lost his marbles! And whether his déjà vu was corrupted by the new context of his fabulous life.

He looked at a question at him. "Could there be anyone in the world who is as cruel and ungrateful as you? How could you forget Brindaban where you were born and grew up? You talk as if nothing had happened? I resent that you are addressed as one, who is the most liberal and munificent in all the Vedic treatises, other shruti purans [Divine texts), and smriti purans [Bodies of Hindu religious scriptures]."

Nard felt pity for himself and for what he had done so far and worked so hard, in arranging this yajna. He did wonder whether Krishna really meant it or was performing one of his leelas! All the same, he felt quite disgusted, not knowing what else to do.

He moaned to himself, "If Govind is serious, I am finished. I am ruined. How could I go and show my face in Brindaban? What message should I carry to Brahma, the *Srishtikanta* [The creator of the universe]?"

While these doleful and dispirited thoughts were going round and round in his head, neither his feet nor body could move until after a while, he recoiled abruptly from the gathering grimness of negative thoughts in his mind, and despairing anger round his mouth and jaw.

Endowed with indomitable pluck and tenacity for perseverance, he put on his thinking cap. He decided that he was not going back to where he started from, and he had to break the present inertia. He resolved, saying, 'discretion is a better part of valour'. First comes first. He would get it over first with the personal invitations he was tasked with making. And when that was over, he would make his secret plan later.

"Come what may, and by any means possible, I should endeavour to accomplish my goal for which I set off in the first place. It is time to start with a test of reality."

"I will make sure that **people from Braj shall be there at the Yajna**. I will turn fear into aggression with a mission that is uniquely noble. And **Radha and Krishna will meet at Prabas**." Perhaps that should mitigate my disappointment. Nard bigged up his ability. Then he departed to invite all the people, all the living beings in the three loks.

Such is Krishna leela. Hê, egotistical self, listen with your heart. It is imperishable.