

Part Twenty-Three

DESCENT OF RADHA KRISHNA TO GOLAK DHAM BRINDABAN

Thirty-Seventh Chapter

KRISHNA HAVING A CONSULTATION WITH RUKMINI BACK IN RESIDENCE



Lovely Rukmini (Credit: Royalty-free)

Krishna finished giving his instructions to Nard about his immediate task of inviting guests living in the three lokas. He then walked back into his living room. He called his mother and other ladies. He told them about the yajna.

Everybody was delighted with the news that the yajna was for Krishna's father. Later, Krishna went to Rukmini's residence and told her and the other ladies about it. He emphasised that the yajna would take place on the day of the solar eclipse, and everyone from the three lokas would be coming to take part in it. And that, they must get ready quickly to go to Prabhas.

All the ladies should be going by the chariot Pushpak. There would be holy water from the Ganges for bathing. What is more, there would be plenty of fun and frolic, day, and night." On hearing this joyous announcement, all the ladies were thrilled to bits. They all hurried away to pack up their travel bags except Rukmini Devi who stayed on. She was on a different track of mind, tormented by herself with the haunting memories of repetitive thoughts about Radhika.

After everybody left, there was a sudden stillness in the air in this serendipity filled room, though not for Rukmini, who had a sad face, drooping eyelids and downcast eyes that were hard to hide. She asked Govind a question in a calm, courteous, and thoughtful voice.

“Please tell me my Lord, with an unadulterated answer as to why you are preparing this Yajna in such a hurry. Why Prabhas, rather than Dwarka? Whose advice? Why my lord, why do you have my father-in-law as a scapegoat to name for the yajna, instead of yourself?”

Even the Vedas cannot understand you completely and how can a woman like me, wrap my mind around you? Since the arrival of Nard, my mental capacity was filled with fear of impending danger and misfortune for me. Your clandestine head-to-head talk with Nard brought me anxiety, heartache and other ghastly feelings that made me bury my head under cover, and stay in. I have an objectively justifiable suspicion that nothing good could come out of it for me and Dwarka.

Most times, I had twitching in my right eye. [twitching in the right eye for a woman is said to be a bad omen in folklore]. I often bit my tongue while stuttering due to anxiety. Since I heard about the yajna today, my doubt has deepened.

Is this the end of my happy dream? Are you leaving Dwarka for good? Please tell me the truth, the nature of the truth, in correspondence with reality or fact. It is abominable to hide the truth from all of us unfortunate women.”

Rukmini then went into sobbing. Seeing her anguish and discomfiture, Krishna gave her a soothing smile which conveyed reassurance and comfort. He said, “While I am organising to perform a good karma, why are you getting burdened with such negative thoughts? This yajna is going to absolve our misfortunes.”

With a break in her bewailing, Rukmini feasted her eyes on Krishna and blabbered, “It is hard for me my Lord, to appreciate this yajna to be a forerunner for good things to come. As you have invited all the people and other living beings, they will be coming to take part in this glorious yajna, I presume. ‘They’ would surely include the people from Braj.

Hê Krishna, please take a while to ponder. When Yashoda and Nand arrive at Prabhas, there will certainly be a tussle to own you up. When Yashoda Rani calls you, ‘Hê Gopal’, you would not be able to resist the pull from the hold of your real mother Devaki.

Since the place is holy, and the day is with solar eclipse, Radharani Devi, the epitome of Love, might also come for *muktisnan* [Bath of liberation]. I have no doubt that when you see Radhika with all her friends there, you will certainly follow her to Brindaban. What would happen to me then?

How would I continue to exist, tell me my Shree Hari? How could such a yajna that heralds of mortality and impermanency for many of us, be a perfect harbinger of good fortunes for us? I am aware you are a free man. Nobody can stop you from leaving me. Even then Hari, I am falling on your feet, beseeching you not to abandon me. Rukmini, then burst into another sobbing bout.

Warm-hearted Krishna, knowing the obsessive thought in Rukmini’s mind with a potential for disaster, began to explain with loving and conciliatory words to mitigate her anxiety. Ingenious and quick-witted Krishna had the answer ready.

Thirtieth-Eight Chapter

KRISHNA CALMING RUKMINI AND TELLING THE DENIZENS OF DWARKA TO BEGIN MOVING

Krishna talked to Rukmini with an affectionate touch. He enquired of her, "Tell me my love, when did I ever leave you alone? Though the world talks about Radha and Krishna; they also mention Lakshmi and Narayan. You have the potency of Lakshmi while I am Narayan. We have never been separated from each other for so many years, even for a wink. Have we, my love?"

Even after the pralaya [Destruction of the world in Hindu eschatology or science of last things], when the whole universe was deluged with vast water of cosmic dissolution and when I was the only one who had survived lying on a leaf of the Banyan tree, I carried you with me in my heart. I have since promised myself repeatedly that I will never go away leaving you behind.



Balmukund on a banyan leaf (Courtesy Stock photos).
[Brahma turned Krishna into a little baby, Balmukund (Vishnu Boy)]

Having pacified Rukmini, Krishna held her up and wiped her tears off her cheek with the edges of his dhoti *gunja* [A cluster of folded ends of a dhoti in front]. Then Krishna told her in a charming voice that it was time for her to get ready to go to Prabhas immediately, and oversee the distribution of alms for the yajna, though Kuber was in charge of the store.

Krishna's honey-coated words relieved Rukmini of her tension, distress, and apprehension. Krishna further gave her instructions that she must supervise the distribution of alms from the store though Kuber was responsible for it. There would be all sorts of people and beings from the three loks. And you should make sure that everyone has everything to their heart's content.

There might be a need for bringing gold from *Sumeru* and it would not be an easy task. I would like you, my love, to keep an eye on it as well as replacing it as it begins to deplete. Send for Samba [Krishna's son by his third consort Jambavati] and send him to Kailas to invite Bhagavati [Devi, goddess Shakti or Durga] and place her in the kitchen to organise it. I am quite confident that there is nothing to worry about while you two are there. [Durga was created by Brahma to slay the buffalo demon Mahishasura].

You two should make this yajna very successful and make my wish fulfilled. There is a colossal storage room for alms, and offerings for charity, and there is an enormous mountain of food to feed all and sundry. Rukmini was awash with joy listening to Govind's cajoling talk. She bent over and touched Krishna's feet and left the room, happy and contented.

Rukmini, and Krishna's junior consorts like Satyabhama, gathered all the women in Dwarka and organised them to get ready for travel to Prabhas with their travel bags. [Satyabhama, the most beautiful and loving wife].



Satyabhama, the warrior princess. Skilled in archery (Credit: Quora)

Kamadev sounded the *bheri* [war musical instrument to call to arms] to call all the *Jadu* people. They all arrived dressed in the nines and began to gather by the chariot Pushpak. Pushpak is an extraordinary chariot because of the blessing by Brahma.

This mammoth chariot can carry any number of people. Krishna then called *Samba* [Son of Krishna and his third consort Jambavati], and *Aniruddha* [Son of Pradyumna and Rukmavati, and grandson of Krishna and Rukmini]. He gave detailed instructions to them as to what they would do after finishing the transportation of all the denizens of Dwarka to Prabhas.

That, they should go by the chariot Pushpak to take invitation to Brahma in the Brahma Lok. They should explain with great deference all about the Yajna. On their way back they should come home via Kailash.

At Kailash, they should give invitations to Shiv and Durga. Shiv first and ask him that he must be kind enough to attend the Yajna. Thereafter, they should go inside the residence and prostrate at the feet of Parvati [Durga] and tell her that the invitation was sent by Rukmini, embellished with all her heart, and that she may kindly be the lady for victualising meals to all the invitees, from the comforts of the kitchen.

Having done his bidding to Samba and Aniruddha, Krishna approached his elder brother Balram and politely suggested that it was time for his *dauji* to get ready as well. Let Daruk stay behind to drive my chariot. I must organise security for Dwarka before I set off for Prabhas.

Shree Hari has thus organised the exodus of everyone from Dwarka on their way to Prabhas by coordinating human efforts, arranging resources and incorporating them into a microcosm.

Such is the immortal leela of Hari. It is the eternal medicine for all the illnesses in the world.