

## Part Twenty-Four

# DESCENT OF RADHA KRISHNA TO GOLAK DHAM BRINDABAN

## Thirty-Seventh Chapter

### DEPARTURE OF DENIZENS OF DWARKA FOR PRABAS



Mount Kailash [Parbat] Snow white. In the Himalayas.

Lake Manasarovar is in front, A pilgrimage site, 30km away from Kailash in the remote south-west corner of Tibet.  
The source of many rivers in India.

When all the people of the Jadu clan, men, women, and children have got in the Pushpak chariot, the charioteers glided the chariot high up in the sky without a hitch. It was like the gentle rising of the sun in the sky in morning. It floated in the void as smoothly as duck swims in water.

All the Jadav men, like crores of the sun were seated elegantly on one side, separately from the Jadav women on the other side. These ladies were all dolled up in beautiful dresses, radiating natural beauty and confidence like lotus flowers in the pond that open magnificently with the rising sun.

The royal ladies like the goddesses Saraswati and Laksmi, numbering sixteen thousand and one hundred and eight, were headed by Rukmini, Satyabhama, Sushila, Kalindi, **Ram's wife Berty**, Kam's wife Rati, Krishna's granddaughter **Usha** and others, were gathered in this exotic chariot.

The spectacle was worth mentioning. It was aristocratic, privileged and aesthetic. It was as if the sun and moon were shining simultaneously up in the sky, inviting the lotuses and waterlilies to open in the water below. Such was the pageant that had never been seen before.

The chariot flew faster than the wind, past many locations and ultimately arrived in Prabas. One and all in the chariot were mesmerized by the majesty, opulence, and nobility of the castle.

Once they disembarked from the chariot, they were electrified with intense joy at the sight of the décor, paintings, and engravings. Everyone mumbled their appreciation of Biswakarma.

There were sitting arrangements. Women in the inner circle and men in the outer. They saw quarters for servants, and enclosures for horses and elephants in other areas. Everyone chose their accommodation as they pleased. There was no shortage of anything because of compassionate Krishna. Whatever they wanted, wherever they went, they found exactly as they desired.

When everybody had settled down, Rukmini sent for Kuber and asked him about the warehouses [godowns] and the plethora of assets stored in it. Kuber with folded hands, gave her a list of all in there. Thereafter, he took Rukmini Devi to the humongous store for a visual inspection.

Kuber first showed all the gold he brought with him, and then, the gold from Dwarka later. In a while, he guided Rukmini to the area where all the gold from the top of Mount Sumeru was collected by the Yakshas and Rakshas.

Lady Rukmini had a mental image of the physical labour of those poor souls who worked their fingers to the bone in transporting the gold from the top peak of the Himalayas to Prabas. She could visualise the tremendous feat of human endurance.

Inspired by kindness at heart, caring and generous, she instructed Kuber to stop ferrying gold from Sumeru. "I will provide the rest of the gold that will be needed." Kuber was happy with the effusion of Rukmini's warmth. So were the poor labourers who brought gold from Sumeru.

When Rukmini finished stocktaking, she sent for her son Samba, who arrived promptly and with folded hands awaited orders from his mother. She told him to go and see Annapurna with an invitation. [Annapurna or Durga is the goddess of the city of Kashi (Varanasi). She is also regarded as the queen of Kashi along with her consort Bishweshwar (Shiva)].

Rukmini also instructed Samba to go to Kailash as well, taking the invitation to Bhawani (Durga), the consort of Lord Bhava [Shiva, meaning giver of life; also, 'dispenser of life']. Durga is a ferocious incarnation of Shakti or Devi to kill Asuras.

## Thirty-Eight Chapter

### SAMBA AND ANIRUDHA SET OFF FOR BRAHMALOK AND KAILASH CARRYING INVITATIONS

As soon as Samba heard his mother's instructions, he set off with Aniruddha by the Pushpak chariot for Brahmlok. As they arrived, they went straight to Brahma's Residence. At the gate they told the gatekeepers the reason why they were there.

The gatekeepers went in and came back with permission from Brahma for them to enter. Both lay prostrate at the feet of Brahma and then kneeling, presented the Invitation at his feet. Brahma, knowing them to be the son and grandson of Krishna, gave them a very rousing reception with an affectionate hug, and then enquired about the health and welfare of Krishna and the family.

Samba said everybody was well. There was nothing unmanageable within the family, not as of now, because of *Bidhata* [Destiny maker, Creator]. He then explained the purpose of their visit.

Their grandfather Basudev was having a yagna, to be performed especially on the day of the coming solar eclipse. “Nard has gone to invite everybody in the three lokas. We two have been sent especially to invite you sir, and Shiva, by my father Govind, who humbly requested for your auspicious presence at the yagna, along with your family, and all the families of Brahmaloak. You are also requested to be the *sabhapati* [Master of ceremony] at this function.

Brahma was delighted with the details of the invitation. He said, “What a good fortune! I have achieved what I always wanted.” He told Samba and Aniruddha that they took his message back to Hari that, he along with all the deities of Brahmaloak will be there. And it would be a great occasion to have a darshan of Hari.

Samba and Aniruddha bowed and paid obeisance to Brahma and said goodbye to him before heading immediately to Kailash by the chariot Pushpak. They were at Kailash Parbat in no time. Samba left Aniruddha at the gate and plodded along inside the edifice.

With great submissiveness and with a scarf around his neck, Samba prostrated at the feet of Shiva. Knowing that he was the son of Jambavati (Third wife of Krishna, the only daughter of Jambavan, the king of the bears), Shiva welcomed him with open arms. He gave Samba an affectionate embrace.

Once seated on a comfortable sofa, Shiva asked him about the general news of Dwarka and how Basudev and Devaki were doing these days. He was sure that because of Krishna, nothing untoward would have happened to them. Shiva asked him whether he was just paying a visit, or he brought a message from his father Krishna?

Samba with folded hands, responded that, “because of Prabhu [Lord] Shiva’s indulgence, everything was blissful in Dwarka. I am here only to give you an invitation to kindly spare your time to attend a yagna at Prabhas Tirth, on the day of the coming solar eclipse.

This is about Basudev, our grandfather. Nard has already been to invite everyone in the three lokas. But for you Lord Shiva, and Lady Durga, I have been singularly sent by Govind to invite you personally. Will you please be so kind as to accept the invitation and promise me that you and Lady Durga will come. There is also another message from Rukmini Devi that, Lady Bhawani may please come ahead along with me in the Pushpak chariot. Would you kindly send Mother Bhawani with us?

## Forty-First Chapter

### ELOQUENCE OF *BYAJSTUTI* (DECEITFUL PRAISE WORSHIP OF SHIVA FOR DURGA & VICE VERSA)

To humour Samba, Mahadev [Shiva] smiled and using astute vocabulary he said: “You go in yourself and ask her. If I do, she will refuse as usual. You have heard the name *Urgachandra* [Another name of Durga as lover of ‘Love and Independence’]. She is always busy, and very argumentative.

Like all women, when you ask a question, she will give you ten answers. She enjoys having a row with me every now and again. She wants independence and to do things on her whims. She is not inclined to be soft and gentle. Rather, she is the goddess of war. She wants to fight.

But the whole world calls her *Sadhvi Sati* [Virtuous woman] and worships her as 'Mother'. It has been so unbearable to live with her that, many a time I tried to kill myself taking *Kalkut* [Vedic time poison]. But I could not kill myself. Samba, I was destined to suffer. Even *Yam* [Hindu god of death] runs away when he hears her name. How could I die when Yam refused to take me with him. So, Samba, go ahead and see her for yourself.

Samba found Shiva's talk hilarious. He smiled and interpolated, "When there is a fight between the parents, it is difficult for their children to side with one. But Bhagwan, as you know, during such a quarrel, children always support the mother at their hearts."

Samba took leave and stepped inside the house to see Parvati [Another name of Durga. Meaning daughter of mountains]. He found Parvati doing household chores along with another lady. Samba with a length of cloth around his neck, prostrated at the feet of Durga.

Bhagwati [Another name of Durga. Meaning one who possesses BHAG i.e., to have six attributes viz., supremacy, righteousness, fame, prosperity, wisdom, and discrimination], received Samba affectionately. "Come in my son," said Durga with fondness. She asked, "Why have you come? Your great mother is alright, isn't she?"

"It has been a long time since I have been to Dwarka. It is difficult to leave the house. What, with your druggy 'father' [Shiva who smokes marijuana] to be looked after, while he is carrying a second wife (goddess Ganges) on his head!

He watches every step I take. When I am out of his sight even for a minute, he becomes very abusive. It is not like one mouth but more like five mouths when he engorges expletives. I often feel lost with his wrath, and do not know what to do. He is supposed to be *Ashutosh* [One who can fulfil one's wishes instantly] to the world, but for me, your mother, weeping is the only consolation. But I can't help it myself. He is in my loving thoughts all the time, whether I am eating, sleeping or awake."

After praising her husband as being very generous with money and others (*Byajswati*), Bhawani now asked Samba why he had come? "Tell me anything without reserve, my son." Samba explained everything about the yagna and gave her the message from his mother Rukmini.

Delighted with the invitation, Durga, the 'Mother of the universe' came out with Samba to ask Shiva for permission to leave. Shiva understood her wish. He on the dot, said, "Go ahead my love, with Samba. You are the provider of food. Feed everyone from the three loks at their pleasure. I will follow you a bit later, with everyone from Kailash. Durga was happy. Very soon, she left for Kurukshetra with Samba.

*It is Hari's leela with which you cannot get enough to be intoxicated. It is beneficial while you are alive. It is there to give you company after your death.*