

Part Twenty-Six

DESCENT OF RADHA KRISHNA TO GOLAK DHAM BRINDABAN

Forty-Fifth Chapter

MORE STORIES NARRATED BY KALINDI AND OTHER LADIES HOW THEY BECAME CONSORTS OF KRISHNA



Shooting a target at a swayambar. Looking at the fisheye in water below and aiming an arrow at the fisheye above
(Courtesy: B Ruprani)

The rest of Krishna's consorts continued to tell their life stories of how they got married to Krishna. It was *Kalindi's* turn now. She said, "As I came of age, I had been meditating on the banks of Jamuna, with only one single thought in my mind. That was how to reach Krishna? My good fortune was that Govind, who knew my contemplation, came one day with Arjun. They took me to Indraprastha palace. There I was married to Shree Hari in the presence of Yudhisthir and other brothers.

[Indraprastha, the legendary city of Mahabharat that was founded by the Pandav brothers, was presumed to have been located around the present Purana Qila in Delhi].

Next came *Satya*. She said it was a very interesting story. "My father's name was Naganjit. He was a king. He was looking for an extraordinarily strong and capable son-in-law, a prince, for me. He organised a test to compare their strength. Then he would marry his daughter to the strongest.

My father had seven very fierce wild bulls. They were caged and kept in the dark. They had no contact with human beings. They had their horns sharpened up like the tip of a lance. My father announced that anyone who could subdue these seven bulls could have his daughter as his wife.

Many kings from the three lokas came. None of them could catch even a single bull. Then Shree Krishna appeared from nowhere and he tamed all of them. So, he got married to me. Since then, I have been dedicating my heart and soul to him and praying that I might be given such a boon throughout my future births.”

Mirtabrinda, now craved attention to her story of how she got married to Krishna. She was born to king of Abasti of Bindarka. “Since my birth I had been wholeheartedly devoting my life to Krishna. And my father, knowing my wish, decided to offer me to Krishna for his wife at a Sawamber, though my two brothers, Bindu and Anubindu, objected to his proposal, as Krishna had been our enemy. My father went ahead anyway with the swayambar. Many kings from various countries came and assembled at the large function. You will remember Draupadi that, like yours at your own Sawamber, my father had a tall Radha-chakra erected at the centre of the mandab [pavillion]. Many kings came. They tried to shoot the target with the arrow provided. Many failed even to lift the bow.

Later, Govind came. He picked up the bow easily, and with an easy shot he severed the *Laksh* [target] in front of the whole congregation. I was so happy. I walked over to him and garlanded him as a symbol of matrimony. Since then, I pray every day for Shree Krishna to be my husband, repeatedly in my future births.”

Sulakshana got her chance. My father was the king of Mandradesh. He was a great devotee of Krishna. He spent most of his time thinking about what the best thing was to please Krishna. One day, after consulting many, my father set off for Dwarka, taking a Brahmin with him. He met Govind. With great humility he proposed that Govind marry me. Having been satisfied with my father’s *bhakti*, Govind came to my country and married me.”

Sushilla now told her story. “I am the daughter of King Shrutkirti. I lived far away, across Sumeru Mountain near Kailash Parbat. We were hated by those who were devoted to Shiva and Durga. But I was a great devotee of Shree Govind. He was my life and soul.

When I grew up to be of marriageable age, Nard muni came one day. My father took the rare opportunity to ask Nard to mediate my marriage with Krishna. Nard was gracious. He went to Dwarka and took the proposal to Shree Hari. Benevolent Krishna, knowing my father’s wish, came over soon, riding the *Garur* [a Hindu mythological bird like an eagle that was the mount of God Vishnu]. I was then married to him.” I have been happy ever since.

When the first eight consorts of Govind finished telling their stories, the rest of the consorts -16,100 of them did their bit to tell their life stories.

They narrated to Draupadi how hard their life had been in the past before they got married to Krishna. It was because of King Narkasur of Pragjyotishpur [city of eastern lights, in Kamrup, present Assam]. This king had imprisoned 16,100 virgin princesses as his wives, after he defeated their parent kings in various wars.

His avowed aim was to marry one lakh of women and beat Indra god in his prowess. Until he completed marrying one lakh of women, he said he would keep us locked up in his prison. Which he did. We prayed for Shree Krishna day and night. All that we could offer him in the puja was our constantly falling tears. *Soraren* [God of the sky] pleaded with Shree Hari.

Compassionate Hari came over with his brave warrior wife Satyabhama who was a very skilled archer, and without delay slayed Narkasur. He then took us to Dwarka and married all of us one day, at the same time. That is why we do not care much for his *bhakti* [devotion] or murti [iconology]. For us, there is nothing more precious in the three lokas, than receiving his *paddadhuli* [the dust from his feet]”.

[The concept of receiving *Paddadhuli* or obtaining a speck of dust from the feet of Krishna has been regarded by Krishna-bhaktas, as enough for one’s salvation. It was propounded by the Vaishnavite Pundit, Narottam Das Thakur, who was responsible for spreading Gauria Vaishnavism to Manipur and Odisha].

All these stories of selfless devotion to Govind [pure bhakti] by his consorts from Dwarka, profoundly impressed Draupadi. Her heart was filled with praise for all of them.

While all the ladies at Prabas were idling their time, Krishna in Dwarka, was busy arranging security guards for the city of Dwarka during his absence. He remembered Samudra, the youngest son of Birja, his ex-girlfriend.

Forty-Six Chapter

SHREE KRISHNA ORDERED SAMUDRA AND SUDARSHAN TO GUARD DWARKA

Shree Krishna stood aplomb, by the shore of Samudra [ocean] and called him out using admirable and comfortable words, "Hê Samudra, in the praise of Destiny-maker, there is no one that is as powerful and strong as you. I survived as I hid in your womb when King Jarasandha was chasing me everywhere [Jarasandha, the king of Magadha in the present Bihar] is a character of the epic Mahabharata].

You are well-known for looking after those kind-hearted people and destroying others who are wicked. You can drown this world in the blink of an eye. There are not enough words or praises to describe you. Please be kind to me. I am offering my obeisance. Please come in your human form to see me. I have something to tell you."

Hearing Krishna's call, Samudra appeared on the surface in human form. He paid homage to Govind. Kneeling with clasped hands, he asked Hari the reason for remembering him. He protested that Hari was too polite to him and reminded him that he was his child. He was born to Birja Devi in Golak. There were seven brothers, and he was the youngest among them.

Samudra told Krishna, "Our mother brought us up with the greatest loving care, but as it happened, one day, all we brothers fought with each other while playing a game. My loving mother was very concerned when I went to her crying my heart out. At that time, my lord, you Hari, were engaged in a deep love pastime with my mother.

To make me feel better, my mother fed Amrit from her bosom holding me in her lap. At this juncture, as the leela broke up, you just vanished. When she finished feeding me, my mother looked around for you and searched for you everywhere. She could not find you anywhere. She panicked, feeling the anger rising in her neck. Then, throwing logic out of the window, she rebuked me for breaking up her devotion to you. She had the embers of despair flaring up quickly inside her."

When my mother could not find you anywhere, her despondency and helplessness overwhelmed her. Her deep apprehension of losing you caused her to rebuke me in its worst kind."

Forty-Seventh Chapter

SAMUDRA NARRATED TO KRISHNA HOW HIS MOTHER BIRJA CURSED HER SEVEN CHILDREN

She cursed me, “Hai Hai, you oafish brute, the most abhorrent among the living beings, the greatest sinner in the whole world. You have ruined my *seba* [or *seva* = service] to Krishna by your inopportune entrance. *Krishna seba* is the most unobtainable boon in this world.

To be able to have this rare blessing, innumerable yogis and rishis meditate deep in the forest, undisturbed for eons and eons, without food and drink. Even though they spent their lifetime, many were unsuccessful. Having been despaired, they would repeat their quest repeatedly in their future lives. Even Bhagwan Shiva roamed around at the cremation grounds like a lunatic, chanting Hari’s name.

Such Shree Hari has been allowing me to serve him freely for my sincere devotion. Now, you a sinful boy, my own child, has ruined all. From today I will not keep you with me. I do not like to look at your face.”

While she was admonishing me, my other brothers came to see mother with fake cries. Seeing them, my mother realised it was natural that I came to seek her protective comfort, like any other child when bullied by grown-up boys.

Despite which, she became berserk and lost her sense of propriety momentarily. It was like pouring ghee (clarified butter) on fire. Holding water in her hand she began to curse us all. “You must leave Golak immediately and go down to Earth where all you sinful boys will turn into water. You will be named as *Iksu, Sura, Sarpi, Laban, Dadhi, Dugba, and Jal*, as parts of the ocean.”

“As I was the first cause of breaking her *seva* of ShreeHari, I was given a befitting punishment. I was to be a *salty* sea and I have been here ever since. Then seeing our miserable plight, our mother was filled with her motherly love for us. She burst into an uncontrollable cry. You Hari, then came back and mitigated some of her agony and gave her some consolation.

I remember what you said to her, “My lovely, do not worry. Calm down. It is fate, destiny. But I can guarantee you that whenever you want to see your children, they will be there with you in their divine form. Your words then began to ease her torment a little. She settled down.

Because of your benediction, not only our mother, but we were also fortunate, as we were able to pay homage to our mother as divine icons [Dibya murti] whenever she called us. Then, we were able take leave of our mother to return to Earth and change to sea again. I know that you Hari are aware about all this, and it is not necessary for me to elaborate further. Please give me the order and I will see that it is done.”

Govind was pleased with Samudra’s response. With great affection he instructed Samudra, “All the people from Dwarka have left for Prabhas, leaving their houses unprotected. I will also be going soon to attend the yagna there. There is no one to look after Dwarka.

That is why I am calling you for security of the city. You must watch it very carefully until I return. Any assault from the sky, will be protected by my Sudarshan Chakra. And any attack from the sea should be your responsibility. And what’s more, you and all your brothers should attend this yagna in your divine forms.” After giving his command Shree Hari flung his Sudarshan skywards. Govind had now secured the defence of Dwarka city while he would be away for the yagna.



[Sudarshan chakra, the wheel of ‘auspicious vision’ (Courtesy: Wikipedia) is a divine spinning discus with one hundred and eight serrated blades around the periphery. It is the most powerful weapon in the cosmos, rivalled only by Shiva’s Trisul (Trident). It was given to Vishnu by Agnidev. The speculative size was 18cm in diameter, 5mm thick and weighed 90g.

Annotation:

A note by Ved Vyas (one who classified the Vedas). The legendary sage who also compiled the Mahabharat chronicle, commented at this juncture: “Even without these two formidable security guards, who would dare to set foot in the city

of the Lord of the Universe? It was only a Krishna leela, an excuse to leave his Chakra behind.

Krishna of course, knew already that people from Braj would be coming to this yagna. He knew that the Brajabashi [people of Braj] would prefer a Krishna holding his innocent flute, rather than holding a formidable weapon of Sudarshan Chakra.

To bring joy and pleasure once more to the lives of the people of Brajbhumi, the Chakrapani [Chakra-holder] arranged discreetly to leave his Sudarshan behind.”