

Part Twenty-Eight

**DESCENTION OF RADHA KRISHNA
TO GOLAK DHAM BRINDABAN**

Fiftieth Chapter

ADVENT OF NARD TO BRAJ AFTER HE
FINISHED INVITING EVERYONE IN THE THREE
LOKS



Pournimashi (Mohini) Devi

Nard came back to Brindaban for the second time. He was pleased with himself, after successfully inviting one and all in the three loks. But before he started his journey to Brindaban he took time to contemplate exactly

what he was going to do. He had strict instructions from Shree Hari not to invite the people from Braj.

He asked himself, how could he throw the gauntlet against such an order from Krishna and go about inviting people of Braj? Shree Gobind Bhagwan is omniscient. He could discern everything and anything someone was doing or thinking.

He pondered over the matter for some time, and then told himself, “If I do not invite these people from Brajbhumi, they would not be coming to the yagna. In that case, what is the point of my arranging such a great event? It is defeating the object. My endeavour to bring Radha and Krishna together will be abortive and utterly wasted.

What am I going to tell *Shrishikant* (the Creator of the universe, Brahma)? I would not be able to show my face to Radhika, ever. She, with a broken heart and in abject disrepair, might initiate an apocalypse in the world. That, I would not let happen. The Braj people must attend the yagna. **I have only been told not to invite them; not to let them know about it.** There is no misreckoning in its interpretation. The only problem is how I could go to Braj without Krishna, as I promised?”

While so many thoughts were doing their rounds in his head, Bhagwati Pournimashi came to his mind. [Pournimashi Devi or Mohini is the *only* female avatar of Vishnu. A female fatale. She is the personification of Yog maya, the mother of Sandipani Muni. She was a *Maha Vaishnabi Devi* (a staunch Vaishnav woman) and a student of Nard. Because of her love for Krishna, she left her home and came to Gokul, on the advice of the Nard muni].

[She had a fair complexion and was always dressed in *peru* colour clothes – a mixture of orange and brown colour. She was regarded in high esteem in Braj. She was devoted to Radha and Krishna equally. Nard was sure, that everyone in Braj would take her words to be true. And if she

tells them to go to Prabhas to attend the yagna and meet Krishna, they will go there. Having made his decision, he schlepped along towards the house of Bhagwati, taking precautions that nobody saw him.

When Pournimashi saw Nard come to her house, she believed he had come with Krishna. She paid obeisance to him and asked Nard if he had brought Krishna with him and where he was. She expressed her delight. All the miseries of Braj will now end. Nand and Yashoda will survive. She soliloquized many other hopeful scenarios to herself because of 'Krishna's return'.

Nard, observing how happy and contented she was with the assumption that Krishna had arrived, felt very ashamed. With an ambiguous face representing the foggy state of his mind, he told Bhagwati that he failed miserably to bring Krishna with him. That was the reason why he came to see her and why he sneaked his entry to Brindaban to ask for her valuable help.

Nard informed Pournimashi that Hari's father Basudev was going to perform a yagna at Prabhas tirth, on the day of the coming solar eclipse. And there would be alms giving. He has just invited everyone living in the three lokas, and they are already there. But Govind forbade him to invite the people of Braj.

"I am thus unable to invite you all. I am here only to ask you to let everyone in Braj know about this yagna and persuade them, including Radha to go there for a dip in the tirth on this auspicious day. I am asking you to be the one to bring Radha and Krishna together. That would bring life and happiness to the people of Braj."

Nard rishi confessed that as he was unable to fulfil his promise to bring Krishna to Brindaban, and because of that shame, he could not face Radha to tell the news. He asked Pournimashi for more work. "Once you have done that with Radha, you must go to see Nand and Yashoda with the

same news and ask them to get everybody and all the living beings of Braj, who are keen to go to Prabas, to be encouraged to do so.

You must emphasise that the place is a tirth with the Saraswati River, and the day will have solar eclipse. They will thus earn some extra boons. On top, they will have a chance to meet Krishna. Nard did not say anything anymore. He simply walked out and set off for Prabas to meet Govind.

Fifty-First Chapter

POURNIMASHI DEVI SPREAD THE NEWS

The evening was beginning to draw as Nard left. In the withering light of the next morning in Braj, everybody, men, women, children, and animals woke up quite refreshed. As the bright sun rose from the Jamuna River in the east, bringing joyful sunshine, the lotus flowers in many ponds began to open and smile, while the lily flowers started to close, as if they were ashamed of themselves.

As a few low-ribbed clouds gleaned faintly out in the sky, the petrified moon gathered all the stars and hurried away to hide in the *Astacha Guha* [caverns of western mountains]. A variety of graceful and majestic birds like peacocks, sitting in the branches of trees, amused themselves, singing melodious tunes.

Down on terra firma, all the gopis of Brindaban, having finished their morning household chores, began to indulge in their morning puja. They could hear the temple bells ringing ding-dong, and gongs sounding tam-tam for the morning *aarti*, accompanied by singing of *bhajan* (devotional song dedicated to Lord Vishnu) - '*Om Jay Jagdish Hare*', *Swami jay Jagdish Hare ...* (you are the friend of the helpless and the remover of sorrows. You are my Lord ...). [The song was written by Pandit Shradha Ram Phillouri in the 1870s].

Whilst in Brindaban itself on this pleasant morning, there were also many men who were turning in their beds, half awake, half asleep, having forgotten all the religious rituals, apart from chanting 'Krishna, Krishna'.

Pournimashi Devi, also got up early. Remembering Nard muni, her interest was piqued though she knew it was a tall order. She freshened up and got dressed. She came out of her house with the intention to meander from house to house, to carry out what Nard asked her to do.

As she came out of her house, she was delighted to meet a host of gopis in the road on their way to the *panighat*. Among them, she singled out Brinda and took her to a quieter place. She confided to her that she had very good news. It was brought to her by Nard muni yesterday. Basudev is going to perform a yagna at Prabas.

“Outwardly, to give weight to the function, Krisna had come and is there now. The truth notwithstanding, is that Hari had come to meet Radhika only. We must go and make sure that Radha also goes, to meet Krishna.

Brinda, you must organise to go there with Radhika with the pretext of having a bath in the tirth on this auspicious day of solar eclipse. I will also be going and help in arranging this meeting of Radha and Krishna after one hundred years. It will take away years of accumulated misery in Braj.”

Brinda was quite exalted with this rare news. She hurried away to Radhika's residence. She conveyed the message to Radha without missing anything. Then she walked over to Nandigram to see long-suffering Nand and weakling Yashoda.

When Nand heard the great news, he was immensely surprised and delighted. He was all set for the trip. But soon his happy train of thought got bogged down. He remained engrossed in deep thought that was contemplative and required introspection. And as he was unable to say anything, he remained quiet.

