

## Part Thirty-Five

# DESCENTION OF RADHA KRISHNA TO GOLAK DHAM BRINDABAN

### Sixty-Seventh Chapter

## HOW RADHA MITIGATED THE FEAR OF BRAJABASHIS IN THE MIDDLE OF NIGHT



Copy of an artistic painting of Krishna dancing in Ras leela with Radha Rani and Braj gopis. It is said that when Radharani disappeared Krishna sat under a tamarind tree, calling, 'Radha, Radha'. It is thus known as Imlitala Ras Lella. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu meditated under this tree. (Courtesy: Pinterest).

While the Brajabashis were trudging their feet towards Prabas, as was mentioned in Part Thirty-four, daylight was eking out as evening, was was creeping in. The starless night soon turned into inky darkness. This day of the month was approaching *Amabysya* [known as the day of darkness, or no moon day].

Late at night and in the small hours of the morning, the night was getting darker still. Black clouds covered the sky. Not a star was to be seen. In the middle of the dense forest, the night was murkier than usual.

All the Brajabashis and the sadhus were extremely frightened of the wild animals, which were growling nearby. And some women and children began to cry out of fear. Even Nand Maharaj himself became terrified. They were all paralysed with fear as they had not had an awful experience of being in the forest. They huddled together and chanted, 'Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna', to give them some solace.

In this forest, the underbrush was so dense with tangled vegetables that the Brajabashis could barely walk through, without getting snagged on branches. Suddenly, ShreeDam, who was scared stiff, exclaimed with exasperation, "Where are you my friend Kanhai? Can you not see the ocean of our tears and the dreadful experience of trepidation that we have come up against, on our way to see you?"

You are known as omniscient and omnipresent in this world. You often come to stand by people who are in distress with soothing words like, “I am here; not to worry.” You lifted Gopabandhu to save us all. You saved us from wildfire by dousing it.

You had slain Aghasur to save the sakhas. You saved your father from the mouth of a giant snake [*Kaliyadaman*]. How can we forget all the good things you have done for Braj? [Aghasur was an asura featured in Hindu literature, most notably in the Bhagavat Puran. He was one of Kansa's generals, and the elder brother of the demoness Putna and Bakasur].

It was only because we were so ignorant that we were not aware of your potential with the result that you left us on tenterhooks. I am not particularly worried about death; it is just that before the end of my life I long to see your face once. With this lament, ShreeDam laid down on the ground, filled with remorse. Even Nand and his learned brother Upanand could not help protesting.

Yashoda kept calling, “My lovely boy Gopal. Do I have to end my life this way, without ever seeing you? It is my greatest aspiration that, before my last breath I want to see your face once and feed you this curd in your mouth with my hand.

Would you not fulfill this wish of your mother, my Kanhai? What a disconsolate life I have? It seems that the Bidhata had destined for me to suffer such a broken heart for such a long time. As the sentimental emotion gripped her heart, Yashoda as usual, passed out and fell to the ground.

Somewhere in the crowd where Radhika was, the sakhis, who were keeping company with her, began to cry with thunderous voices, calling ‘Krishna, Krishna’.

Among them, refined and subtle Brinda, with a euphonious voice that was pleasing to everybody’s ears, uttered a sudden loud cry, “Oh Bidhata, have you preordained that I will not live to see the *Radha Madhyama Jugal murti*, the twin posture Radha Krishna, standing with Radhika on the left side? I have come all the way just for this. So have the sakhis. Would it be that I would end up being the dinner of these wild animals tonight? Unusually, Brinda also fainted and lay on the ground like everybody else.

[Madhyama is another title of Krishna. Root, *madhu*, honey. Referring to his lineage of Madhu dynasty].

It was only Shreemati Radhika who was compos mentis or sound in mind. She had been contemplating as calm as the sea about the kind of help she could give to the fear stricken Brajabashis, who used to be the wards of Krishna. And in his absence, she took the responsibility of looking after their welfare. She was extremely anxious that if an untoward incident of some kind did happen to them, what would Hari say to her? She knew he would not be pleased as he often favoured his great devotees to her.

Unable to procrastinate any more, Radha decided to use her *Tej* [potential or power to illuminate]. She caused the moon to shine as bright as one crore of its normal lumens. All the wild animals felt the unbearable heat. They all rushed away to cool themselves in the gorges, ravines, and deep in the leafy forests. Peace prevailed in the forest and among the Brajabashis.

## Sixty-Eight Chapter

### RADHIKA SAW HER OWN EMBELLISHMENT FOR LUMINESCENCE

Radha, seeing her own divine power, the energy to be able to illuminate the world, remembered the happy nights in Brindaban when she and Hari played Ras leela in the brilliant moonlight. Her heart went very tender.

She began to laugh on her own, like a looney, as the smoldering fire of her separation from Krishna burst into bright flames. It hurt her more when she remembered how Krishna, after playing such a joyful leela night after night, sneaked out one night, to enjoy himself with Chandrabali.

Remembering that night when she lost the competition to Chandrabali, which made a great dent in her pride, she bemoaned to herself, with tender words like, "Oh, merciful Lord, where can I find you?"

"Tonight, that is as enchanting as the full moon of *Sharad* (October-November), and in this forest that is like Madhuban in Brindaban, your hapless Radha is hungering for you. Is it not the time for you to show your lotus like face? I never knew where I faulted you for being so cruel. Please come and appear before us to ease some of our agony.

Would you not kindly let me see with my own eyes, the *cosmic Ras leela* you once played in which, to make each gopi very happy, you expanded to many of your look-alike forms to dance with ever gopi, to make it look like every gopi danced exclusively with her and for her."

Radha was blabbering in a field of emotional wilderness, recalling many other spent stories, weeping, or laughing, depending on the content of her memories for a while. She finally came to her senses and escaped from the emotional trap that held her captive. She made an earnest request to Govind. "Look at this, my Lord. All these people are coming to see you. But they encounter such fear for their lives on their way to Prabas and in this inky dark forest, full of ferocious animals. Please come and be kind to them. Please do justice to your epithet as 'the most merciful'.

Radhika then, quite alert, as if she had woken up from a deep sleep, turned around and looked at the crowd with kind and soft eyes. There was no more darkness, no more guttural sounds of animals howling. All the fright, horror, and panic among the Brajabashis had completely disappeared.

In the meantime, the Brajabashis could not help noticing that Radha was divine because of her ability to bring forth sunlight for them. All the gopas and gopis were struck with awe for Radha and they were very grateful to her.

*Hê you mortals, meditate about such a Radha in your heart and chant her name aloud all the time. Krishna bhakti.*