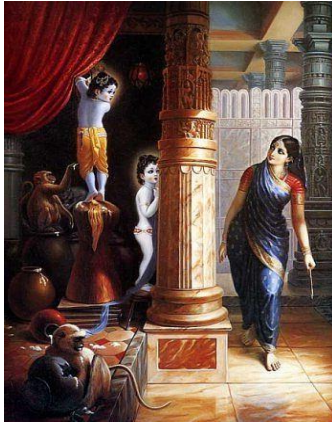


## Part Thirty-Eight

# DESCENTION OF RADHA KRISHNA TO GOLAK DHAM BRINDABAN

### Seventy-Sixth Chapter

## BHIM AND ARJUN CHATTING WHILE GUARDING THE CASTLE HIGH UP IN THE SKY



Baby Krishna feeding monkeys with home-made butter

Long before the yagna was started and as soon as a variety of guests from the three lokas began arriving at the palace, Bhim, and Arjun, the two Pandav brothers started their aerial surveillance of the palace, the venue of the yagna. It was their normal duty to fly outside the perimeter walls of the palace, high up in the sky. They were adequately armed as they whisked by in their chariot.

They were there to police the palace and protect the people in it from outside attack. You never knew. They had to assess constantly any potential threats around the palace. Sometimes, their chariot was hovering near to and around the palace walls. While watching the crowd outside the gates of the palace, Bhim noticed an old woman at the south gate, who sat crying, looking desolate. Four young women who looked like leaders stood around her. They were also sobbing.

Those four young women did not seem to Bhim to be ordinary women. They had certain dignity. They were august. Different from other women there, in their looks and deportment. A short distance behind them, there was a man who looked equally venerable. He was also sitting and seemed to be crying. There were a few other men sitting near him. They all looked despondent. By the look of it, they all perhaps, had been refused entry into the palace by the security guards.

Bhim asked his younger brother Arjun, "Brother, do you have any idea who these people are? They look like great devotees of Krishna. They must have come to have a *darshan* of him." Arjun replied that he was not sure, and said, "I believe Krishna was born in Madhupur, and was brought up in Braj. It has been known in the three lokas that there have been no people who were as dedicated to Krishna as the Brajabashis."

“The imposing lady, who is attended to by the four young women, may be Yashoda Rani. And the illustrious elderly man sitting behind her, must be her husband, Nand Maharaj. And the four young handsome women with Yashoda could be her usual attendants, Dhanishta, Sarla, Sangketi, and Sumukhi. The other men are probably, Upanand, Krishna’s uncle and other relatives, who must have heard that Shree Krishna was performing a yagna at Prabas and have come to meet him. They are probably crying, utterly disappointed when the gatekeepers refused their entry.”

Bhim queried further of Arjun, with astonishment, “Yashoda is said to be a Sati, a faithful wife and that, if she is quite annoyed, she could reduce these gatekeepers into ashes with her angry scowl.” Arjun smiled and said, “Oh big brother, these Brajabashis are a different cut of people, who shun violence. Brajbhumi is a pilgrimage site [Braj dham] because of Krishna. All the living beings there are virtuous. They are honest and truthful.

Yashoda is regarded as the real mother of Krishna in the three loks and by the intellectuals. She is the personification of righteousness. She will never get into barbarity because of her anger. Hearing Arjun’s explanation about the vicious behaviour of the gatekeepers, Bhims became very furious. Beside Yashoda’s non-violence, he was prepared to go down and kill the guards just by thumping alone and lead the crowd of Brajabashis into the palace. He was about to nosedive the chariot when Arjun stopped him holding his hand.

Arjun, who is normally cool and calm, said gently to Bhim, “Big brother, please hold on a bit. It might not be what Hari has in mind. He knows all these happenings. He can see everything. Our fighting with the gatekeepers might not be to his plan. I am sure Krishna would be coming to welcome his mother. Having mollified Bhim, the two continued to cruise around.

As the doorkeepers refused her entry Yashoda who has done her share of crying, called Dhanishta, her best attendant friend. Yashoda moaned to Dhanishta: “Oh, my dear sakhi, I am dying. The ill-fated Yashoda, is now at the end of her life. It may be that I am not destined to meet my son.

## Seventy-Seventh Chapter

### YASHODA TALKING TO DHANISTA

My throat is parched. I can hardly breathe. My body is gradually losing its strength. Tell me, oh sakhi, is there any other way to alleviate the situation?” Please, for me, would you try to get my son to see me once before I leave this world?” Having said this, Yashoda closed her eyes and passed out.

Dhanishta and other sakhis held Yashoda up and sprinkled water on her face to bring her back to her senses. Yashoda’s eyes flickered briefly, and she became conscious on and off. While awake, she just called Krishna’s name. Dhanishta, while caring for Yashoda, searched in her mind, what resources she had at her disposal.

She then, remembered an old story about Balkrishna. She told Yashoda that there was a way to bring Krishna to her. She reminded Yashoda to recall that once Krishna wandered away while playing, and the sakhas could not reach him, however loud they shouted, you my Lady, carrying *nani makhan* (white butter) in your hand, and your bosom full of milk, called out ‘Ha Gopal, Ha Gopal’, Balkrishna came back running to you.

“I still believe my Lady, if you please call his name aloud, Krishna will come to you.” Yashoda replied, “I recollect the incident, Dhanishta. But you are talking to me like I am insane. Krishna is at a venue that is surrounded by a tall and thick wall and cloistered by rows and rows of people. The place must be so noisy that a person standing next to another must be having difficulty to hear the other speaking. How could he hear me here when my voice is also so feeble and hoarse?”

Dhanishta said, "Oh Rani, please do not take your good son as an ordinary person. Krishnachandra can hear any and everyone who is talking in the whole world and at the same time. He is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. Please call him. I am sure he will hear you. Yashoda was still in two minds, whether to call or not. In the meantime, Nand who was sitting nearby and was listening to the conversation between Yashoda and Dhanishta, was inspired by Dhanishta's suggestion. He got up, thinking to call Krishna himself.

## Seventy-Eight Chapter

### NAND BEGAN CALLING KRISHNA

Poor old Nand, in desperation and seeing his down-trodden wife, began calling Krishna in a loud voice, "My dear son, have you really forgotten your father Nand and your mother Yashoda? We have come to Prabhas, hearing that you had come here. As we were very anxious to see you, we have trudged all the way from Braj to this place, Prabhas.

Now we are here, and your gatekeepers will not let us into the palace to see you. We have tolerated the insults they have hurled upon us for your sake. Would you not for once, come out and see me, calling 'oh papa' with a smile on your face, and take us all in? Your mother and I have come to see your face, once more in our lifetime, so that we can die peacefully. This is your yagna. We are your parents. Why would you let these lowly guards throw insults on our face and stop us from entering at the gate?

Your gullible mother did not listen to me in the first place. I warned her that the present impasse could happen. We are your parents. As I am a man, I can bear the abuse despite myself. But your ill-fated mother, on top of suffering from your separation, is now getting abused by your uncouth guards. I fear about her life ebbing away in the next few days.

You are the only child of your mother Yashoda. She only thinks of you whether asleep or awake. What would the world say about you for mistreating such a loving mother? You will lose your reputation because of your shocking depravity and cruelty. Hô Gopal, can you not hear me? Your father is calling you. Do come and receive us with a smile on your face."

Nanda continued to beckon Krishna repeatedly at the top of his voice. But Krishna, though he heard his father's plaintive cry, loud and clear, did not come. He was all the same restless, but he was waiting for his mother's call to help her grow her prestige and reputation. Nand, with a mixed feeling of despondency and shame, sat down and remained speechless.

About this time, many sakhas were also calling Krishna at their gate, in a chorus of "Hô Krishna, hô friend Kanhai." It was led by their prominent leader Sakha, ShreeDam. The intensity of the volume of the chorus sound was so deafening that all the door guards became quite terrified. They closed their ears with their fingertips.

ShreeDam called out, "Hô Krishna, you are our soulmate. It is now enough of your teasing, my friend. Enough is enough. We are only surviving because of our love for you. There is no point in living without you. Today, if you do not let us in, we will kill ourselves at these gates."

ShreeDam's call was followed by a discussion among the gopas, when an undivided resolve among the gopas that, all of them will indeed end their lives here, at the gate of the palace. They stopped making loud protests, and just hoped that Krishna would come out and welcome them to the yagna inside the palace. It was not that Shree Hari was not listening to all the calls from the Brajabashis. It was only that he valued his mother's love

for him more than meeting the Brajabashis. He was waiting and waiting for his mother to summon him with tender endearing words, - 'hâ my Gopal, hâ my Gopal.'