

Part Thirty-Nine

DESCENTION OF RADHA KRISHNA TO GOLAK DHAM BRINDABAN

Seventy-Ninth Chapter

FINALLY, YASHODA MEETS KRISHNA



Ved Vyas, the Author of Bhagawat Puran, telling stories to Ganesh, the scribe. (Credit: Times Now).

(Prompted and inspired by Nard muni, sage Ved Vyas composed the Bhagavad puran that consists of eighteen thousand verses in twelve cantos.] It was said that at this juncture of Radha Krishna story, Vyas found it hard to describe the pitiful state of Yashoda's physical and emotional wellbeing, with her cries of pitifulness that Vyas put down his pen. He stopped writing for a while).

Vyas began writing again:

Dhanishta sitting at the feet of Yashoda, was persuading her to call Gopal once. Yashoda eventually decided to call Krishna. She got up supporting herself on one shoulder of Dhanista. She was unsteady on her feet. With her love and affection for baby Krishna, her breasts were engorged with Amrit-like milk.

She began to summon Krishna, holding *Nani makhan* (home-churned white butter] in her hand, "My love, oh Gopal, oh Gopal", while her whole body was shaking like a leaf in the wind. Every time she called Gopal, there seemed to be a vague echo resonating as 'Mama. Mama' (*Parati dhani*) that everybody could hear. In fact, this sound was heard all over the three loks – earth (martya), heaven (swarg), and patal (underworld). Dhanista shouted with glee, "Shree Krishna has come." Everybody was scanning their eyes towards the 'golden' gate'.

Whilst this commotion was rife at the south gate, Shree Krishna, at the site of the yagna, was preparing for *achman* for his father. He was about to pour water on the palm of his father when he heard his mother's plaintive call. It hit him like a bolt from the blue. He was not aware that he dropped the jar of water from his hand. Tears flooded his eyes.

It was not like Krishna to be weeping aloud. Joyful and loving emotions triggered these tears. Not only that, like a child he rolled on the floor of the yagna. Everybody was astounded, slack-jawed and thunderstruck by

the unusual exhibition of Krishna's behaviour. It was not only the crowd at the function, but Brahma, Shiva and other devas were also dumfounded. Everyone at the palace was completely floored. They asked each other, "What was happening with Krishna, and who he was calling 'mama'!"

As soon as Devaki [Krishna's real mother] heard that Krishna was calling 'Mama, Mama', she came running. [She imagined that Krishna was calling her]. She sat down by Krishna, weeping, and saying, "Your mother has come. I am here my Krishna." Krishna hardly looked at her.

He called further aloud, "Oh, mama, oh, mama", and like a pottery wheel he circled and circled around in the gathering, looking for Yashoda. As his eyes were filled with the deluge of profuse tears, his vision was poor, and he began knocking over things while rushing to the gate.

Nard rishi now, realised that Yashoda Rani had called Krishna, and Krishna had responded. He was very relieved. He praised Krishna in his heart. He said to himself, "What a big mystery your leela is, oh, Krishna!"

Annotation from the transliterator.

[Vyas was the legendary author of the four Vedas, Mahabharat, and Purans. Shitaljit, a very learned Meitei was my teacher for a while at Johnstone School, Imphal, before he moved to Ram Lal pal School in Imphal as headmaster. Among other books, he translated into Manipuri, was Swami Prabhupad's Shreemad Bhagabatam in English. As a writer's blurb, he commented on Shreemad Bhagabatam as a philosophical and historical book of knowledge that had been passed down orally in India from a long time ago. It is full of knowledge for every walk of life. The book was first published by Vyas who was an avatar of God. After he had finished composing the Vedas, Nard muni encouraged him to compose Shreemad Bhagabatam, which is a complete guide to Vedic knowledge.

Eightieth Chapter

KRISHNA DISCARDED ROYAL DRESS AND PUT ON RASRAJ

Nard rishi who knew what was happening, came over to see Krishna. With happy tears in his eyes and a smile on his lips, he requested Hari with great humility, "I know my lord, what you are thinking. Please accept my adulation.

All these days, I have been quite unhappy, thinking that you have completely forgotten about Braj. In my humble opinion, if you go to see your mother Yashoda wearing *kirti kundalu earrings* and *rangada* armlets on your four arms, I doubt your mother would recognise you. From my perspective, all the Brajabashis including your mother, were familiar with you wearing *Dhara-chiura* (headgear) and holding your flute.

If I may suggest further, you should take some more time to discard your royal dress. Instead, please put on your *dhara-chiura* and hold a flute in your hand when you go to see Yashoda Rani. Whereupon, appreciative Krishna said, "That is very true, Nard, but I have not got that gear with me. Where can I get them from in such a hurry? Even if I have got them there is no one who can dress me up. I cannot do it myself. My mother used to dress me up every day, with loving care, one decoration at a time, followed by a kiss from her.

Shree Krishna became temperamental again saying, "I have not been to see my dear mother even for a day in the last hundred years. There is no one like me in the whole three loks, who is as ungrateful as I am. Krishna began to sob, deep, hard and raw, calling 'mama, mama' again.

Nard politely informed Shree Krishna. "Please do not worry *Banmali* [an epithet of Krishna. Meaning one who wears garland made of wildflowers like Kundo, Parijat, Tulasi etc]. I will procure everything in less than no time. You will be dressed up and decorated just the way your mother did."

Krishna told him to go ahead. He must not delay as his mother was in a state, verging on emergency. She might drop dead before she sees me. Where are my *dhara-chiura and banshi* (flute)? Using his *Yoga-shakti* [spiritual power], Nard brought all the gear in the blink of an eye. Soon, Krishna was rigged out in his Rasraj [King of flavours] dress. Krishna was like a fifteen-year-old boy. The boyish image that Yashoda always saw of him. The whole thing was Krishna's doing. Only Nard arranged it physically.

Very soon, Krishna scooted to where Yashoda was, calling 'mama, mama' as if he was in a daze. Nard led the way to Yashoda. Whilst without making anybody aware, another three images of Krishna went to the other three gates, one for each gate.

Shri Krishna came face to face with the people of Braj for the first time after one hundred years, including his mother Yashoda and father Nand. The news spread soon and widely. Brahma, Shiva, and other devas from heaven, followed Krishna to see what leela he was going to perform.

Basudev and Devaki also very worryingly, came running to meet Krishna. Annapurna and other ladies in the palace went up to the parapet and expectantly scanned their eyes towards the south gate. ShreeGovind now, arrived at the south gate along with Nard. The other look-alike forms of Krishna also reached the other gates at the same time.

These are the stories of four gates, [said Vyas] and I have only one pen. Please bear with me. I will be narrating them one by one. Please listen first, how at the south gate, Krishna met his mother, and you see the leela.

ShreeGovind, when he saw his mother who was calling 'Ha Gopal', ran to her, weeping and vocalising 'Mama, Mama'. He knelt and touched her feet. He picked up some dust from them which he placed on his head.

Filled with tender love and overflowing with joy, Krishna stood speechless for a while. Soon, he went and knelt in front of his father and other elderly folks. He bowed reverentially to Dhanista and other companions of Yashoda. Govind then returned to his mother, who shed another plump tear careering down her cheek. He requested his mother to let him suckle Amrit-like milk that he has not had for more than a hundred years, saying, "Have you stopped loving me mother? Please hold me in your lap. My mouth and throat are parched.

Seeing such a leela, the onlookers shouted, how blessed Jashoda was!

