

BHAGAVATAM – Krishna Leelas 2

(The Whole Universe in Krishna's Mouth; Krishna - the Butter Thief)



Whole Universe in Krishna's Mouth

Have you ever been to a play? It has actors that play various parts. God also has plays, and these are called "leelas."

When Krishna grew up a little, he started walking. He used to play with other boys of his age in front of his house. One day little Krishna, while playing, put some dirt into his mouth. Krishna didn't listen to his brother Balarama and the other older boys who told him to stop eating the dirt. So they went and complained to Yashoda, Krishna's mother, that Krishna had swallowed handfuls of mud. Yashoda caught Krishna by the hand and brought him inside, and scolded. She said that it is bad to put soil into the mouth, and it will harm the health. But he only looked at her with his big black eyes and said, "No, mother I have not eaten mud at all. You may examine my mouth, if you think I am lying." "OK. Open your mouth and show me," Yashoda asked Krishna.

Krishna opened his mouth wide and Yashoda was wonder-struck to see the entire Universe - the sun, the moon, stars, the earth, etc. inside Krishna's mouth. Now Yashoda was fully convinced that her son was not an ordinary boy, but Lord Narayana Himself. But seeing Yashoda amazed, Krishna made her forget this thought through his divine power. Then slowly, her mind came back, from this supreme revelation to her world in Gokul. Yashoda began to fondle him with deep motherly affection; for once again he was her own little boy.

Deeper meaning of this story: *Krishna appeared to be a human baby, but he was actually God. Most times, Yashoda thought he was an ordinary baby that was hers alone. But sometimes Krishna revealed to her His real nature.*

Krishna – The Butter Thief

Krishna was very active, and frolicsome by nature. As the days went by, he became more and more naughty. Every minute a new mischief occurred to him. He would pull the tails of the calves and allow himself to be dragged all over the place. Indeed it was because of this mischievous nature that his childhood was so charming and fascinating. But Yashoda would be full of anxiety and a time came when she could not give her full attention to the house because she had to keep a constant watch over Krishna. She was worried he would hurt himself. Whenever Yashoda tried to advise Krishna, he very cleverly, involved her in his innocent talk. Yashoda could not help but hug him in love.

Curd, Cream, and Butter were Krishna's favorite food. Of course, living in a town of cow-herds, there was plenty of all of these. All his efforts were directed in procuring these goodies. In the afternoon when the hot sun made everyone doze, he would tiptoe silently into the kitchen, not only his own, but also that of the neighbors. Along with his brother and friends, Krishna would break the pots full of butter and curd with a rod and eat it all of it. Whatever remained they would give to the monkeys and the calves.

When the Gopikas found the broken pots and/or empty pots, they would go to Yashoda and complain to her about the pranks of her beloved son. When Yashoda would catch him by the ear to punish him, Krishna would look at her with such a pathetic mixture of pure innocence and, she would not have the heart to punish him. He would bow his head in shame and look really sorry for what he had done. But the moment his mother had forgiven him, he would run off and get back into all kinds of mischief!

***Deeper meaning of story:** When Krishna visited the homes of the gopikas to steal their butter, cream, and curds, it is symbolic of how he stole their hearts.*

Krishna gets “tied up” by Yashoda

Sometimes, the little infant Krishna was so naughty; Yashoda just didn't know what to do! One day, Yashoda was churning curd to make butter while Krishna was enjoying a sound sleep. Suddenly, He woke up and insisted that she feed him. Yashoda left her job of churning, and began to feed her son. Suddenly she remembered that there was milk on the fireplace boiling. If she didn't attend to it immediately, it would boil over! She put Krishna down, and ran towards the fireplace to take care of the boiling milk.

Krishna was angry that he was left alone, no longer being fed. In anger, he picked up a stone and threw it at a pot of curds. The entire pot of yogurt was spilt on the ground. Still angry, *Krishna* went to the cabinet where the butter was stored. Getting onto a big mortar, he brought down a pot full of butter and began to disburse it among his friends and some monkeys that were frisking about there. You can imagine how Mother Yashoda felt, seeing Krishna be so naughty. She silently approached from behind to catch him. Krishna, however, saw her coming towards Him with a stick in her hand, and He immediately got down from the grinding mortar and began to flee in fear. Mother Yashoda chased Him to all corners, trying to capture Krishna. Although she was tired, she somehow reached her naughty child and grabbed Him. When He was caught, Krishna was almost on the point of crying. The child saw His mother's angry face while she stood over Him, and His eyes became restless from fear.

Mother Yashoda could understand that Krishna was unnecessarily afraid, and for His benefit she wanted to allay His fears. Mother Yashoda then threw away her stick. In order to punish Him, Yashoda brought Krishna near the mortar on which He was standing some time before. She started tying him to the mortar but the rope fell short by couple of inches. She gathered more ropes from the house and added to it but still she found the same shortage. In this way, she connected all the ropes available at home, but when the final knot was added she saw that the rope was still couple of inches short.

In attempting to catch and then bind her son, she became very tired. Looking His mother's tired face, Krishna agreed to be bound up by the ropes. After binding her son, Yashoda felt Krishna could not get into any more trouble. She began cleaning up the mess he had made, and engaged herself in household affairs.

The deeper meaning of this story is that God (Krishna) is infinite. No amount of rope can bind him. There is only one thing that can bind God. And that is the love of His devotee.

Krishna Releases the Two Brothers

After being tied to the mortar, Krishna was not through with his mischief. Krishna sat down on his knees and caused the mortar to tumble down so that it could roll when drawn. Now baby Krishna began to crawl on his knees towards the twin trees standing in front of the house. The twin trees were, in fact, the two sons of Kubera. Their names were Nala Kubera and Manigreeva. Narada Muni had cursed them due to their impertinence and they had been turned to trees in Gokul. And they would be released from the curse when Lord Vishnu appeared in Gokul as Krishna.

Since the curse was uttered these trees had been standing in front of Nanda's house. So, to keep up the word given by Narada Muni to the wives of the two brothers, Krishna dragged the mortar crawling in between the trees. The mortar got stuck up between them and when Krishna exerted force; the trees got uprooted and fell down. As soon as the trees fell down, they changed into their real forms as sons of Kubera. With folded hands, they began to praise Krishna and after seeking his permission, they returned to their place. When they heard the crash, Yashoda and some of the gopikas came running out to see what had happened. They could not believe it when the trees turned into the forms of gods!

Questions:

What is a leela?

What was the name of Krishna's brother?

What did Mother Yashoda see in his Krishna's mouth when she looked for dirt?

What is the deeper meaning of this story?

Who were the gopis?

Why did the gopis have curd, cream and butter in their houses?

What was the name of the village where they lived?

What is the deeper meaning of Krishna stealing the butter, milk and curds from the gopis' homes?

What is a mortar?

What is the deeper meaning of Yashoda not finding enough rope to bind Krishna?

Why did Krishna finally let Yashoda bind him.

Who were the two brothers were cursed to become trees?

How were they liberated? Was this a leela?

Daily Slokas:

Ganesh Sloka:

*Vakra Tunda Mahaa Kaaya; Suryakoti Samaprabha
Nirvighnam Kurume Deva; Sarvakaaryeshu Sarvadaa*

Saraswati Stotra:

*Saraswathi Namasthubyam; Varade Kamaroopini
Vidyarambham Karishyami; Siddhir Bhavatume Sada*

Guru Stotra:

*Gurur Brahmaa Gurur Vishnu; Gurur Devo Maheshwarah
Guruh Saakshaat Parabrahma; Tasmai Shree Gurave Namah*

Vishun Stotra:

*Shuklambharadharam Vishnum Shashivarnam Chaturbhujam
Prasanna Vadanm Dhyayet Sarva Vignopa Shantaye*

Rama Mantra:

*Sri Rama Rama Rameti, Rame Rame Manorame
Sahasranama tattulyam, Rama Nama Varanane*

Durga Stotra:

*Om Sarva Mangala Maangalye Shive Sarvaartha Saadhike
Sharanye Triyambake Gauri, Naaraayani Namostute*

Hanuman Mantra:

*Manojavam Maarutatulyavegam; Jitendriyam Buddhimataam Varistham
Vaataatmajam Vaanarayoothamukhyam; Sriramadootam Sirasa Namami*

Matru Devo Bhava Sloka:

*Maathru Devo Bhava; Pitru Devo Bhava
Acharya Devo Bhava; Athidhi Devo Bhava*

Morning Prayers:

*Karaagre Vasate Lakshmi; Kara Madhye Saraswathi
Kara Moole Tu Govinda; Prabahate Kara Darshanam*

*Gange cha Yamune chaiva Godavari Saraswati,
Narmade Sindhu Kaveri jalesmin sannidhim kuru*

Jumble Words – All words are from this lesson

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Coloring exercise – Balarama and Krishna

