

BHAGAVATAM – Krishna Leelas 3



Brindavan

One day a fruit-selling lady passed before Yashoda's house. Krishna heard her voice and went to her with a handful of rice for buying fruits. As he was a child, all the rice got scattered on the ground through his fingers. The fruit-seller was fascinated by Krishna's innocence and gave him a lot of fruits. She went away without taking anything in exchange for the fruit. When the fruit-seller reached home, she was highly astonished to see her basket filled with valuable jewels!

Almost every day, such miracles occurred in Gokul. As a result, the simple villagers of Gokul felt both amazed and frightened. They thought some calamity (bad thing) might result from all these miracles. When someone asked Krishna about the miracles, he simply laughed the matter away. One day a bunch of trees fell down without any wind or storm. The people in Gokul were very superstitious, and they believed the trees falling down was the handiwork of demons. So they held a meeting and decided to all leave Gokul and settle at Brindavan. They packed their belongings and put them on bullock-carts and proceeded to Brindavan, a place some miles distant. Krishna and Balarama were full of joy when they saw the green pastures of Brindavan, the sacred hill Govardhana, and the rippling waters of Yamuna.

Vatsasura

When Krishna had grown a little older, he insisted on going with the older boys in order to graze cows and calves on the pasture lands. Parents always worry about their children. Nanda and Yashoda were afraid to send him with the older boys unless something bad happened to him. But Krishna did not give up his demand, and stuck to it. His joy knew no bounds when Nanda finally gave permission. The other boys were extremely happy to know that Krishna would be accompanying them in order to graze his little calves.



At Mathura, Kamsa was not able to sleep in peace. He kept remembering how Krishna had killed Trinavara. He felt his death looked sure and imminent. So, he sent another demon, Vatsasura, to kill Krishna. This demon could transform himself into any creature. The demon came to Brindavan, assumed the form of a calf, and mingled with the rest of the Krishna and other boys herds. To the other boys, Vatsasura looked like any other calf. Demons have ways to change their form this way. But Krishna could tell it was really a demon,

not a calf. Krishna pointed Vatsasura to his brother Balarama. Quietly, Krishna sneaked up on the calf from behind and caught it by the hind legs. He whirled it round and round, and dashed it against a nearby tree. The animal fell down on the ground with a thud and was killed. Soon the body turned into an awful demon. The cow boys (gopa boys) cheered loudly, and began to dance merrily. Krishna was the hero of the day.

Meaning: If you have ever seen a little calf, don't they look cute? They are so warm and innocent and adorable. In the same way, we must watch out for people who disguise themselves as warm and adorable, but really have evil intentions. Krishna can protect us against such types.

Bakasura

Vatsasur's death was another blow to Kamsa. He felt death staring him in the face. So, this time he sent Poothana's brother, and excited him to avenge his sister's death by killing Krishna. Poothana's brother transformed himself into a huge Baka (crane) and flew to Brindavan. He came to the pool where the gopas bring their cattle for a drink.

As usual, the gopas came to the pool with their cattle. But they were highly amazed as well as frightened to see the huge Baka (crane). Some of them ran to Krishna and told him about the Baka. Krishna at once ran to the pool and saw the Baka that had an unusual size. The monster now rushed at Krishna and held him fast in his beak. The gopas panicked at the sight and some of them fainted. Now Krishna made his body so hot that it began to emit flames, and it began to scorch the throat of the Baka. Unable to bear it, Baka spat out Krishna, and began to attack Krishna with his strong pointed beak. Krishna was more than a match for him. He caught Baka's beak in his hands and tore it apart. Bakasura gave out a loud painful scream and dropped lifeless on the ground. The gopas were soon revived and embraced Krishna affectionately. Baakasur gave out a loud painful scream and dropped lifeless on the ground.



Meaning: The crane caught Krishna in its mouth. Like that, sometimes people use clever speech to disarm us and make us little. Watch out for such people! If we adhere to always speaking truth and doing right, like Krishna, we will become too "hot" for them to grip us in the jaws of their mouth – their powerful speech will have no effect?

Vyomasura

Hearing of Bakasura's murder, Kamsa felt the ground slipping from under his feet. Lost in deep worry, he began to exert even harder for his safety. He contacted Vyomasura, son of the chief of the demons, and entrusted him with the task of killing Krishna.



Vyomasura assured Kamsa of his success and made for Brindavan. Reaching there, he took stock of the situation carefully. He chalked out a plan and transformed himself into a gopa (cowboy). Then he joined the company of Krishna's friends. After winning their confidence, he suggested a game to be played. In

this game, most of the gopas were to act as sheep and a few as their guards. As for Vyomasura , he was to act as a thief to steal the sheep away. So, he began to take away the sheep-gopas, and shut them in a cave. Not only this, he carried away some guard-gopas as well. Thus he was able to shut up most of the gopas in the cave. When only four or five gopas were left behind, Krishna became doubtful and he followed the demon stealthily. Seeing him shutting a gopa in a cave, Krishna saw through his trick and fell upon him. Vyomasura came to his real form and a fierce combat began. Krishna gave him such a terrible blow that he fell down lifeless. Then Krishna set all the cowboys free and they all returned to the pasture.

Meaning. Sometimes evil people disguise their bad intentions as entertainment, or games. For instance, sometimes on TV there are advertisements for products that are not good for you! But the advertisers make it sound like fun. Therefore, we must be alert to those who disguise bad things as “fun” or “entertainment”. If we always act rightly and adhere to truth, Krishna will protect us.

Aghasura

Kamsa was now fully aware to the prowess of Krishna, but the foolish fellow was not ready to give up his evil ways. He, now, approached Vyomasura's younger brother, Aghasura. This demon transformed himself into a huge python, and lay on the path along which Krishna and his friends drove their cattle to the pasture. The gopas, ignorant of the python, kept driving their cattle and were soon inside the wide-open mouth of the huge python. They had, in fact, taken it for a cave in a hill. Moreover, they were now fearless, as they were confident of Krishna's indomitable strength.

Krishna was coming at the end. When he saw the wide-open mouth of the python, he called out, "friends! Stop and turn back. You are advancing into trouble." But the gopas did not hear his call, and went on moving further into the mouth of a python. So, Krishna ran fast and got into the python's mouth. He began to enlarge his size so that the python might not close its mouth and devour all of them. Krishna enlarged himself so much that the python was unable to shut his mouth. On the other hand, he found it difficult to breathe. Thus the python, Aghasura, was choked to death and all the gopas came out safe and sound along with their cattle.



Meaning: The gopas had complete faith in Krishna. And he did in fact save them. It is good to develop this type of faith.

Questions:

Who remembers the meaning of “Leela”?

How did the villagers of Gokul react to all the miracles around Krishna?

What made the villagers decide to leave Gokul and move to Brindavan?

What did Krishna and his brother Balarama like about Brindavan?
What did Vatsasur do to try and fool Krishna?
What's a "baka"? Who turned himself into one? What happened to the baka?
Who was Vyomasura? What did he do?
Who was Aghasura?

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 – Lord Krishna, the cowboy

