

BHAGAVATAM – Krishna Leelas 5



The news of Krishna's exploits was reaching Kamsa constantly. This fact coupled with the elimination of all the demons sent by Kamsa to Krishna had sent a wave of awful fury in Mathura, Kamsa's capitol.

Pralambasura

Kamsa was sure that if Balarama and Krishna were separated, their strength would diminish and Krishna could be easily killed. So, he sent a fearful demon, Pralamba, to do away with Balarama. Pralamba was dreadful to look at with his two front teeth protruding out, and arms covered with long hair. His red eyes emitted fire and he possessed great miraculous powers.



Pralamba transformed himself into a Gopa, and mingled with the other Gopas, Krishna's friends. He suggested a game to Krishna's friends and all started playing that game. In it, the members of the losing side had to carry the members of the winning side on their backs to a certain distance. Pralamba intentionally fell in with the losing side and seated Balarama on his back and ran towards Mathura.

The demon was undoubtedly very strong and powerful, but he began to feel the burden, and thus he assumed his real form, decorated with a golden helmet and earrings and looked just like a cloud with lightning carrying the moon. Balarama observed the demon's body expanding up to the limits of the clouds, his eyes dazzling like blazing fire and his mouth flashing with sharpened teeth. At first, Balarama was surprised by the demon's appearance, and He began to wonder, "How is it that all of a sudden this Gopa has changed in every way?" But with a clear mind He could quickly understand that He was being carried away from His brother Krishna and friends by a demon who intended to kill Him. Immediately, He struck the head of the demon with His strong fist, and Pralamba fell down dead instantly.

All the boys rushed to the spot, and were astonished by the ghastly scene. They began to praise Balarama for his heroics. When the news reached Kamsa, he felt thwarted.

Balarama was Krishna's brother. Like Krishna, he also was considered an incarnation of Vishnu. He also had tremendous strength.

Govardhana Leela

The people of Brindavan started preparations in a grand way for a Yagna before the rainy season. Krishna respectfully approached his father Nanda and asked, "Father in whose honor is this Yagna being performed, and why?" Nanda said, "Krishna, Lord Indra is the god of rain. Rain gives us water for our crops, fodder for the cattle and gives life to all beings. Therefore Indra is to be worshipped. Besides, we have to respect the tradition which has come down to us from our forefathers."

But Krishna had no desire to please Indra. He knew Lord Indra had become very proud. Krishna thought this was the ideal time to teach Indra a lesson. Then Krishna told his father and elders, "Why do you worship Indra? Worship your cows that give you milk and calves. Worship the Yamuna where our cattle drink water and whose water irrigates our crops. Worship the Govardhan Hill with its green grass and rich pasturelands on whose sides our cattle graze."

Nanda and all the elders thought this an excellent suggestion, and the people of Brindavan gave up the worship of Indra and began to worship cows, the Yamuna, and the Govardhan Hill. Indra felt highly offended, and decided to teach the people of Brindavan a bitter lesson. Indra instructed his clouds and winds to wreck havoc on Brindavan and to destroy the land and people completely. A rainstorm broke out and it began to hail heavily. Water flooded into every house and cow-sheds. Human beings and animals became blue with cold and looked as though they would die. The people of Brindavan were frightened and ran to Krishna for safety, and pleaded with Him to save them from the anger of Indra. Krishna was moved when He saw their plight.

Krishna took all of them to the Govardhan Hill. He lifted the hill on the little finger of His left hand. It served as a big umbrella under which the people and the cattle of Brindavan took shelter. It rained continuously for seven days, and all those days Krishna held aloft the Govardhana Mountain while the people took refuge under it.

Indra was puzzled and surprised. He realized his anger and jealousy was futile. He felt ashamed and withdrew the clouds and wind. The sun came out and shone brightly. The floods subsided. The people of Brindavan went back to their home and Krishna replaced the hill in its original position. All the villagers realized the divinity of Krishna, and worshipped him as the Lord of the Universe.



Indra had come to his senses. He very apologetically approached Krishna, and prostrated before Him. He touched Krishna's feet and begged His pardon. Krishna said, "All this was done to break your pride, Indra. Go and perform your duties faithfully."

When Krishna was holding up the mountain, he did it effortlessly. He just used one little finger to hold it up for all of seven days! But when Krishna held up the mountain, the villagers also wanted to help him. Krishna had grown very large to hold up the mountain. So all the villagers got sticks and poles, which they also used to help Krishna hold up the mountain. In the same way, when we are doing some of God's work, we can say "I am helping Krishna hold up the mountain." God does not need our help, but nevertheless, out of love for Him, we can try to assist Him in every way we can.

Questions:

- How was Kamsa related to Krishna?
- Do you remember why he was always trying to kill Krishna?
- Wouldn't it have been better for Kamsa just to make friends with Krishna, rather than always trying to kill him?
- Can you think of any examples from your own life, where it would be better to make friends rather than always trying to fight?
- Who was Balarama in relation to Krishna? What was He?
- Who was Pralamba Asura? What does Asura mean?
- Who remembers what a "leela" is?
- Who is Indra? Why did Krishna want to teach him a lesson?
- What is the name of the mountain Krishna held up?
- What is ego? Why do people get egoistic?
- What does it mean to say "I am helping Krishna hold up the mountain?"

Daily Slokas:

Ganesh Sloka:

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

Saraswati Stotra:

*Saraswathi Namasthubyam; Varade Kamaroopini
Vidyarambham Karishyami; Siddhir Bhavatum 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 playing with his Gopa friends

