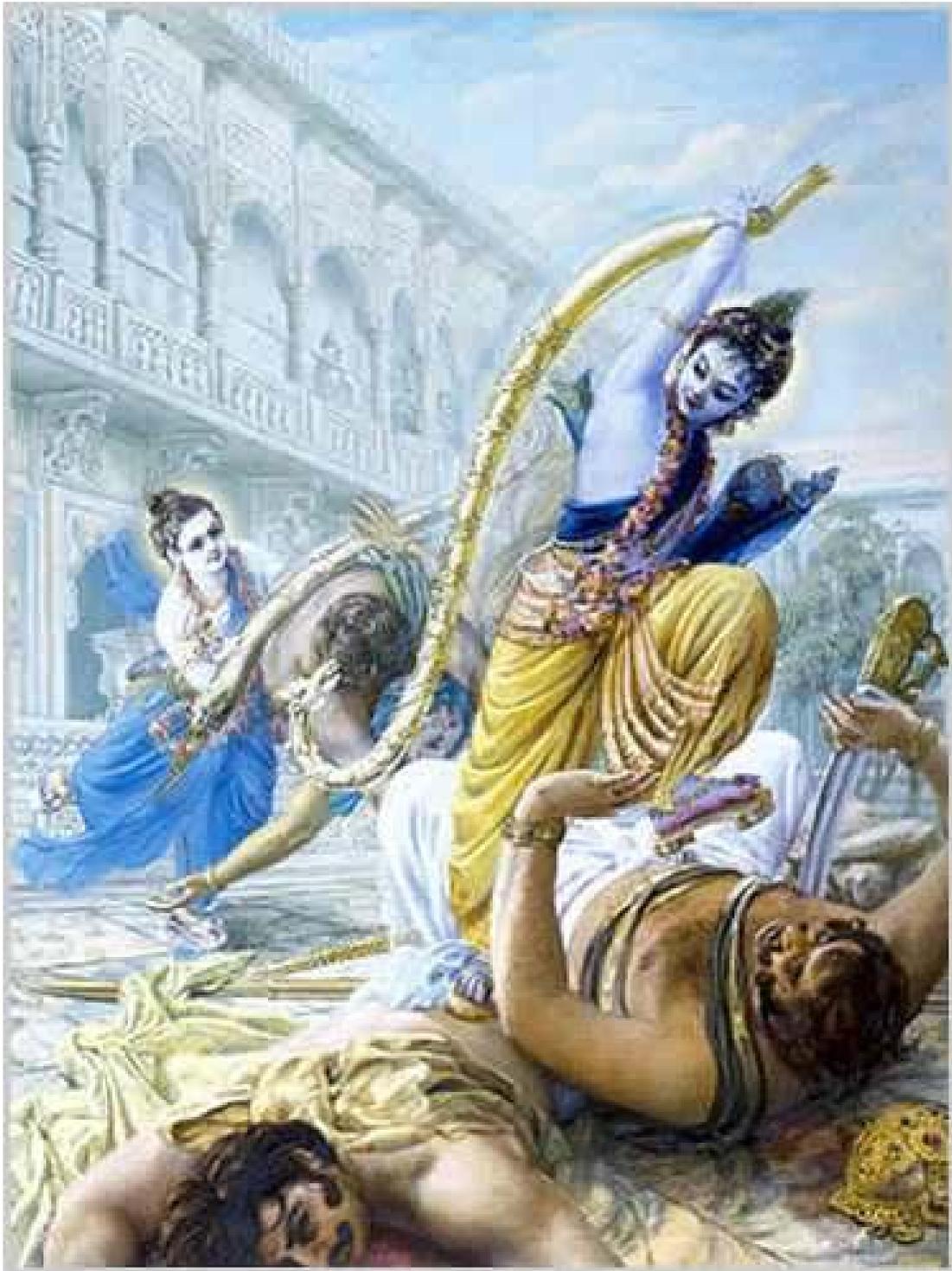


## BHAGAVATAM – Krishna Leelas 7



Remember what happened in the last lesson? The evil Kamsa had Akrura invite Krishna's father Nanda and his family, and all the gopas to come to Mathura. Kamsa thought that by getting Krishna and Balarama to Mathura he could kill them. Nanda ordered all the gopas to get ready to leave. Early the next morning, as the sun crept over the horizon, they started their journey. They arrived in the beautiful city of Mathura before the sun set. Akrura requested them to be his guests in Mathura, but Krishna told him he would visit his house once Kamsa had been killed. Sorrowfully, Akrura left them and went to inform Kamsa that the boys had arrived in the city.

Krishna and Balarama started walking in the streets of Mathura, and were utterly delighted with beauty of the city. Everybody in the city came to know that Krishna and Balarama had arrived. The women and children rushed to their windows and balconies and craned their necks to catch a glimpse of the brothers. They showered flowers on them and felt blessed when they looked up and smiled at them.

As they went along, they passed a washerman's shop. Krishna asked him to give the best of fine clothes he had, and promised him great fortune in return. Unfortunately, this washerman was a servant of Kamsa, and was arrogant. Instead of being pleased with Krishna's request, he was very angry and refused the Lord's request saying, "How is it that you are asking clothing which is meant for a King? Do you get such fine clothes to wear in the mountains and forests where you run? Be off, foolish boys, before the king's soldiers come and arrest you. Never make such demands again."

On hearing this, Lord Krishna became very angry, and lightly touched the washerman's head with His finger tips. Instantly, the washerman's head was separated from his body. The washerman fell down dead on the ground. After this ghastly incident, the servants of the washerman ran here and there in great confusion, leaving the clothing. Krishna and Balaram chose the finest clothes for themselves, and distributed the rest among the gopas.

Then the brothers approached the house of a garland maker called, Sudama. Sudama worshipped them with betel leaves, garlands, and flowers of all colors and fragrances. He prayed to the Lord for constant devotion and love for all His creatures. Krishna was very pleased with him, blessed him, and conferred on him many boons and blessings.

While walking on the streets, Krishna and Balarama saw a young woman carrying a dish of sandalwood paste. She had a beautiful face which shone with kindness, but she had hunched back. Krishna joked with her and said, "Oh tall young lady, who are you? Tell me whom you carry this paste for? You should offer this sandalwood paste to Me, and if you do so you will be suitably rewarded."

The woman looked at their faces and answered pleasantly, "My name is Trivakra. I am a maidservant of Kamsa. I prepare this sandalwood paste for the King daily. He likes it very much. Now I see that there is no one who can better be served by this paste of sandalwood than you two brothers." Then with great love and devotion, she smeared Their bodies with sandalwood paste. As a reward, Krishna drew close to her and pressed her feet with his toes. He placed two of his fingers under her chin and lifted it. The hunched back straightened into a shapely young woman of great charm and beauty.

After visiting most of the places of interest in Mathura, Krishna and Balarama inquired from the citizens to the location of the sacrificial place where the Dharnur yagna was planned by Kamsa. They found this place, and looked it over. Near the sacrificial altar, Kamsa had placed a big bow. It was huge and heavy. It shone with the splendor of many precious gems. The bow resembled the rainbow in the sky, and was protected by many fierce-looking armed men. As Krishna and Balarama approached the bow, they were warned not to go near the bow, but Krishna ignored this warning. He forcibly went up and immediately took the big bow in His left hand, and drew its string to his ear till it snapped into two. The snapping sounded like a terrific thunder-clap and reached the ears of Kamsa. It filled him with great fear and dread.

The caretaker of the bow, who was standing and watching the incident became very angry, and surrounded Krishna and Balarama with his armed men. With nothing else in hand but one half of the broken bow each, the brothers killed the guards and other soldiers in no time. Then with a casual stride they walked out of sacrificial hall, and proceeded towards their resting camp. Seeing the activities and wonderful prowess of Krishna and Balarama, all the citizens of Mathura began to consider the two brothers to be demigods who had come down to Mathura.

## Questions:

- What is a gopa?
- Was Akrura a good or bad person? Did he work for a good or bad person?
- Do you think Nanda knew that Kamsa wanted to kill Krishna and his brother?
- What did Krishna ask the washerman?
- What happened to the washerman?
- What did the gopas get?
- Do you think it was fun to be Krishna's companion?
- Who was Trivakra?
- What did she do for Krishna?
- What did Krishna do for her?
- What did Krishna do to the bow near the sacrificial altar?
- Why was Kamsa so afraid of Krishna?
- How did he try and get rid of his fear of Krishna?
- Would there have been a better, safer way to lose his fear of Krishna?

## MahaLakshmi Ashtakam

**Namstestu Mahamaye Shripithe Surapujite  
SankhaChakra GadhaHaste MahaLakshmi Namostute (1)**

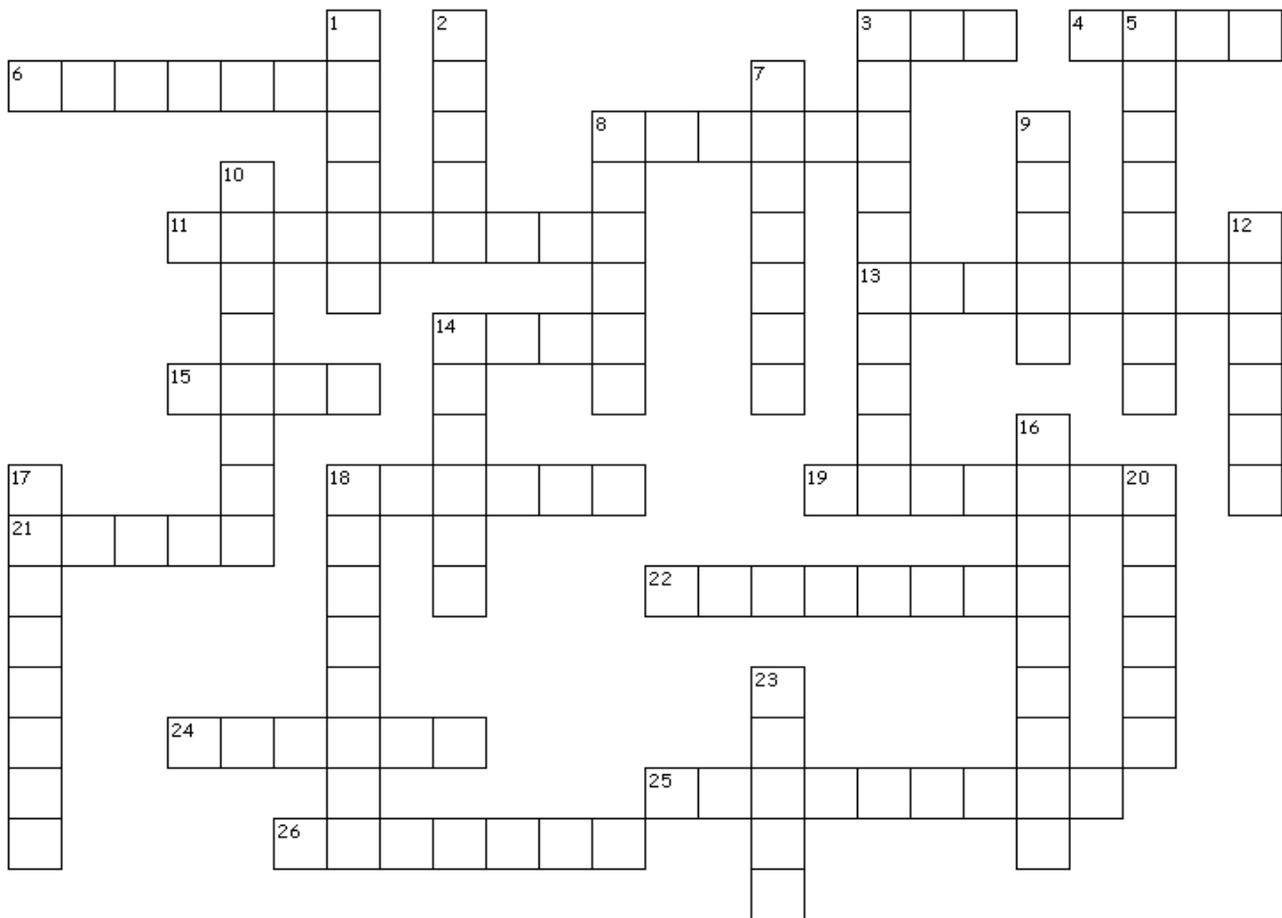
**Namaste Garudarudhe Dolasura Bhayankari  
SarvaPapaHare Devi MahaLakshmi Namostute (2)**

**Sarvajne Sarvavarade SarvadáshtaBhayankari  
Sarvadásukhahare Devi Mahalakshmi Namostute (3)**

**SidhiBudhiPrade Devi BhuktiMukti Pradayini  
Mantramurte Sada Devi Mhalakshmi Nmostute (4)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5Pq1RoMJP4>

## CROSSWORD (Based on all Bhagavatam lessons so far)



### Across

3. Number of Vishnu's incarnations
4. Arishtasura's form
6. Eighth incarnation of Vishnu
8. Krishna's mother
11. Krishna spent childhood in
13. Krishna's father
14. Krishna's skin color
15. Demon Vatsasura came in the form
18. Demon Aghasura came in the form of a
19. Nanda's wife
21. Chief of Yadavas
22. A demon in crane form
24. a garland maker
25. person refused to give clothes to Krishna
26. Kamsa's Kingdom

### Down

1. The River passed by Brindavan
2. the God of Rain
3. A demon creates whirlwinds
5. Kamsa's father
7. Krishna's brother
8. Dhenukasara's form
9. Krishna lived first few years here
10. a hunched back woman
12. A huge snake in Yamuna River
14. Krishna's favorite food
16. Krishna lifted a hill with little finger
17. Yashoda's sees in Krishna's mouth
18. A lady demon (Rakshasi)
20. Kamsa sent a messenger to bring Krishna
23. A demon in horse form

Coloring exercise – Bala Krishna

