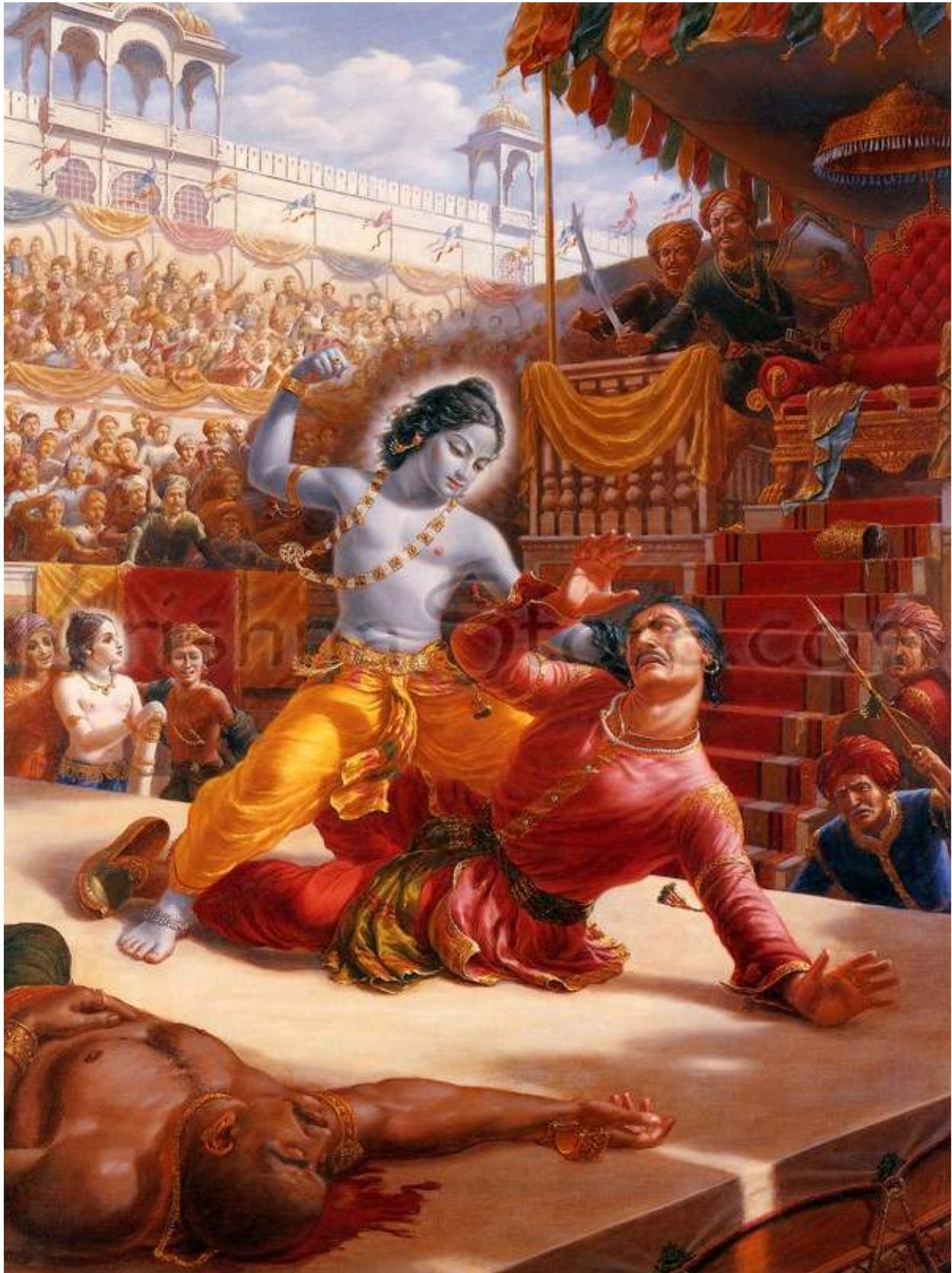


BHAGAVATAM – Krishna Leelas 8 (Death of KAMSA)



Remember the last lesson, where Krishna broke Kamsa's big mighty bow? Kamsa was extremely angry because his bow had been wrecked, many of his soldiers were killed, and his own special sandal paste was given to Krishna. He was disturbed by nightmares of death, torture, and dishonor all through the night. He spent a sleepless night in the midst of bad omens. At last, the sun rose over the eastern horizon.

It was the day of festival when the wrestling match was to take place. The huge arena was nicely decorated with flags, flowers, and festoons. Different types of galleries and seating were arranged for respectable persons – Kings, princes, ministers, traders, businessmen, and priests. Now the arena was full with spectators. The wrestlers, renowned the world over for their strength, who were to exhibit their skills, walked into the arena. Kamsa arrived at the arena, accompanied by his ministers and secretaries, and took his seat on a raised platform especially meant for him. The gopas, who came from Brindavan headed by Nanda, were welcomed by Kamsa, and were given special seats to watch the wrestling matches.

After taking their morning bath, Krishna and Balarama strolled unhurriedly towards the wrestling arena to watch the fun. When They arrived at the main gate of the wrestling camp, They were obstructed by a mighty elephant.



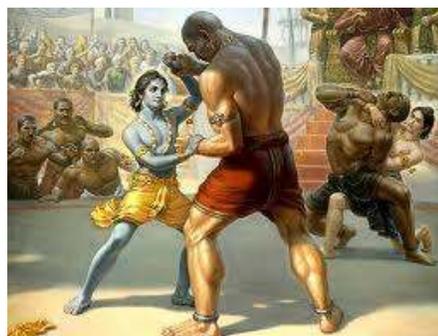
Krishna noticed the mahout (caretaker of the elephant) was deliberately blocking Their entrance by keeping the elephant in front of the gateway. Krishna told the elephant's caretaker to immediately clear the path, but the man became angry and provoked the elephant to charge Krishna. The elephant moved forward and made to coil its trunk around Krishna. However, Krishna slipped between the legs of the elephant, and with a jump, caught its tail with both hands. He pulled the tail with great strength for many yards, and then whirled it round and round, and made it quite dizzy. Then he leapt forward and seized the animal's trunk. It fell down with a mighty thud. Krishna ripped out elephant's tusks, and with one blow killed

both elephant and its mahout.

Krishna and Balarama then proceeded into the arena, where everyone at once became attracted to Them. The audience was completely attentive to Krishna and Balarama. The residents of Brindavan were all reciting Their pastimes, and others, seeing Them for the first time, began to praise Their qualities. Kamsa too, awed by Their feat, looked helplessly upon their magnificence, and trembled violently within.

Finally, the trumpets sounded and the signal was given to start the wrestling matches. The famous champion wrestlers Chanura and Mustika approached Krishna and Balarama, and Chanura said, “We have heard a lot about You. Our King Kamsa desires to see You display Your wrestling skills. We, who are the subjects of the king, have to do his bidding and so we request you to match your wrestling skill with ours.” Krishna loved this sport, one in which he had indulged in so often with the gopas. But Krishna answered, “We who live in the forests are not professional wrestlers. A match of professional wrestlers against young boys would not be equal, and this would disturb the audience.” But Chanura replied with great cunning, “Neither you nor your brother is young in experience. You killed an elephant just now, which had the strength of a thousand elephants. You should not, therefore, hesitate to wrestle with us.” Now, Krishna and Balarama accepted the challenge.

Many members of the audience called out their disapproval, for Krishna and His brother appeared to delicate boys of tender age, whereas the wrestlers mountainous strongmen, trained in the art of crushing opponents. Krishna and Balarama engaged the wrestlers in the standard wrestling holds and maneuvers for some time, but when the anxious protests of the audience grew too great, Krishna simply



be
were

spun

one wrestler in the air, Balarama hit the other, and the famous wrestlers were dead. Other wrestlers came forward, but the two brothers killed them immediately, and the remaining wrestlers ran from the arena. Musicians spontaneously beat their drums, and the crowd cheered the victory of Krishna and Balarama! Krishna and Balarama danced joyfully as they used to in Brindavan.

Kamsa was enraged. His eyes were red with anger and his body trembled violently with the force of uncontrolled emotions. He announced that Krishna and Balarama should be driven from the city of Mathura, Their riches plundered, seize Nanda and put him in chains, and Krishna’s father Vasudeva killed. Krishna could not tolerate such talk, and before Kamsa could even finish giving his orders, Krishna jumped onto his platform, and stood before him face to face. Kamsa tried defending himself with a sword, but Krishna grabbed him and dragged him down from the throne. After throwing him on the ground, Krishna killed Kamsa by punching him with His fist. Krishna then dragged Kamsa around the arena the way a lion drags an elephant after killing it, just to assure His parents, relatives and all pious people that Kamsa was actually dead.

Kamsa's eight brothers felt the insult done to their brother. They attacked Krishna and Balarama to avenge Kamsa's death. But they too, were soon overpowered and killed.

Krishna and Balarama then hastened to Vasudeva and Devaki, and released them from their iron chains and fetters. They prostrated before them and touched their feet in salutation. Krishna also released Ugrasena, who was languishing in a dungeon where he had been thrown by his own son, Kamsa, in his impatience to get his throne.

Krishna placed the released Ugrasena on the throne. The citizens of Mathura now released from the tyranny of Kamsa's reign, lived happily in peace and prosperity.

Comments on the story: Kamsa went to a lot of trouble to try and kill Krishna. Krishna was born to kill Kamsa to relieve the world of evil. But if Kamsa had started following a righteous path, and had bowed down to Krishna, he wouldn't have been killed. Why couldn't Kamsa do this? Because he had such a big ego! His ego ultimately was the cause of his downfall.

God appears on Earth from time to time to restore dharma. In the old days, people were in two categories, good people and bad people. So God would come and kill the bad people to clean up society. But today, most people are a mixture of good and bad. So God will not come and kill bad people. He comes like Sai Baba to teach all people to be good. Sai Baba's motto was "love all, serve all, help ever, hurt never."

Questions:

- 1) Do you remember all the things Kamsa did to try and avoid being killed by Krishna? List some of them.
- 2) What else could Kamsa have done to avoid being killed? Would that have been easier or harder?
- 3) Describe what ego is. Give examples.
- 4) What did Krishna do for his parents and King Ugrasena after he killed Kamsa?
- 5) Does God come and kill bad people today?
- 6) Why or why not?
- 7) What is dharma?
- 8) Do you try and follow dharma in your own life?
- 9) Is it hard or easy to follow dharma?
- 10) Did the wrestlers follow dharma when challenging young boys to fight?
- 11) Did Kamsa follow dharma when he put his own father in prison?
- 12) Do good things happen when you follow dharma?

MahaLakshmi Ashtakam

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

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

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

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

**AdyantaRahite Devi AdiShakti Maheshwari
Yogaje yogaSambhute MahaLakshmi Namostute (5)**

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

Jumble Words – All words are from this lesson

T H W C A

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A L G F

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C M H T A

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N T K U R

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Coloring exercise

