

Second Forest Fire

I. Pastime

The munjatavi fire

- ॐ One day the cows, being unobserved, began to wander off on their own, entering farther and farther into the deepest part of the forest, allured by fresh grasses.
- ॐ The goats, cows and buffalo traveled from one forest to another and entered the forest known as Īśikāṭavī.
- ॐ This forest was full of green grass, and therefore they were allured; but when they entered, they saw that there was a forest fire, and they began to cry.
- ॐ On the other side Balarāma and Kṛṣṇa, along with Their friends, could not find their animals, and they became very much aggrieved.
- ॐ They began to trace the cows by following their footprints, as well as the path of eaten grass.
- ॐ All of the boys were fearing that their very means of livelihood, the cows, were now lost.
- ॐ When searching out the cows in the forest, they themselves became very tired and thirsty.
- ॐ Soon, however, they heard the crying of their cows.
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa began to call the cows by their respective names, with great noise.
- ॐ Upon hearing Kṛṣṇa calling, the cows immediately replied with joy.
- ॐ But by this time the forest fire had surrounded all of them, and the situation appeared to be very fearful.
- ॐ The flames increased as the wind blew very quickly, and it appeared that everything movable and immovable would be devoured.
- ॐ
- ॐ All the cows and the boys became very frightened, and they looked toward Balarāma and Kṛṣṇa the way a dying man looks at the picture of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.
- ॐ They said, “My dear Kṛṣṇa! My dear Kṛṣṇa! You and Balarāma are very powerful.
- ॐ We are now burning from the heat of this blazing fire.
- ॐ Let us take shelter of Your lotus feet.
- ॐ We know You can protect us from this great danger.
- ॐ Our dear friend Kṛṣṇa, we are Your intimate friends.
- ॐ It is not right that we should suffer in this way.
- ॐ We are all completely dependent on You, and You are the knower of all religious life. We do not know anyone except You.”
- ॐ
- ॐ The Personality of Godhead heard the appealing voices of His friends, and casting a pleasing glance over them, He began to answer.

- ॐ By speaking through His eyes, He impressed upon His friends that there was no cause for fear, and He assured them, “Don’t worry.”
- ॐ Then Kṛṣṇa, the supreme mystic, the powerful Personality of Godhead, immediately swallowed up all the flames of the fire.
- ॐ The cows and boys were thus saved from imminent danger. Out of fear, the boys were almost unconscious, but when they regained their consciousness and opened their eyes, they saw that they were again in the Bhāṇḍīra forest with Kṛṣṇa, Balarāma and the cows.
- ॐ They were astonished to see that they were completely free from the attack of the blazing fire and that the cows were saved.
- ॐ They secretly thought that Kṛṣṇa must be not an ordinary boy but some demigod.
- ॐ In the evening, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma, along with the boys and cows, returned to Vṛndāvana, playing Their flutes.
- ॐ As they approached the village, all the gopīs became very joyous.
- ॐ Throughout the day the gopīs used to think of Kṛṣṇa while He was in the forest, and in His absence they were considering one moment to be like twelve years.

II. The Anartha

A. Caitanya Siksamṛta

- ॐ The Dāvānala-pāna-līlā, Kṛṣṇa’s pastime of swallowing the forest fire, represents the obstacles that atheists create against dharma and preachers of dharma. Kṛṣṇa removes these obstacles to the propagation of true dharma.

III. Commentaries from the previous acaryas

- ॐ SG — Some say that the forest fire was a friend of Pralambha.
- ॐ SG — Kāṁsa asks the boys to close their eyes because if they see Him swallowing the fire they will feel concerned for His safety out of love, and will then enter the fire to protect Him and be harmed.
- ॐ SG — by His potency it became like a single mouthful of a beverage.
- ॐ VCT — the boys had been thinking "Kāṁsa knows very well the means of counteracting fire, poison and so on — gems, mantras magic and the like. These things, however, cannot be carried out without secrecy. Thus since there are so many people here if we simply close our eyes, that will be privacy.
- ॐ The fire became very afraid and turned into an extremely cooling, fragrant and sweet-tasting drink.

IV. How it fits together

- ॐ Taking cows (religion)