

21 – Śaṅkhacūḍa

I. The pastime

Śaṅkhacūḍa

- ॐ After this incident, on a very pleasant night Kṛṣṇa and His elder brother, Balarāma, who are inconceivably powerful, went into the forest of Vṛndāvana.
- ॐ They were accompanied by the damsels of Vrajabhūmi, and They began to enjoy their company.
- ॐ The young damsels of Vraja were very nicely dressed and anointed with pulp of sandalwood and decorated with flowers.
- ॐ The moon was shining in the sky, surrounded by glittering stars.
- ॐ The breeze was blowing, bearing the aroma of mallikā flowers, and the bumblebees were mad after the aroma.
- ॐ Taking advantage of the pleasing atmosphere, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma began to sing very melodiously.
- ॐ The damsels became so absorbed in Their rhythmical song that they almost forgot themselves; their hair loosened, their clothes slackened, and their garlands began to fall to the ground.
- ॐ At that time, while Kṛṣṇa, Balarāma and the damsels were so much absorbed, almost in madness, a demoniac associate of Kuvera (the treasurer of the heavenly planets) appeared on the scene.
- ॐ The demon's name was Śaṅkhacūḍa because on his head there was a valuable jewel resembling a conchshell.
- ॐ Just as the two sons of Kuvera had been puffed up over their wealth and opulence and did not care for Nārada Muni's presence, this Śaṅkhacūḍa was also puffed up over material opulence.
- ॐ He thought that Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma were two ordinary cowherd boys enjoying the company of many beautiful girls.
- ॐ Śaṅkhacūḍa also thought that since he belonged to the rich community of Kuvera, he, not Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma, should enjoy the company of so many beautiful girls.
- ॐ He therefore decided to take charge of them.
- ॐ He appeared before Kṛṣṇa, Balarāma and the damsels of Vraja and began to lead the girls away to the north.
- ॐ He commanded them as if he were their proprietor and husband, despite the presence of Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma.
- ॐ Being forcibly taken away by Śaṅkhacūḍa, the damsels of Vraja called out the names of Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma for protection.
- ॐ The two brothers immediately began to follow them, taking up big logs of śāla wood in Their hands.
- ॐ “Don't be afraid, don't be afraid,” They called to the gopīs.
- ॐ “We are coming at once to chastise this demon.”

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- ॐ Very quickly They reached Śāṅkhacūḍa.
ॐ Thinking the brothers too powerful, Śāṅkhacūḍa left the company of the gopīs and ran in fear for his life.
ॐ But Kṛṣṇa would not let him go.
ॐ He entrusted the gopīs to the care of Balarāma and followed Śāṅkhacūḍa wherever he fled.
ॐ Kṛṣṇa wanted to take the valuable jewel resembling a conchshell from the head of the demon.
ॐ After following him a very short distance, Kṛṣṇa caught him, struck his head with His fist and killed him.
ॐ He then took the valuable jewel and returned.
ॐ In the presence of all the damsels of Vraja, He presented the valuable jewel to His elder brother, Balarāma.

Sankacuda

- ॐ Sankacuda was a foolwer of Kuvera
ॐ In club fighting he had no equal on earth
ॐ Narada tells him of Kamsa's strength
ॐ Taking club weighing 100k bhāras Sank leaves for Mathurā
ॐ Meets Kamsa
ॐ Bows
ॐ O conqueror of the 3 worlds, please engage in club duel with me.
ॐ I you win I will be your servant
ॐ If I win v/v
ॐ
ॐ Kam: so be it
ॐ
ॐ Terrible duel
ॐ Caṭcaṭā sounds were like thunder of black clouds
ॐ Two fighters were glorious
ॐ Like two wrestlers fighting
ॐ Two dancers dancing
ॐ Two regal elephants
ॐ Two long limbed lions
ॐ Sparks flew from clubs
ॐ Clubs broken to pieces
ॐ Kam punch Sank

Description is found in Garga Samhita (Canto 2, chapter 23) - Which places this as occurring during

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- ॐ Sank punch Kam
ॐ Fought hand to hand for 27 days
ॐ Neither weakened
ॐ Both were amazed
ॐ Kam grabs Sank & throws 800 mile into sky
ॐ When Sank fell was somewhat disturbed
ॐ Sank grab Kam and throws 80k mile into sky
ॐ When Kam fell was somewhat disturbed
ॐ Kam grab Sank and throw to ground
ॐ Sank grab Kam and throw to ground
ॐ Earth trembled
ॐ Garga Muni arrives
ॐ Sank & Kam offer obeisances
ॐ
ॐ GM to Kam: O King of kings, don't continue this fight
ॐ It has no meaning
ॐ Sank is your equal
ॐ Blows of your fists made Airavata faint
ॐ His knees now touch the ground
ॐ Other demons have died from your punches
ॐ But Sank has not even fallen
ॐ Plz hear the reason
ॐ As the SPG is destined to kill you, so he will kill Sank
ॐ He, like you, is very strong due to Siva's blessings
ॐ You should make friends with him
ॐ
ॐ GM to Sank: And O king of the Yakṣas, you should make friends with w/ Kam
ॐ
ॐ Sank and Kam become friends
ॐ Sank invite Kam to his home
ॐ On the road that night they heard the beautiful singing of the rasa dance
ॐ Following the sounds of the karatalas they came to the rasa dance circle
ॐ Saw R & K
ॐ K had left arm around R
ॐ Left foot was playfully tilted
ॐ Held a flute

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- ॐ Had handsome, gentle smile
- ॐ Eyebrows that bewildered many Cupids
- ॐ Was master of Vraja & Vraja's girls
- ॐ Served with 10 mil camaras & parasols
- ॐ Sank thought K was fragile, therefore decided to kidnap one of the gopis
- ॐ
- ॐ Sank was black
- ॐ Tall as palm trees
- ॐ Had tiger's face w/ lolling tongue
- ॐ
- ॐ When Sank came he caused a great commotion
- ॐ When gopis saw cried: Alas! Alas!
- ॐ Fearless & tortured by lust Sank takes Śatacandrānanā gopī
- ॐ Runs to the North
- ॐ SC: "K! K!"
- ॐ K chases
- ॐ Sank becomes fearful
- ॐ Leaves SC behind
- ॐ K chases carrying Śala tree
- ॐ Sank uproots Śala tree eager to fight
- ॐ K throws tree at Sank
- ॐ Sank falls to ground as if struck by hurricane
- ॐ Sank gets up
- ॐ Punches K
- ॐ Roars
- ॐ K grabs Sank
- ॐ Whirls around
- ॐ Throws to ground
- ॐ Fighting caused earth to shake
- ॐ K punches Sank & severs his head
- ॐ K takes jewel from crown.
- ॐ Effulgence leaves Sank's body merges with Śrīdhama
- ॐ K returns to rāsa circle
- ॐ Gives jewel to Śatacandrānanā
- ॐ Continues rāsa dance

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Sankacuda's history

- ॐ Bahulaśva inquires why sparks from Agha & others entered K's body, but Śankhacūḍa entered Śrīdhāma
- ॐ
- ॐ In Goloka
- ॐ R, Śrī, Virajā, & Bhū were 4 wives of K
- ॐ Of them R most dear to SPG
- ॐ One day in secluded forest K enjoy pastimes with Virajā
- ॐ From friends mouth R hear that K had enjoyed with V
- ॐ R became filled with jealous anger
- ॐ Ascend chariot made of jewels, gold and pearls
- ॐ Decorated with 10 million flags and grand domes
- ॐ Clutching a stick
- ॐ Accompanied by billion gopi friends
- ॐ R rushed to see K
- ॐ Seeing Śrīdhāmā guarding entrance by K's order R rebukes with many words
- ॐ R eager to enter
- ॐ R and friends hit Śrīdhāmā with sticks
- ॐ Hearing the commotion K disappeared
- ॐ Out of fear of R, Virajā transformed self into river that flowed 80 million miles around Goloka
- ॐ Encircled Goloka as ocean encircles a continent
- ॐ Glorious as if decorated with flowers and jewels decorate with a crown
- ॐ Looking at the forest and river (Virajā) & thinking K had gone R returns to her own forest grove
- ॐ Virajā transforms from river to girl dressed in glittering garments
- ॐ K enjoyed rasa dance w/ V in forest by Virajā river
- ॐ By K's pwer 7 sons were born to V
- ॐ w/ childhood games decorated that forest
- ॐ one day the boys quarreled
- ॐ Hit by elders, the youngest fled to his mata's lap
- ॐ As V hugged and consoled son K disappeared
- ॐ Grieving over losing K, V cursed her son:
- ॐ Fool that separates me from K, become water!
- ॐ The people will never drink your water.
- ॐ To her older sons:

Description is found in Garga Samhita (Canto 2,

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- ॐ Quarrelsome children, go to earth
ॐ You will become bodies of water, each in his own place
ॐ You will not meet
ॐ Only at the time of cosmic devastation will you meet
ॐ
ॐ Thus they went to earth
ॐ Lived in ruts left by the wheels of Priyavrata's chariot
ॐ Became the oceans of salt water, sugar cane juice, liquor, ghee, milk and fresh water
ॐ Dead and impassable
ॐ 1st 800k across each next one 2x size previous
ॐ After sons departed V was filled love for them
ॐ But was unhappy at separation
ॐ K approached V & gives benediction
ॐ You will never be separated from me
ॐ Still with your own power you will always protect your sons
ॐ K was aware the R was suffering in separation
ॐ Goes with Śrīdāmā to her forest
ॐ R sees K & becomes filled with jealous anger
ॐ
ॐ R: O K, go where your love is
ॐ V has become a river
ॐ You become a river also
ॐ Why do you want to say with me in this forest
ॐ K goes to V's forest
ॐ Then K's friend Śrīdāmā angrily speaks to R:
ॐ Śrī Kṛṣṇa is the original Supreme Personality of Godhead.
ॐ He is the master of countless universes.
ॐ He is the master of Goloka.
ॐ He has many millions of transcendental potencies.
ॐ He can do whatever He likes.
ॐ He is greater than the greatest.
ॐ O Rādhā, please don't, don't criticize Him.
ॐ
ॐ R: O fool, you praise your father and criticize Me, your mother.
ॐ Fool, leave Goloka and become a demon!
ॐ

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- ॐ Śrīdāmā: O beautiful one, even though Lord Kṛṣṇa was kind to You, still You were angry and jealous.
- ॐ Therefore You will go to the earth and for a hundred years be separated from Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the original Supreme Personality of Godhead.
- ॐ Of this there is no doubt.
- ॐ
- ॐ R & Ś were anxious after curses
- ॐ K understands
- ॐ Appears
- ॐ
- ॐ K: O Rādhā, I have the power to negate My own words and throw them far away,
- ॐ but I do not have the power to negate and throw away the words of My devotees.
- ॐ O beautiful one, don't lament.
- ॐ O Rādhā, please hear the blessing I give to You:
- ॐ After many months, when the period of Our separation is over, You will see Me again.
- ॐ At the time of the Varāha-kalpa, I will go with You to the earth to relieve the earth's burden and allow the devotees to see Me.
- ॐ O Śrīdāmā, hear My words.
- ॐ By a partial expansion of yourself you will become a demon.
- ॐ During the Vaivasvata-manvantara you will fight with Me.
- ॐ You will then die by My hand.
- ॐ Of this there is no doubt.
- ॐ By My blessings You will again attain the form you had before.
- ॐ
- ॐ Thus Śrīdāmā took birth among the Yakṣas in the home of Sudhana

II. Notes from previous acaryas

- ॐ This pastime took place on Gaura-purima (Holi).
- ॐ Both Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma were rasa dancing with the gopis, each with Their own group.
SS — They were singing a special melody so nicely that They were covering the entire range of musical notes.
- ॐ Then Sankhacuda, a demon associate of Kuvera came and drove the gopis away to the north, while the Lords looked on.
VCT — he shook a big stick at them. He did not touch them
SRG — (gives a different account. Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa meet while Rādhā is doing

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worship of the sungod. After the worship Kṛṣṇa enthrones Rādhā on a jewelled throne, and then Sankha comes) Aristasura had advised Kamsa to marry Śrīmatī Rādhārāni, so Kamsa sent Sankhasura to kidnap Her. When S. was first seen, Kundalata thought he was the sungod, but Paurṇamasi explained that he was a yaksa who was the leader of the guards of Kuvera's treasury. He saw the gem in the treasury, liked it, so stole it. He had fearsome, curling fangs.

- ॐ Kṛṣṇa then gave the gem to Balarāma
VCT — to avoid a situation in which the gopis might become envious, thinking, "will He give it to me," Kṛṣṇa gave it to Balarāma, and Balarāma gave it to Rādhā.

III. *The anartha*

A. *Kṛṣṇa Samhita*

- ॐ The desire for gaining fame and sense gratification through *bhakti* is called Śāṅkacūda. This is the sixteenth obstacle. Those whose actions are motivated by a desire for fame are also proud; therefore Vaiṣṇavas should always be careful with such persons.

B. *Caitanya Śikṣāmṛta*

- ॐ (17) The Śāṅkacūda-vināśa-līlā, the killing by Kṛṣṇa of the demon Śāṅkacūda and snatching away his crest jewel, symbolizes destroying the desire for name and fame and morbid desire for women.

C. *Professor Sanyal*

- ॐ The sixteenth obstacle has the form of a proneness to acquisition of fame and honour, and desire for sensuous enjoyment, under the plea of devotion. This is the demon Shanhachuda. Those persons who covet fame as the goal of their activities, commit thereby the offense of arrogance. It is necessary for Vaishnavas to be very careful about this matter.

IV. *How it all fits together*

- ॐ Was proud of his appearance.
ॐ Considered himself attractive
ॐ Therefore was removed of source of pride
ॐ