

**Krishna & friends go to lunch**

- ॐ After killing Aghasura k brings His friends to the bank of the Yamuna
- ॐ K: 'My dear friends, just see how this spot is very nice for taking lunch and playing on the soft sandy Yamuna bank.
- ॐ You can see how the lotus flowers in the water are beautifully blown and how they distribute their flavor all around.
- ॐ The chirping of the birds along with cooing of the peacocks, surrounded by the whispering of the leaves in the trees, combine and present sound-vibrations that echo one another.
- ॐ And this just enriches the beautiful scenery created by the trees here. Let us have our lunch in this spot because it is already late and we are feeling hungry.
- ॐ Let the calves remain near us, and let them drink water from the Yamuna.
- ॐ While we engage in our lunch-taking, the calves may engage in eating the soft grasses that are in this spot.
- ॐ O gopas, let us go to this beautiful and pleasing riverbank of soft sands, which is flooded with pollen from the lotuses blossoming in autumn, fragrant with a breeze carrying three scents, and filled with trees, vines, and the humming of bees, and, now that three hours have passed and it is time for lunch, let us take our lunch here.
- ॐ I see that this place with soft sands is a very good place for our lunch.
- ॐ The calves will drink the water here, and then they will go to the new grasses there.
- ॐ
- ॐ On hearing this proposal from Kṛṣṇa, all the boys became very glad and said, "Certainly, let us all sit down here to take our lunch."
- ॐ
- ॐ They then let loose the calves to eat the soft grass.
- ॐ Sitting down on the ground and keeping Kṛṣṇa in the center, they began to open their different boxes brought from home.
- ॐ Some boys who didn't bring lunch whispered in K's ear: We didn't bring lunch & we have come very far from Nandagrama with the calves
- ॐ
- ॐ K: don't worry. I'll supply lunch for everyone.
- ॐ Just follow my words
- ॐ
- ॐ Gopas put down their ropes for herding the calves
- ॐ Lord Sri Kṛṣṇa was seated in the center of the circle, and all the boys kept their faces toward Him.

Description is an amalgamation of those found in Srimad Bhagavatam (Krishna Book) and Garga Samhita (Canto 2, chapters 7-8)

- ॐ They ate and constantly enjoyed seeing the Lord face to face.
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa appeared to be the whorl of a lotus flower, and the boys surrounding Him appeared to be its different petals.
- ॐ K shone with great splendor
- ॐ The boys collected flowers, leaves of flowers and barks of trees and placed them under their different boxes, and thus they began to eat their lunch, keeping company with Kṛṣṇa.
- ॐ
- ॐ While taking lunch, each boy began to manifest different kinds of relations with Kṛṣṇa, and they enjoyed each other's company with joking words.
- ॐ One boy gave a morsel to K
- ॐ K eats
- ॐ Glances at everyone
- ॐ K: Friend, I do not know of anything more delicious than this
- ॐ
- ॐ Gopa: it is so
- ॐ All laughed and distributed their remnants amongst each other
- ॐ Joking and laughing they ate
- ॐ
- ॐ Subala gives morsel to K
- ॐ K laughs
- ॐ All boys that taste the food laughed
- ॐ Gopas: O son o n NM, his bewildered grandmother does not know how to cook
- ॐ That was not delicious
- ॐ
- ॐ Śrīdāmā gives morsel to K
- ॐ All boys: This is the best
- ॐ
- ॐ Varūthapa feeds K
- ॐ All boys: This is Ikke Subala's food
- ॐ By eating ths we have become unhappy at heart
- ॐ
- ॐ In this way everyone shared lunch with each other
- ॐ While thus enjoying lunch with His friends, Lord Kṛṣṇa's flute was pushed within the belt of His cloth, and His bugle and cane were pushed in on the left-hand side of His cloth.

ॐ

ॐ He was holding a lump of foodstuff prepared with yogurt, butter, rice and pieces of fruit salad in His left palm, which could be seen through His petal-like finger joints.

Is K left handed? At least there's some support for occasionally using one's left hand to eat

ॐ On chest was a forest garland

ॐ Hips: belt

ॐ Feet: anklets

ॐ Chest: Kaustubha jewel and Śrīvatsa mark

ॐ The Supreme Personality of Godhead, who accepts the results of all great sacrifices, was laughing and joking, enjoying lunch with His friends in Vrndavana.

ॐ And thus the scene was being observed by the demigods from heaven. As for the boys, they were simply enjoying transcendental bliss in the company of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

### **The cows wander**

ॐ At that time, the calves that were pasturing nearby entered into the deep forest, allured by new grasses, and gradually went out of sight.

ॐ Were greedy for more grass

ॐ Wandered deep into forest

ॐ When the boys saw that the calves were not nearby, they became afraid for their safety, and they immediately cried out, "Kṛṣṇa!"

ॐ Kṛṣṇa is the killer of fear personified. Everyone is afraid of fear personified, but fear personified is afraid of Kṛṣṇa. By crying out the word "Kṛṣṇa," the boys at once transcended the fearful situation.

ॐ Out of His great affection, Kṛṣṇa did not want His friends to give up their pleasing lunch engagement and go searching for the calves.

ॐ He therefore said, "My dear friends, you need not interrupt your lunch. Go on enjoying. I am going personally where the calves are."

ॐ Immediately gets up

ॐ Thus Lord Kṛṣṇa immediately started to search out the calves in the caves and bushes.

ॐ He searched in the mountain holes and in the forests, but nowhere could He find them.

### **Brahma's steals the calves and cowherd boys**

ॐ Brahma was surprised how a little boy like Kṛṣṇa could act so wonderfully.

ॐ He had witnessed the liberation of Aghasura

ॐ Gazed at K eating happily with boys on riverbank

ॐ Although he was informed that the little cowherd boy was the Supreme Personality of Godhead, he couldn't believe

- ॐ He thought: He must be a gopa, not the SPG
- ॐ Why would Hari eat such wretched food with the cowherd boys of Vraja?
- ॐ Thinking in this way Br became bewildered by K's illusory potency
- ॐ Thus he stole all the calves and cowherd boys and took them to a different place.
- ॐ
- ॐ Lord Kṛṣṇa, therefore, in spite of searching for the calves, could not find them,
- ॐ and He even lost His boy friends on the bank of the Yamuna where they had been taking their lunch. In the form of a cowherd boy,
- ॐ K thought must be Br's work
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa thought, "Brahma has taken away all the boys and calves. How can I alone return to Vrndavana? The mothers will be aggrieved!"
- ॐ Therefore in order to satisfy the mothers of His friends as well as to convince Brahma of the supremacy of the Personality of Godhead, He immediately expanded Himself as the cowherd boys and calves.
- ॐ Whatever were the gopas' and calves' forms, with their hands, feet, and other parts, whatever were their sticks, horns, and other possessions, whatever were their characters, qualities, and other features, and whatever were their clothes, ornaments, and other things, Lord Kṛṣṇa perfectly copied.
- ॐ In this way He proved the Vedic statement: "sarvaṁ viṣṇumayaṁ viśvaṁ" (The entire universe is Lord Viṣṇu).
- ॐ As sun was setting K entered NM's village w/ calves and gopa boys (who were himself)

#### The “new” calves and gopas return home

- ॐ Thus expanding Himself as the boys and calves in their individual capacities, and surrounded by such expansions of Himself, Kṛṣṇa entered the village of Vrndavana.
- ॐ The residents had no knowledge of what had happened.
- ॐ After entering the village, Vrndavana, all the calves entered their respective cowsheds, and the boys also went to their respective mothers and homes.
- ॐ The mothers of the boys heard the vibration of their flutes before their entrance
- ॐ Fainted, then got up to receive them,
- ॐ They came out of their homes and embraced them.
- ॐ And out of maternal affection, milk was flowing from their breasts, and they allowed the boys to drink it.
- ॐ This was another chance for all the mothers of Vrndavana to feed the Supreme Personality of Godhead with their own milk.
- ॐ Therefore Lord Kṛṣṇa gave not only Yasoda the chance of feeding Him, but this time He gave the chance to all the elderly gopis.
- ॐ All the boys began to deal with their mothers as usual,

Breast feeding  
at this age?

- ॐ The mothers also, on the approach of evening, began to bathe their respective children, decorate them with tilaka and ornaments and gave them necessary food after the day's labor.
- ॐ The cows also, who were away in the pasturing ground, returned in the evening and began to call their respective calves.
- ॐ The calves immediately came to their mothers, and the mothers began to lick the bodies of the calves.
- ॐ Made drink milk
- ॐ These relations between the cows and the gopis with their calves and boys remained unchanged, although actually the original calves and boys were not there.
- ॐ Actually the cows' affection for their calves and the elderly gopis' affection for the boys causelessly increased.
- ॐ Their affection increased naturally, even though the calves and boys were not their offspring.
- ॐ Although the cows and elderly gopis of Vrndavana had greater affection for Kṛṣṇa than for their own offspring, after this incident, their affection for their offspring increased exactly as it did for Kṛṣṇa.
- ॐ Millions of gopi girls who were deeply in love w/ K were married to the many gopa boys (who were forms of K)

#### **The cows chase after their calves**

- ॐ One day, five nights shy of a year, when Kṛṣṇa, along with Balarama, was maintaining the calves in the forest, They saw some cows grazing on the top of Govardhana Hill.
- ॐ The cows could see down into the valley where the calves were being taken care of by the boys.
- ॐ Suddenly, on sighting their calves, the cows began to run towards them.
- ॐ They leaped downhill with joined front and rear legs.
- ॐ The cows were so melted with affection for their calves that they did not care about the rough path from the top of Govardhana Hill down to the pasturing ground.
- ॐ They began to approach the calves with their milk bags full of milk, and they raised their tails upwards.
- ॐ When they were coming down the hill, their milk bags were pouring milk on the ground out of intense maternal affection for the calves, although they were not their own calves.
- ॐ These cows had their own calves, and the calves that were grazing beneath Govardhana Hill were larger; they were not expected to drink milk directly from the milk bag but were satisfied with the grass.
- ॐ Yet all the cows came immediately and began to lick their bodies, and the calves also began to suck milk from the milk bags.
- ॐ There appeared to be a great bondage of affection between the cows and calves.

ॐ

- ॐ When the cows were running down from the top of Govardhana Hill, the men who were taking care of them tried to stop them.
- ॐ As far as possible, the calves are kept separate from the cows, so that the calves do not drink all the available milk.
- ॐ Therefore the men who were taking care of the cows on the top of Govardhana Hill tried to stop them, but they failed.
- ॐ Baffled by their failure, they were feeling ashamed and angry.
- ॐ They were very unhappy, but when they came down and saw their children taking care of the calves, they all of a sudden became very affectionate toward the children.
- ॐ Although the men came down disappointed, baffled and angry, as soon as they saw their own children, their hearts melted with great affection.
- ॐ At once their anger, dissatisfaction and unhappiness disappeared.
- ॐ They began to show paternal love for the children, and with great affection they lifted them in their arms/laps and embraced them.
- ॐ They began to smell their children's and grandchildren's heads and enjoy their company with great happiness.
- ॐ After embracing their children, the men again took the cows back to the top of Govardhana Hill.
- ॐ Along the way they began to think of their children, and affectionate tears fell from their eyes (young and old).

### **Balarama figures things out**

- ॐ When Balarama saw this extraordinary exchange of affection between the cows and their calves and between the fathers and their children--when neither the calves nor the children needed so much care--He began to wonder why this extraordinary thing happened.
- ॐ He was astonished to see all the residents of Vrndavana so affectionate for their own children, exactly as they had been for Kṛṣṇa.
- ॐ Similarly, the cows had grown affectionate for their calves--as much as for Kṛṣṇa.
- ॐ B thought: I do not understand what has happened for the past year
- ॐ Everyone is so affectionate and their love increases day by day
- ॐ Is this an illusion made by devas, Gandharva and Raksasas?
- ॐ No one but K can bewilder me
- ॐ Balarama therefore concluded that the extraordinary show of affection was something mystical, either performed by the demigods or by some powerful man.
- ॐ Otherwise, how could this wonderful change take place?
- ॐ He concluded that this mystical change must have been caused by Kṛṣṇa, whom Balarama considered His worshipable Personality of Godhead.

ॐ He thought, "It was arranged by Kṛṣṇa, and even I could not check its mystic power." Thus Balarama understood that all those boys and calves were only expansions of Kṛṣṇa.

ॐ B closes eyes

ॐ Then w/ trans vision looked at past, present and future.

ॐ Saw all calves and gopas become dark boys

ॐ He saw that all the calves and gopas had become dark boys,

ॐ each decorated with a flute and stick,

ॐ peacock feathers,

ॐ Bṛḥgu Muni's footprint,

ॐ necklaces of flowers,

ॐ jewels,

ॐ guñjā,

ॐ lotuses,

ॐ water lilies,

ॐ turbans,

ॐ crowns,

ॐ splendid earrings,

ॐ endowed with curly locks of hair,

ॐ making showers of bliss with the glances of their autumn-lotus eyes

ॐ more handsome than millions of Kāmadevas,

ॐ their noses decorated with pearls and their heads and hands decorated with many ornaments

ॐ having two arms,

ॐ glorious with yellow garments,

ॐ belts,

ॐ bracelets,

ॐ anklets,

ॐ more glorious than millions of rising suns

ॐ B saw that all these forms on GH were actually K

ॐ

ॐ Balarama inquired from Kṛṣṇa about the actual situation.

ॐ B: The devotees Brahmā, Ananta, Yama, Indra, and Śiva always worship the Supreme Lord, who is the controller of everything, who is self-satisfied, whose desires are always fulfilled, and who has the power to create many millions of universes in the sky.

- ॐ My dear Kṛṣṇa, in the beginning I thought that all these cows, calves and cowherd boys were either great sages and saintly persons or demigods, but at the present it appears that they are actually Your expansions.
- ॐ They are all You;
- ॐ You Yourself are playing as the calves and cows and boys.
- ॐ What is the mystery of this situation?
- ॐ Where have those other calves and cows and boys gone?
- ॐ And why are You expanding Yourself as the cows, calves and boys? Will You kindly tell Me what is the cause?"
- ॐ
- ॐ At the request of Balarama, Kṛṣṇa briefly explained the whole situation: how the calves and boys were stolen by Brahma and how He was concealing the incident by expanding Himself so people would not know that the original cows, calves, and boys were missing.

### **Brahma returns**

- ॐ While Kṛṣṇa and Balarama were talking, Brahma returned after a moment's interval (according to the duration of his life).
- ॐ After one moment of Brahma's calculation, Brahma came back to see the fun caused by his stealing the boys and calves.
- ॐ But he was also afraid that he was playing with fire.
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa was his master, and he had played mischief for fun by taking away His calves and boys.
- ॐ He was really anxious, so he did not stay away very long; he came back after a moment (of his calculation).
- ॐ He saw that all the boys, calves and cows were playing with Kṛṣṇa in the same way as when he had come upon them, although he was confident that he had taken them and made them lie down asleep under the spell of his mystic power.
- ॐ Brahma began to think, "All the boys, calves and cows were taken away by me, and I know they are still sleeping. How is it that a similar batch of cows, boys and calves are playing with Kṛṣṇa? Is it that they are not influenced by my mystic power? Have they been playing continually for one year with Kṛṣṇa?"
- ॐ Brahma tried to understand who they were and how they were uninfluenced by his mystic power, but he could not ascertain it.
- ॐ Brahma was thus confused about his own mystic power.
- ॐ
- ॐ In order to convince Brahma that all those cows, calves and boys were not the original ones, the cows, calves, and boys who were playing with Kṛṣṇa transformed into Viṣṇu forms.

- ॐ All the Visnu forms were of bluish color and dressed in yellow garments; all of Them had four hands decorated with club, disc, lotus flower and conchshell.
- ॐ On Their heads were glittering golden jeweled helmets; They were bedecked with pearls and earrings, and garlanded with beautiful flowers.
- ॐ On Their chests was the mark of Srivatsa; Their arms were decorated with armlets and other jewelry.
- ॐ Their necks were smooth just like the conchshell, Their legs were decorated with bells,
- ॐ Their waists decorated with golden bells, and Their fingers decorated with jeweled rings.
- ॐ Brahma also saw that upon the whole body of Lord Visnu, fresh tulasi buds were thrown, beginning from His lotus feet up to the top of the head.
- ॐ Their smiling resembled the moonshine, and Their glancing resembled the early rising of the sun.
- ॐ Just by Their glancing They appeared as the creators and maintainers of the modes of ignorance and passion.

#### **Brahma's realizations**

- ॐ Then saw the entire universe, including all that was inside and outside of his body was the potency of V
- ॐ After this manifestation of Lord Visnu, Brahma saw that many other Brahmas and Sivas and demigods and even insignificant living entities down to the ants and very small straws--movable and immovable living entities--were dancing, surrounding Lord Visnu.
- ॐ Their dancing was accompanied by various kinds of music, and all of Them were worshiping Lord Visnu.
- ॐ Brahma realized that all those Visnu forms were complete, beginning from the anima perfection of becoming small like an atom, up to becoming infinite like the cosmic manifestation.
- ॐ All the mystic powers of Brahma, Siva, all the demigods and the twenty-four elements of cosmic manifestation were fully represented in the person of Visnu.
- ॐ Brahma also realized that Lord Visnu is the reservoir of all truth, knowledge and bliss. He is the combination of three transcendental features, namely eternity, knowledge, and bliss, and He is the object of worship by the followers of the Upanisads.
- ॐ Brahma realized that all the different forms of cows, boys and calves transformed into Visnu forms were not transformed by a mysticism of the type that a yogi or a demigod can display by specific powers invested in him. The cows, calves and boys transformed into Visnu murtis, or Visnu forms, were not displays of Visnu maya, or Visnu energy, but were Visnu Himself.
- ॐ When Brahma was thus standing baffled in his limited power and conscious of his limited activities within the eleven senses, he could at least realize that he was also a creation of the material energy, just like a puppet.

- ॐ Lord Brahma, who has full control over the goddess of learning and who is considered to be the best authority in Vedic knowledge, was thus perplexed, being unable to understand the extraordinary power manifested in the Supreme Personality of Godhead.
- ॐ He stood there stunned
- ॐ Looked like an unmoving tulasi plant in Vrn forest
- ॐ
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa took compassion upon Brahma's inability to see even how He was displaying the force of Viṣṇu in transforming Himself into cows and cowherd boys, and thus, while fully manifesting the Viṣṇu expansion, He suddenly pulled His curtain of yogamaya over the scene.
- ॐ When Brahma was relieved from his perplexity, he appeared to be awakened from an almost dead state (as if sleeping), and he began to open his eyes with great difficulty.
- ॐ Thus he could see the eternal cosmic manifestation with common eyes. He saw all around him the super-excellent view of Vṛndavana--full with trees--which is the source of life for all living entities.
- ॐ He saw filled with flowering vasantī vines, charming and beautiful Vṛndāvana where without any enmity fawns play with tiger cubs, doves play with eagles, and snakes play with mongeese
- ॐ He could appreciate the transcendental land of Vṛndavana where all the living entities are transcendental to ordinary nature.
- ॐ In the forest of Vṛndavana, even ferocious animals like tigers and others live peacefully along with the deer and human being.
- ॐ He could understand that, because of the presence of the Supreme Personality of Godhead in Vṛndavana, that place is transcendental to all other places and that there is no lust and greed there.
- ॐ
- ॐ Brahma thus found Sri Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, playing the part of a small cowherd boy;
- ॐ He saw that little child with a lump of food in His left hand,
- ॐ Searching out His friends, cows and calves, just as He was actually doing one year before, after their disappearance.
- ॐ Suddenly understood K to be SPG
- ॐ
- ॐ Was afraid for what had done
- ॐ Approached K saying “Please be kind”
- ॐ Crying tears of arghya
- ॐ Immediately Brahma descended from his great swan carrier and fell down before the Lord just like a golden stick.

Again a lefty

- ॐ All the four helmets on the heads of Brahma touched the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa. Brahma, being very joyful, began to shed tears, and he washed the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa with his tears.
- ॐ Repeatedly he fell and rose as he recalled the wonderful activities of the Lord.
- ॐ
- ॐ K pulls up and embraces
- ॐ Touches gently (like a lover touches beloved)
- ॐ K's eyes were moist
- ॐ K glances at d'gods who had now assembled
- ॐ When d'gods received K's glance they called "Glory! Glory!"
- ॐ They bowed down and offered prayers
- ॐ K offers d'gods all respects
- ॐ
- ॐ After repeating obeisances for a long time, Brahma stood up and smeared his hands over his eyes. Seeing the Lord before him, he, trembling, began to offer prayers with great respect, humility and attention.