

**Krishna and Balarama begin to herd cows**

- ॐ After passing through the *kaumara*, the first years, K and B entered *pauganda-lila*.
- ॐ By the wish of the adult gopas they were placed in charge of the cows
- ॐ They were now old enough to take care of the cows
- ॐ Cows had a taste from the one year Brahma had stolen the calves
- ॐ K & B would take into the forwest
- ॐ Cows gazed at K& B's handsome faces
- ॐ Cows wore glittering golden necklaces, a network of small bells & tinkling anklets
- ॐ Tails decorate with peacock feather & bunches of pearls
- ॐ Necklaces of 9 jewels
- ॐ Crown jewel placed between their horns made them beautiful.
- ॐ Their horns were plated with gold
- ॐ Some had yellow tails and red hooves.
- ॐ They were decorated with red tilaka. They were like many Mount Kailāsas.
- ॐ They had virtues, good character, and beauty.
- ॐ They walked slowly,
- ॐ Their udders full.
- ॐ Some were like great red pāṭala flowers.
- ॐ Some were yellow, some multicolored, some black, some green, some smoke-colored, and some cloud-colored.
- ॐ All their eyes were placed on Kṛṣṇa, His form dark as a cloud.
- ॐ Some had short horns, some long horns, some high horns, some bent horns, and some horns like a deer's antlers.
- ॐ Some were with many bulls.
- ॐ Some were brown and beautiful.
- ॐ Searching for tender and delicious grasses, millions and millions of cows walked at Kṛṣṇa's side through forest after forest.
- ॐ Its Yamunā shore very pure and sacred, and its groves decorated with many dark tamāla trees and many beautiful nīpa, nimba, kadamba, pravāla, panasa, kadalī, kovidāra, mango, jambu, bilva, aśvattha, and kapittha trees, as well as many mādhavī vines, beautiful in the springtime, and its glory eclipsing the nandana, sarvatobhadra, and caitraratha forests of heaven, transcendental Vṛndāvana forest was splendidly manifest.
- ॐ In Vṛndāvana forest, on the beautiful hill named Govardhana, which was made of precious gems, had many glorious caves and swiftly-moving streams, and was filled with many beautiful mandāra, śrīkhaṇḍa, badarī, rambhā, devadāru, vaṭa, palāśa, plakṣa, aśoka, ariṣṭa, arjuna, kadambaka, pārijāta, pāṭala, campaka, karañja, and śyāma-

Description is mainly from Garga Samhita (Canto 2, chapter 10), with some parts from Krishna Book

indrayava trees, and many kalakaṅṭhas, kokilas, puṁs-kokilas, and peacocks, Kṛṣṇa wandered from forest to forest as He herded the cows.

ॐ In Vṛndāvana, Madhuvana, Tālavana, Kumudvana, Bāhulavana, Divya-kāmavana, on the summit and slopes of Nandīśvara Hill, in beautiful Kokilavana, which was filled with the singing of cuckoos, in beautiful Kuśavana, which was filled with many flowering vines, in beautiful and sacred Bhadravana, in Bhāṅḍīropavana, in Lohārgala, in shore after shore by the Yamunā, and in forest after forest, handsome Kṛṣṇa, in yellow garments, dressed as a dancer, holding a stick, decorated with peacock feathers, a crown, and many garlands, playing His flute, and delighting the gopīs, was splendidly manifest.

ॐ K played melodies on his flute

ॐ Returned to NM's village in the evening

ॐ Hearing K's flute & seeing cows' dust fill the sky along Vamsivata path, gopis put anxieties far away & went to see K

### **Krishna praises Balarama**

ॐ K says to B: My dear brother, You are superior to all of us, and Your lotus feet are worshiped by the demigods.

ॐ Just see how these trees, full with fruits, have bent down to worship Your lotus feet.

ॐ It appears that they are trying to get out of the darkness of being obliged to accept the form of trees.

ॐ Actually, the trees born in the land of Vṛndavana are not ordinary living entities. Having held the impersonal point of view in their past lives, they are now put into this stationary condition of life, but now they have the opportunity of seeing You in Vṛndavana, and they are praying for further advancement in spiritual life through Your personal association.

ॐ Generally the trees are living entities in the modes of darkness. The impersonalist philosophers are in that darkness, but they eradicate it by taking full advantage of Your presence.

ॐ I think the drones that are buzzing all around You must have been Your devotees in their past lives.

ॐ They cannot leave Your company because no one can be a better, more affectionate master than You.

ॐ You are the supreme and original Personality of Godhead, and the drones are just trying to spread Your glories by chanting every moment.

ॐ I think some of them must be great sages, devotees of Your Lordship, and they are disguising themselves in the form of drones because they are unable to give up Your company even for a moment.

ॐ My dear brother, You are the supreme worshipable Godhead.

ॐ Just see how the peacocks in great ecstasy are dancing before You.

Description is found  
Srimad Bhagavatam  
(Krishna Book)

- ॐ The deer, whose behavior is just like the gopis, are welcoming You with the same affection.
- ॐ And the cuckoos who are residing in this forest are receiving You with great joy because they consider that Your appearance is so auspicious in their home.
- ॐ Even though they are trees and animals, these residents of Vrndavana are glorifying You.
- ॐ They are prepared to welcome You to their best capacity, as is the practice of great souls in receiving another great soul at home.
- ॐ As for the land, it is so pious and fortunate that the footprints of Your lotus feet are marking its body.
- ॐ It is quite natural for these Vrndavana inhabitants to thus receive a great personality like You.
- ॐ The herbs, creepers and plants are also so fortunate to touch Your lotus feet.
- ॐ And by Your touching the twigs with Your hands, these small plants are also made glorious.
- ॐ As for the hills and the rivers, they too are now glorious because You are glancing at them.
- ॐ Above all, the damsels of Vraja, the gopis, attracted by Your beauty, are the most glorious, because You embrace them with Your strong arms

#### **A typical day**

- ॐ K and B would sometimes imitate the swans and peacocks
- ॐ When K & B would call the cows by name, they came running. “Moooo”
- ॐ K & B would imitate the sounds of peacocks, cakoras, baradvajasa and cuckoos
- ॐ When animals would flee in fear of lions and tigers K & B would imitate and also run
- ॐ When tired Bal would put head in friend’s lap and K would massage or fan w/ palm leaves
- ॐ While B rest, K and others play
- ॐ When K tired, would take shelter of root or friend’s lap
- ॐ Others would massage and fan K

#### **Terror in Talavan forest**

- ॐ Cowherd boys: There are great fruits in the Talavan forest, but they are being guarded by the demon Dhenuka & his fellowship of man-eating asses
- ॐ No animals go there
- ॐ All the birds have left
- ॐ But still, a sweet fragrance can be smelled

Description is an amalgamation of those found in Srimad Bhagavatam (Krishna Book) and Garga Samhita (Canto 2, chapter 11)

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ॐ Out of fear of the ass Dhenuka, the gopas did not enter the forest

ॐ Even K did not enter

ॐ Only B entered

ॐ Tying blue sash at waist B entered the forest to get fruit

ॐ B goes and yanks at the trees with both arms

ॐ Made many fruits fall

ॐ Dh heard sound & became angry

ॐ Woken from his midday nap

ॐ Whole earth shook as Dh moved

ॐ Dh kicks B in chest w/ hind legs

ॐ Bal remains quiet and doesn't respond

ॐ Dh tries again

ॐ B chases, catches, whirls by hind legs, throws into trees

ॐ Domino effect

ॐ Dh gets up angry

ॐ Grabs B in mouth

ॐ B grabs Dh and whirls around

ॐ Throws 8 miles

ॐ Dh strikes ground

ॐ Head was wounded

ॐ Fell unconscious

ॐ Stands up filled with anger

ॐ Manifests terrifying form with 4 horns

ॐ Scared gopas flee [but the gopas didn't enter???)

ॐ As boys flee, Dh chases

ॐ Śrīdama hits with a stick

ॐ Subala with fist

ॐ Stoka Kṛṣṇa whipped with rope

ॐ Arjuna and Aṁṣu threw far away

ॐ Viśala & Ṛṣabha kicked

ॐ Tejasvī tried to strangle

ॐ Devaprastha slapped

ॐ Varūthapa hit with ball

ॐ K grabbed with both hands and whirled around

- ॐ Threw to GH
- ॐ Was knocked unconscious for one hour
- ॐ Shaking off 4 horned form, manifests original form
- ॐ Grabbed K with horns and carried into sky
- ॐ 800 mi in sky they fought
- ॐ K threw Dh to earth
- ॐ Bones broken
- ॐ Fell unconscious
- ॐ Rising made terrible sound
- ॐ Uproots GH with horns
- ॐ Throws at K
- ॐ K catches
- ॐ Throws at Dh's head
- ॐ Dh catches and throws at K
- ॐ K catches and returns to orig place
- ॐ Dh breaks ground with horns
- ॐ Charges B
- ॐ Kicks with hind hooves
- ॐ Roars – shook earth echoed through universe
- ॐ B grabs Dh with both hands and throws to ground
- ॐ Breaks head
- ॐ Falls unconscious
- ॐ B punches with fist
- ॐ Kills Dh
- ॐ Dh's friends come
- ॐ K & B throw into trees
- ॐ Because of the dead bodies of the asses, there was a panoramic scene. It appeared as if clouds of various colors were assembled in the trees.
- ॐ Demigods shower flowers
- ॐ
- ॐ Leaving his body, Dhenuka manifested a splendid and handsome dark form wearing yellow garments and decorated with a forest flower garland.
- ॐ Then a chariot, filled with a hundred thousand of the Lord's associates, decorated with a thousand flags, rumbling with a thousand wheels, pulled by ten thousand horses, glorious with a hundred thousand cāmaras, yellow, studded with many jewels, eight

miles long, beautiful, traveling as fast as the mind, and decorated with many bells and tinkling ornaments, suddenly appeared.

ॐ Dh circumambulated Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma, and then, filling the circle of the directions with light,

ॐ he ascended the chariot and went to Goloka, far beyond the material realm.

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ॐ A few days later denizens of Vraja come to collect fruits w/o fear

### **Dhenuka's past life**

ॐ Previous life was the son of Bali (who was the son of Virocana)

ॐ Name was Sāhasika

ॐ Enjoyed pastimes with 10,000 women on Gandhamādana Mountain

ॐ Durvāsa Muni was in a trance in a nearby cave

ॐ Sounds of many musical instruments and anklebells broke trance of Durvāsa Muni

ॐ Durvāsa was very thin with a long beard

ॐ Walking with wooden sandals

ॐ Holding a stick

ॐ Glowing with flames of anger

ॐ DM to Sāhasika: Fool!

ॐ Ass like person!

ॐ Rise!

ॐ Become an ass!

ॐ After 400k years, in the circle of Mathurā, in the forest of Tālavana you will attain liberation by Balarāma's hand

ॐ (K had given Prahlāda Mahārāja the benediction that he would not kill his descendents.)

Description is found  
in Garga Samhita  
(Canto 2, chapter 11)

### **Return to Vrindavan**

ॐ When Kṛṣṇa, Balarama and Their friends entered the village of Vrindavana, They played Their flutes,

ॐ And the boys praised Their uncommon activities in the forest.

ॐ Their faces were decorated with tilaka and smeared with the dust raised by the cows, and Kṛṣṇa's head was decorated with a peacock feather.

ॐ Both He and Balarama played Their flutes, and the young gopis were joyous to see Kṛṣṇa returning home.

ॐ All the gopis in Vrindavana remained very morose on account of Kṛṣṇa's absence.

ॐ All day they were thinking of Kṛṣṇa in the forest or of Him herding cows in the pasture.

Description is found  
Srimad Bhagavatam  
(Krishna Book)

- ॐ When they saw Kṛṣṇa returning, all their anxieties were immediately relieved, and they began to look at His face the way drones hover over the honey of the lotus flower.
- ॐ When Kṛṣṇa entered the village, the young gopis smiled and laughed. Kṛṣṇa, while playing the flute, enjoyed the beautiful smiling faces of the gopis.
- ॐ
- ॐ Then Kṛṣṇa and Balarama were immediately received by Their affectionate mothers, Yasoda and Rohini, and, according to the time's demands, they began to fulfill the desires of their affectionate sons.
- ॐ Simultaneously, the mothers rendered service and bestowed benediction upon their transcendental sons. They very nicely took care of their children by bathing and dressing Them.
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa was dressed in bluish garments, and Balarama was dressed in yellowish garments, and They were given all sorts of ornaments and flower garlands.
- ॐ Being relieved of the fatigue of Their day's work in the pasturing ground, They looked refreshed and very beautiful.
- ॐ
- ॐ They were given palatable dishes by Their mothers, and They pleasantly ate everything.
- ॐ After eating, They were seated nicely on clean bedding, and the mothers began to sing various songs of Their activities.
- ॐ As soon as They sat down on the bedding, They very quickly fell fast asleep. In this way, Kṛṣṇa and Balarama used to enjoy Vṛndavana life as cowherd boys.