

### **The summer season begins & description of Vṛndāvana**

- ॐ After extinguishing the devastating fire, Kṛṣṇa, surrounded by His relatives, friends, cows, calves and bulls and glorified by His friends' singing, again entered Vṛndāvana, which is always full of cows.
- ॐ While Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma were enjoying life in Vṛndāvana in the midst of the cowherd boys and girls, the season gradually changed to summer.
- ॐ The summer season in India is not very much welcomed because of the excessive heat, but in Vṛndāvana everyone was pleased because summer there appeared just like spring.
- ॐ In Vṛndāvana there are many falls which are always pouring water, and the sound is so sweet that it covers the sound of the crickets.
- ॐ And because water flows all over, the forest always looks very green and beautiful.
- ॐ The inhabitants of Vṛndāvana were never disturbed by the scorching heat of the sun or the high summer temperatures.
- ॐ The lakes of Vṛndāvana are surrounded by green grasses, and various kinds of lotus flowers bloom there, such as the kahlāra, kañja and utpala, and the air blowing in Vṛndāvana carries the aromatic pollen of those lotus flowers.
- ॐ When the particles of water from the waves of the Yamunā, the lakes and the waterfalls touched the bodies of the inhabitants of Vṛndāvana, they automatically felt a cooling effect.
- ॐ Vṛndāvana is such a nice place.
- ॐ Flowers are always blooming, and there are even various kinds of decorated deer.
- ॐ Birds are chirping, peacocks are crowing and dancing, and bees are humming.
- ॐ The cuckoos there sing nicely in five kinds of tunes.

### **K, B and boys play in forest**

- ॐ Kṛṣṇa, the reservoir of pleasure, blowing His flute, accompanied by His elder brother Balarāma and the other cowherd boys and the cows, entered the beautiful forest of Vṛndāvana to enjoy the atmosphere.
- ॐ They walked into the midst of newly grown leaves of trees whose flowers resembled peacock feathers.
- ॐ They were garlanded by those flowers and decorated with saffron chalk.
- ॐ Sometimes they were dancing and singing and sometimes wrestling with one another.
- ॐ While Kṛṣṇa danced, some of the cowherd boys sang and others played on flutes; some bugled on buffalo horns or clapped their hands, praising Kṛṣṇa,
- ॐ “Dear brother, You are dancing very nicely.”
- ॐ Actually, all these boys were demigods descended from higher planets to assist Kṛṣṇa in His pastimes.

- ॐ The demigods garbed in the dress of the cowherd boys were encouraging Kṛṣṇa in His dancing, just as one artist encourages another with praise.
- ॐ Up to that time, neither Balarāma nor Kṛṣṇa had undergone the haircutting ceremony; therefore Their hair was clustered like crows' feathers.
- ॐ They were always playing hide-and-seek with Their boyfriends or jumping or fighting with them.
- ॐ Sometimes, while His friends were chanting and dancing, Kṛṣṇa would praise them, “My dear friends, you are dancing and singing very nicely.”
- ॐ The boys played at catching ball with fruits such as bael and āmalaka.
- ॐ They played blindman's buff, challenging and touching one another.
- ॐ Sometimes they imitated the forest deer and various kinds of birds.
- ॐ They joked with one another by imitating croaking frogs, and they enjoyed swinging underneath the trees.
- ॐ Sometimes they would play amongst themselves like a king and his subjects.

### **Prahlabasura**

- ॐ Once while the boys were engaged in their transcendental pastimes, a great demon of the name Pralambāsura entered their company, desiring to kidnap both Balarāma and Kṛṣṇa.
- ॐ Although Kṛṣṇa was playing the part of a cowherd boy, as the Supreme Personality of Godhead He could understand everything—past, present and future.
- ॐ So when Pralambāsura entered their company, Kṛṣṇa began to think how to kill the demon, but externally He received him as a friend.
- ॐ “O My dear friend,” He said, “it is very good that you have come to take part in our pastimes.”
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa then called all His friends and ordered them: “Now we shall play in pairs. We shall challenge one another in pairs.”
- ॐ With this proposal, all the boys assembled together.
- ॐ Some of them took the side of Kṛṣṇa, and some of them took the side of Balarāma, and they arranged to play in duel.
- ॐ The defeated members in duel fighting had to carry the victorious members on their backs, as a horse carries its master.
- ॐ They began playing, and at the same time tended the cows as they proceeded through the Bhāṇḍīravana forest.
- ॐ The party of Balarāma, accompanied by Śrīdāmā and Vṛṣabha, came out victorious, and Kṛṣṇa's party had to carry them on their backs through the Bhāṇḍīravana forest.
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa had to carry Śrīdāmā on His back,
- ॐ Bhadrasena carried Vṛṣabha.

- ॐ Imitating their play, Pralambāsura, who appeared there as a cowherd boy, carried Balarāma on his back.
- ॐ Pralambāsura was the greatest of the demons, and he had calculated that Kṛṣṇa was the most powerful of the cowherd boys.
- ॐ In order to avoid the company of Kṛṣṇa, Pralambāsura carried Balarāma far away.
- ॐ The demon was undoubtedly very strong and powerful, but he was carrying Balarāma, who is compared to a mountain; therefore he began to feel the burden, and thus he assumed his real form.
- ॐ When he appeared in his real feature, he was decorated with a golden helmet and earrings and looked just like a cloud with lightning carrying the moon.
- ॐ Balarāma observed the demon’s body expanding up to the limits of the clouds, his eyes dazzling like blazing fire and his mouth flashing with sharpened teeth.
- ॐ At first, Balarāma was surprised by the demon’s appearance, and He began to wonder, “How is it that all of a sudden this carrier has changed in every way?”
- ॐ But with a clear mind He could quickly understand that He was being carried away from His friends by a demon who intended to kill Him.
- ॐ Immediately He struck the head of the demon with His strong fist, just as the King of the heavenly planets strikes a mountain with his thunderbolt.
- ॐ Stricken by the fist of Balarāma, the demon fell down dead, just like a snake with a smashed head, and blood poured from his mouth.
- ॐ When the demon fell, he made a tremendous sound, and it sounded as if a great hill were falling upon being struck by the thunderbolt of King Indra.
- ॐ All the boys then rushed to the spot. Astonished by the ghastly scene, they began to praise Balarāma with the words “Well done! Well done!”
- ॐ All of them then embraced Balarāma with great affection, thinking that He had returned from death, and they offered their blessings and congratulations.
- ॐ All the demigods in the heavenly planets became very satisfied and showered flowers on the transcendental body of Balarāma, and they also offered their blessings and congratulations for His having killed the great demon Pralambāsura.