

Ariṣṭāsura

- ॐ Vṛndāvana was always absorbed in the thought of Kṛṣṇa.
Everyone remembered His pastimes and was constantly merged in the ocean of transcendental bliss.
- ॐ But the material world is so contaminated that even in Vṛndāvana the asuras, or demons, tried to disturb the peaceful situation.
- ॐ Once a demon named Ariṣṭāsura entered the village in the form of a great bull with a gigantic body and huge horns, digging up the earth with his hooves.
- ॐ When the demon entered Vṛndāvana, the whole land appeared to tremble, as if there were an earthquake.
- ॐ He roared fiercely, and after digging up the earth on the riverside, he entered the village proper.
- ॐ The fearful roaring of the bull was so piercing that some of the pregnant cows and women had miscarriages.
- ॐ Its body was so big, stout and strong that a cloud hovered over its body just as clouds hover over mountains.
- ॐ Ariṣṭāsura entered Vṛndāvana with such a fearful appearance that just on seeing this great demon all the men and women were afflicted with great fear, and the cows and other animals fled the village.
- ॐ The situation became very terrible, and all the inhabitants of Vṛndāvana began to cry, “Kṛṣṇa! Kṛṣṇa, please save us!”
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa saw that the cows were running away, and He immediately replied, “Don’t be afraid. Don’t be afraid.”
- ॐ He then appeared before Ariṣṭāsura and said, “You lowest of living entities!
- ॐ Why are you frightening the inhabitants of Gokula?
- ॐ What will you gain by this action?
- ॐ If you have come to challenge My authority, then I am prepared to fight you.”
- ॐ In this way, Kṛṣṇa challenged the demon, and the demon became very angry by the words of Kṛṣṇa.
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa stood before the bull, resting His hand on the shoulder of a friend.
- ॐ The bull proceeded toward Kṛṣṇa in anger.
- ॐ Digging the earth with his hooves, Ariṣṭāsura lifted his tail, and it appeared that clouds were hovering about the tail.
- ॐ His eyes were reddish and moving in anger.
- ॐ Pointing his horns at Kṛṣṇa, he charged Him just like the thunderbolt of Indra.
- ॐ But Kṛṣṇa immediately caught his horns and tossed him away, just as a gigantic elephant repels a small inimical elephant.

Description is found
Srimad Bhagavatam
(Krishna Book)

- ॐ Although the demon was perspiring and appeared very tired, he took courage and got up.
- ॐ Again he charged Kṛṣṇa with great force and anger.
- ॐ While rushing toward Kṛṣṇa, he breathed very heavily.
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa again caught his horns and immediately threw him to the ground, breaking his horns.
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa then began to kick his body, just as one squeezes a wet cloth on the ground.
- ॐ Being thus kicked by Kṛṣṇa, Arīṣṭāsura rolled over and began to move his legs violently.
- ॐ Bleeding from the mouth and passing stool and urine, his eyes starting from their sockets, he passed to the kingdom of death.
- ॐ The demigods in the celestial planets showered flowers on Kṛṣṇa for His wonderful achievement.
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa was already the life and soul of the inhabitants of Vṛndāvana, and after killing this demon in the shape of a bull, He became the cynosure of all eyes.
- ॐ With Balarāma, He triumphantly entered Vṛndāvana village, and the inhabitants glorified Him and Balarāma with great jubilation.

Narada discloses Kṛṣṇa's identity to Kaṁsa

- ॐ It was after this incident that the great sage Nārada disclosed to Kaṁsa the secret of Kṛṣṇa.
- ॐ Nārada wanted to expedite things; therefore, he immediately approached Kaṁsa with all the real information.
- ॐ “You are to be killed by the eighth son of Vasudeva,” Nārada told Kaṁsa.
- ॐ “That eighth son is Kṛṣṇa.
- ॐ You were misled by Vasudeva into believing that the eighth issue of Vasudeva was a daughter.
- ॐ Actually, the daughter was born to Yaśodā, the wife of Nanda Mahārāja, and Vasudeva exchanged his son for the daughter, so you were misled.
- ॐ Kṛṣṇa is the son of Vasudeva, as is Balarāma.
- ॐ Being afraid of your atrocious nature, Vasudeva has tactfully hidden Them in Vṛndāvana, out of your sight.”
- ॐ Nārada further informed Kaṁsa, “Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma have been living incognito in the care of Nanda Mahārāja.
- ॐ All the asuras, your companions who were sent to Vṛndāvana to kill different children, were killed by Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma.”
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- ॐ As soon as Kaṁsa got this information from Nārada Muni, he took out his sharp sword and prepared to kill Vasudeva for his duplicity.

- ॐ But Nārada pacified him. “You are not to be killed by Vasudeva,” he said.
- ॐ “Why are you so anxious to kill him?
- ॐ Better try to kill Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma.”
- ॐ But in order to satisfy his wrath, Kaṁsa arrested Vasudeva and his wife and shackled them in iron chains.
- ॐ Acting on the new information, Kaṁsa immediately called for the Keśī demon and asked him to go to Vṛndāvana immediately to kill Balarāma and Kṛṣṇa. *In actuality, Kaṁsa asked Keśī to go to Vṛndāvana to be killed by Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma and thus get salvation.*
- ॐ Then Kaṁsa called for his expert elephant trainers, as well as for the wrestlers Cāṇūra, Muṣṭika, Śala, Toṣala, etc., and he told them,
- ॐ “My dear friends, try to hear me attentively.
- ॐ At Nanda Mahārāja’s place in Vṛndāvana there are two brothers, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma.
- ॐ They are actually two sons of Vasudeva.
- ॐ As you know, I have been destined to be killed by Kṛṣṇa; there is a prophecy to this effect.
- ॐ Now I am requesting you to arrange for a wrestling match.
- ॐ People from different parts of the country will come to see the festival.
- ॐ I will arrange to get those two boys here, and you will try to kill Them in the wrestling arena.”
- ॐ He also told the trainers of the elephants, “Be sure to bring the elephant named Kuvalayāpīḍa and keep him at the gate of the wrestling arena.
- ॐ Try to capture Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma on Their arrival and have the elephant kill Them.”
- ॐ Kaṁsa also advised his friends to arrange to worship Lord Śiva by offering animal sacrifices and performing the sacrifice called Dhanur-yajña and the sacrifice performed on the fourteenth day of the moon, known as Caturdaśī. *This date falls three days after Ekādaśī, and it is set aside for the worship of Lord Śiva.*

Kaṁsa summons Akrūra

- ॐ He then called for Akrūra, one of the descendants in the family of Yadu, in which Kṛṣṇa was born as the son of Vasudeva.
- ॐ When Akrūra came to see Kaṁsa, Kaṁsa very politely shook hands with him and said,
- ॐ “My dear Akrūra, actually I have no better friend than you in the Bhoja and Yadu dynasties.
- ॐ You are the most munificent person, so as a friend I am begging charity from you.
- ॐ Actually I have taken shelter of you exactly as King Indra takes shelter of Lord Viṣṇu.
- ॐ I request you to go immediately to Vṛndāvana and find the two boys named Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma.

- ॐ They are the sons of Nanda Mahārāja.
- ॐ Take this nice chariot, especially prepared for the boys, and bring Them here immediately.
- ॐ That is my request to you.
- ॐ Now, my plan is to kill these two boys.
- ॐ As soon as They come in the gate, there will be a giant elephant named Kuvalayāpiḍa waiting, and possibly he will be able to kill Them.
- ॐ But if somehow or other They escape, They will next meet the wrestlers and will be killed by them.
- ॐ That is my plan.
- ॐ And after killing these two boys, I shall kill Vasudeva and Nanda, who are supporters of the Vṛṣṇi and Bhoja dynasties.
- ॐ I shall also kill my father, Ugrasena, and his brother Devaka, because they are actually my enemies and are hindrances to my diplomacy and politics.
- ॐ Thus I shall get rid of all my enemies.
- ॐ Jarāsandha is my father-in-law, and I have a great monkey friend named Dvivida.
- ॐ With their help it will be easy to kill all the kings on the surface of the earth who support the demigods.
- ॐ This is my plan.
- ॐ In this way I shall be free from all opposition, and it will be very pleasant to rule the world without obstruction.
- ॐ You may know also that Śambara, Narakāsura and Bāṇāsura are my intimate friends, and when I begin this war against the kings who support the demigods, they will help me considerably.
- ॐ Surely I shall be rid of all my enemies.
- ॐ Please go immediately to Vṛndāvana and encourage the boys to come here to see the beauty of Mathurā and take pleasure in the wrestling competition.”
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- ॐ After hearing this plan of Kaṁsa’s, Akrūra replied, “My dear King, your plan is very excellently made to counteract the hindrances to your diplomatic activities. B
- ॐ ut you should maintain equilibrium, for the result of your activities may be fruitful or may not be fruitful.
- ॐ After all, man proposes, God disposes.
- ॐ We may make very great plans, but unless they are sanctioned by the supreme authority, they will fail.
- ॐ Everyone in this material world knows that the supernatural power is the ultimate disposer of everything.

- ॐ One may make a very great plan with his fertile brain, but he must know that he will be subjected to the fruits, misery and happiness.
- ॐ But I have nothing to say against your proposal.
- ॐ As a friend, I shall carry out your order and bring Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma here, as you desire.”
- ॐ After instructing his friends in various ways, Kaṁsa retired, and Akrūra went back to his home.