

Caitanya Reader Book Five

The Pastimes of Śrī Kṛṣṇa A Children's Reader

Adapted from the writings of
His Divine Grace
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ISKCON Children's Press

Gurukula English Series 2:1 A

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Keśī Killed

Kāmsa was always hoping to kill Kṛṣṇa. He always thought of Kṛṣṇa and how happy he would be if that little blue boy was dead.

Once he sent his demon friend Keśī to Vṛndāvana. Keśī took on the form of a terrible horse. He entered Vṛndāvana with his great mane flying and his hooves digging up the earth. He began to whinny and terrify the whole world. His tail was wheeling in the sky like a big cloud.

Kṛṣṇa knew that the demon had come to fight with Him but He wasn't even a little afraid.

The little boy Kṛṣṇa stood in front of the Keśī demon. Making a great roar like a lion, Keśī ran at Kṛṣṇa and tried to trample Him. The horse's legs were strong and hard as stone. Kṛṣṇa caught one of the legs and tripped the wild horse.

In a moment, Kṛṣṇa picked up the great horse and threw him a long way, just like Garuḍa throws a snake. With great anger, the horse again rushed at Kṛṣṇa, his mouth wide open.

Kṛṣṇa pushed His left hand inside Keśī's mouth. "This hand feels like a hot iron rod!" thought the Keśī demon.

As Kṛṣṇa's hand got bigger and bigger in Keśī's throat, the demon's teeth fell out. He began to choke and his eyes popped out. The giant horse passed stool and urine and then dropped dead on the ground.

From the heavens came showers of flowers. The demigods were pleased that Kṛṣṇa had killed the Keśī demon so easily.

Questions

1. Who sent Keśī to kill Kṛṣṇa?
2. What did Keśī look like when he entered Vṛndāvana?
3. Describe how Kṛṣṇa killed him.

New Words

throat
terrify
stool

hooves
trample
urine

mane
wheeling

Kṛṣṇa Frees the Serpent

Once upon a time, the cowherd men of Vṛndāvana wanted to worship Lord Śiva and His wife, Ambikā. With Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma they went to a holy place ear the Sarasvatī River.

Before worshipping the Deities there, all of the cowherd men took a bath in the river and gave away cows to the brāhmaṇas. They fasted one day and at night they laid down by the river to rest.

While they were all resting, a serpent came out of the nearby forest and began to swallow Nanda Mahārāja.

“My dear son, Kṛṣṇa, please come and save me,” cried Nanda Mahārāja. “This serpent is swallowing me.”

All the cowherd men got up to see what was happening. They quickly grabbed burning logs and began to beat the snake to kill it.

They beat and beat the serpent but it would not stop swallowing Nanda Mahārāja. At last, Kṛṣṇa came and touched the serpent with his lotus foot.

As soon as he was touched by the foot of Kṛṣṇa, the snake shed its serpent body. He looked like a beautiful demigod. His body was glowing and he was dressed in fine clothes and jewels.

“You seem to be a very nice demigod,” said Kṛṣṇa. “How did you get the body of a serpent?”

“My dear Lord, in my last life I was a beautiful demigod,” answered the young man. “I used to travel all over in my airplane. Once I saw an ugly sage and because I was very proud of my beauty, I laughed at him. He cursed me for my sinful act and I had to become a serpent.

“My dear Lord, I think that the curse of the sage was not a curse at all. If he hadn’t cursed me to become a snake, I would never have been kicked by Your lotus foot. Your lotus foot has made me free from all my sins.”

Kṛṣṇa was pleased with the prayer of the demigod and He blessed him. The demigod walked in a circle around the Lord and then bowed down to Him. He went back to his heavenly planet and never forgot the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa.

Questions

1. What were the first things the cowherd men did when they got to the holy place?
2. What made the serpent stop swallowing Nanda Mahārāja?
3. What did the serpent think about his curse after he had been kicked by Kṛṣṇa?

New Words

Ambikā	Sarasvatī River
proud	heavenly planet

The Demon Who Flies in the Sky

The cowherd boys were playing on Govardhana Hill one morning.

“I’ll be a thief,” said one boy.

“And I’ll be a policeman,” said another.

“I’ll be a lamb,” said a third cowherd boy. “The thieves can steal me away.”

In this way, the boys played all around Govardhana Hill. Suddenly, a demon named Vyomāsura appeared on the hill. Vyomāsura means “the demon who flies in the sky”.

Vyomāsura took the part of one of the thieves and stole many of the cowherd boys who were playing like lambs.

One after another, Vyomāsura took almost all the boys and put them in the mountain caves. He even sealed the caves with big stones.

Kṛṣṇa saw the demon's trick and caught hold of him just like a lion catches a lamb. Vyomāsura tried to expand himself like a hill by Kṛṣṇa didn't let him get away.

Kṛṣṇa threw him on the ground with great force. Thus the demon was killed. Kṛṣṇa happily opened up the caves again to free His friends. They all praised Him and gathered the cows to go back to Vṛndāvana.

Questions

1. What kind of game were the boys playing?

New Words

Vyomāsura
Govardhana Hill

Word Study

Read and Spell

bake	flower	toe	girl
rake	sour	go	curl
lake	tower	slow	twirl
make	shower	row	pearl
take	power	mow	whirl
clock	tumble	thumb	fought
block	rumble	some	bought
rock	stumble	dumb	taught
sock	fumble	crumb	caught
flock	mumble	come	brought

Read and Answer

Find three words that rhyme with each of these words:

dance sing pray eat

Write

Write a sentence using these two words:

flower shower

Śrīdāmā

Śrīdāmā is the best friend of Kṛṣṇa. He wears a yellow dhoti and carries a buffalo horn. His turban is a reddish-copper colour and his body is blackish. Around his neck hangs a beautiful flower garland.

Kṛṣṇa Swallows the Fire

The day was bright and beautiful. Balarāmā had just killed a great demon in the forest and Kṛṣṇa and His friends were playing happily. They were all so happy as they played that they did not see the cows wandering off into the woods. Even the goats and buffalo wandered out of sight.

Seeing that the cows were gone, the boys began to search for them. They traced out the cows' footprints and followed the path of eaten grass.

Soon they heard the crying of the cows. A great forest fire was burning all around them. They were crying, "Dear Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā, we are burning from heat of this blazing fire. Let us take shelter of Your lotus feet. We are Your dear friends. Please protect us!"

Kṛṣṇa knew that there was no need to be afraid. While the cowherd boys closed their eyes, Kṛṣṇa swallowed the whole forest fire.

Thus all the cows were saved from the heat of the fire. They saw that the forest was green and beautiful again and that Kṛṣṇa was with them.

Playing their flutes, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā took the cows back to the village of Vṛndāvana.

Questions

1. How did the boys search for the cows?
2. What did the cows say to Kṛṣṇa?

New Words

goats

buffalo

trace

village

The Demon Pralambāsura

Vṛndāvana is such a wonderful place. Flowers are always blooming and there are beautifully decorated deer. Birds are chirping, peacocks are crowing and dancing and bees are humming. The cuckoos there sing nicely in five kinds of tunes.

As Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā entered the forest, They played Their flutes. They walked beneath fresh new leaves that looked the peacock feathers. They dressed Themselves with those leaves and marked Their bodies with saffron chalk.

Sometimes They danced and sometimes They wrestled. When Kṛṣṇa danced, His friends clapped and played their flutes and buffalo horns. “You are dancing very nicely,” they all said to Kṛṣṇa.

As they played in the forest, a great demon came to join them. He was dressed just like a cowherd boy but Kṛṣṇa knew that he was really a demon.

“Oh my dear friend,” said Kṛṣṇa to the demon. “It is very good that you have come here to take part in our pastimes.” Soon the demon was playing just like a cowherd boy.

Kṛṣṇa was carrying Śrīdāmā on His back. The demon, Pralambāsura, was carrying Balarāmā on his back. Suddenly, the demon began to carry Balarāmā away from the other boys.

As he ran, he changed into his real form. His body stretched up to the sky; his eyes dazzled like a blazing fire; his mouth was full of sharp teeth.

“How is it that my carrier has changed in every way?” thought Balarāmā. “This must be a great demon who wants to kill Me.”

With His strong fist, Balarāmā hit the head of the demon, Pralambāsura. In an instant, the demon lay dead on the ground.

All of the cowherd boys rushed to the place where Balarāmā stood. “Well done! Well done!” they all said as they looked at the huge demon. Flowers fell from the demigods above and everyone chanted the glories of Lord Balarāmā. He had killed the great demon, Pralalambāsura.

Questions

1. What kind of living entities were in Vṛndāvana and what were they doing when Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā entered the forest?
2. What did Pralalambāsura look like when they first saw him?
3. What did he look like when Balarāmā killed him?

New Words

beneath

wrestled

saffron

Śrīdāmā

chalk

Pralalambāsura

Word Study

Read and Pronounce

rose	tulip	morning glory
daisy	violet	snapdragon
daffodil	carnation	jasmine
lilac	kadamba	lily
marigold	stalk	orchid
sweet pea	lotus	pansy
poppy	pārijāta	gardenia

Read and Answer

1. Which flower does Lord Viṣṇu hold in His hand?
2. One of these flowers grows on the tree that Kṛṣṇa jumped from when He fought with Kaliya. Which flower?
3. Which flower did Satyambhāma want from the heavenly planets?

Akrūra's Vision

Akrūra was the dear uncle of Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā. Being a servant of Kāmsa, Akrūra had been sent from Mathurā to get Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā for a great wrestling match.

After saying good-bye to all of the residents of Vṛndāvana, the two beautiful boys sat on Akrūra's chariot and started for Mathurā.

On their way, they stopped at the Yamunā river to bathe. Both Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā took Their baths in the river and washed Their faces. They drank the clear water of the Yamunā and then returned to the chariot.

Seeing the boys seated there, Akrūra also went to the river to bathe. While standing in the river and chanting his prayers, Akrūra saw Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā in the water. He was surprised as he had just seen Them both on the chariot.

Akrūra quickly came out of the water to see where the boys were. Once again, They were on the chariot. Akrūra

returned to the river, wondering if he had really seen Them there.

This time, Akrūra saw not only Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā but many demigods and angels too. Balarāmā had become the great snake Ananta Śeṣa and was lying down on the water. Kṛṣṇa had become Mahā-Viṣṇu and was smiling beautifully as He rested on the huge snake.

After seeing Kṛṣṇa in this wonderful form, Akrūra began to shiver. With folded hands and a bowed head, Akrūra began to offer beautiful prayers to the Lord.

Questions

1. Where was Akrūra taking Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā?
2. Why did they stop at the Yamunā?
3. What did Akrūra do when he saw Kṛṣṇa as Mahā-Viṣṇu?

New Words

Akrūra

wonderful

wrestling

shiver

bathe

Mathurā City

The whole city of Mathurā was decorated when Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā entered. The boys saw that the gates were made of marble and that the doors were made of gold. Each house had a yard with fruit and flowers growing around.

The gardens were decorated with silk cloth, pearls and jewels. Pigeons and peacocks strutted and cooed near the windows.

The shops in the city were decorated with flowers, garlands, newly grown grass and blooming roses. Water and yogurt were sprinkled on the ground and fresh mango leaves were placed near the doors.

The whole city of Mathurā was decorated just to greet the Lord when He entered.

New Words

marble

strut

pigeon

coo

Kṛṣṇa Slays The Washerman

As Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā passed through the streets of Mathurā, They were showered with flowers. Brāhmaṇas offered Them nice garlands and sandalwood paste.

As They walked, They saw a washerman who was also a clothes dyer. Kṛṣṇa was pleased to speak to the man.

“My dear washerman,” said the Lord, “Please give me some of your nice cloth. If you please Me with nice cloth then I will bless you and all good fortune will be yours.”

Kṛṣṇa was giving the washerman a chance to offer Him something and, thus, make himself very happy but the man was friend and servant of the demon king Kāmsa. He did not take the chance to become happy; instead, the foolish man became very angry.

“How is it that You are asking for clothing which is meant for the king?” said the washerman. “In the future, don’t be so

puffed-up. You may not ask for things which belong to the king. You may have to be punished by the king's men.”

Kṛṣṇa didn't like to listen to the washerman. In an angry mood, Kṛṣṇa struck the man with His hand and cut off his head. After that He and Balarāmā dressed Themselves with the new cloth. They gave cloth to all of the cowherd boys as well. When the cowherd boys had dressed themselves, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā walked on through Mathurā.

“O, my Lord,” spoke the humble florist. “I would like to remain Your servant forever and in this way I can do good to all living beings.”

Being completely satisfied with Sudāmā, the Lord gave him the boon and also gave him wealth, health, long life and anything else he wanted in the material world.

Questions

1. What boon did Sudāmā want?

New Words

florist
satisfy

Breaking the Bow

The demon king, Kāmsa had planned a big sacrifice to be held in Mathurā. He had invited Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā to come and enjoy the sacrifice but Kāmsa's real plan was to kill Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā.

As the two brothers strolled around Mathurā, Kṛṣṇa asked one person, “Where is the great arena for the sacrifice?” When the man told Him the place, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā headed there.

On the altar of the arena, Kāmsa had placed a great bow. This bow was so big and wonderful that it looked like a rainbow in the sky. Many watchmen stood guard around the great bow.

As Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā walked towards the altar, the watchmen shouted, “Don't go near the bow!”

But Kṛṣṇa didn't listen to them. He forced His way past the guards and picked up the great bow in His left hand. After stringing the bow in the presence of everyone, Kṛṣṇa drew

back the bow and broke it in half. It was just like an elephant breaking sugar cane in the field.

The sound of the bow cracking filled the sky and land and was heard by the demon Kāṁsa. Kāṁsa began to fear for his own life.

The guards shouted, “Stop Him! Kill Him!”

Quickly, there were many guards around Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā, all of them planning to kill the two boys.

Kṛṣṇa picked up one half of the broken bow and Balarāmā picked up the other half. They began to beat off all the guards. They even killed a small army which had been sent by Kāṁsa to the arena.

When Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā had destroyed everyone, They left the arena. They did not care for Kāṁsa or his guards or army. Feeling satisfied, the two brothers headed for Their resting camp.

Questions

1. What weapon did Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā use to fight with the guards?

New Words

arena	guards
sacrifice	stroll

Kaṁsa's Vision

Kaṁsa had asked Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā to come to Mathurā for a great wrestling match. His real desire was to kill them.

When he heard about the breaking of the bow in the arena, Kaṁsa began to fear the two cowherd boys. He knew that the eighth child of Devakī had come to kill him.

Because of his great fear, Kaṁsa began to have horrible dreams and visions. When he looked in a mirror, he could not see his head. He saw two sets of stars in the sky when there was really only one. He began to see holes in his shadow and he heard buzzing in his ears. All the trees around him seemed to be made of gold and when he walked, there were no footprints left in the dust or muddy clay.

In a dream, Kaṁsa saw ghosts riding in a donkey cart. He dreamed that someone gave him poison and he was drinking it. Then he saw himself going naked, wearing only a garland of flowers. All the while, he was smearing his body with oil.

Both sleeping and awake, Kāṁsa saw these different signs which told him that his death was near. He was a demon and Kṛṣṇa is expert in killing all demons.

Questions

1. Describe some of the things Kāṁsa saw in his visions

New Words

horrible

ghost

Word Study

Read and Spell

robin	cardinal	hummingbird
sparrow	cuckoo	woodpecker
bluebird	duck	ostrich
hawk	pigeon	crow
parrot	crane	swan
goose	owl	peacock
canary	eagle	stork

Read and Answer

1. Which birds might you find in Vṛndāvana?
2. Which bird sings in five kinds of tunes?
3. Which kind of bird can learn to say “Hare Kṛṣṇa”?

Write

1. Write five sentences. In each one, use the name of one of the birds above.
2. Write a description of a peacock feather.

Kṛṣṇa Fights with the Elephant

One day there as a great wrestling match held in Mathurā city. In the early morning Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā took Their baths. As They did Their morning duties, They heard the beating of the drums in the wrestling arena. Feeling excited, the brothers went to the arena to see the fun.

When the boys reached the gate of the wrestling camp, They saw a big elephant of the name of Kuvalayāpīda. The elephant's caretaker was keeping him in front of the gateway so that Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā could not enter.

Kṛṣṇa knew that He would have to fight with the big elephant. He tightened His dress and spoke in a grave voice, “You rascal caretaker, give way and let Me pass through this gate. If you block My way, I shall send you to death's abode.”

Being very angry, the caretaker drove the elephant towards Kṛṣṇa. Kuvalayāpīda tried to catch Kṛṣṇa with his trunk but Kṛṣṇa moved behind him. Kṛṣṇa caught the huge beast by

the tail and began to pull it backwards. He dragged it for twenty-five yards, just like Garuḍa drags a tiny snake.

Kṛṣṇa pulled the elephant from right to left, this way and that way, just as He used to pull the calves when He was a small boy. Then he went to the front of the elephant and gave him a strong slap.

Kṛṣṇa then wanted to trick the demoniac elephant. He laid down on the ground right in front of the elephant's feet. Kuvalayāpīda tripped and fell. Out of great anger, the elephant tried to stab Kṛṣṇa with his strong tusk.

The elephant rushed madly at Kṛṣṇa, hoping to smash Him. As soon as the mad elephant was in reach, Kṛṣṇa caught hold of his trunk and pulled him down. Kṛṣṇa jumped on the elephant's back and broke it. He killed the caretaker too.

Having killed the two demons, Kṛṣṇa took one of the tusks from the elephant and put it on His shoulder. Balarāmā took the other tusk and put it on His shoulder. Along with the cowherd boys, They entered the wrestling arena.

New Words

duties

caretaker

Kuvalayāpīda

tusk

demoniac

backwards

The Great Wrestling Match

Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā gracefully entered the wrestling arena. Their faces were sprinkled with the blood of the dead elephant and each boy carried one of the elephant's tusks.

In the arena were two beastly men named Cāṇūra and Muṣṭika. The two boys, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā approached the wrestlers.

Cāṇūra said, “My dear Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā, we have heard all about You. You are great heroes so the king has called You to fight with us. We have heard that Your arms are very strong and now we will see if You are really powerful. We know You are cowherd boys and we have heard that while tending cows in the forest you wrestle with each other. We are eager for You to wrestle with us.”

Before fighting with Cāṇūra, Kṛṣṇa spoke: “You are a very powerful man and you live in the jungle. We are simply young boys and although We may play in the forest with Our friends who are Our own age, We do not think We can fight

with you. The people in the arena will be sad seeing you fight with such young boys.”

Cāṇūra answered, “My dear Kṛṣṇa, we know that You are neither a child nor a young man. You are greater than everyone and so is Your big brother, Balarāmā. You have already killed the elephant, Kuvalayāpīda in a wonderful way and because of Your strength You must now fight with us. You may fight with Me and Your elder brother, Balarāmā will wrestle with Muṣṭika.”

Kṛṣṇa approached Cāṇūra and Lord Balarāmā approached Muṣṭika. In order to wrestle they locked themselves hand to hand, leg to leg and began to press each other. They joined palm to palm, calf to calf, head to head, chest to chest and began to strike each other. The fighting went on as they pushed one another around the arena.

Step by step the fighting grew but the people in the arena were not satisfied with the wrestling match. They thought that Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā were only boys and the wrestlers, Cāṇūra and Muṣṭika were huge jungle men as solid as stone.

The leaders present began to lament. “This wrestling match is not fair. We cannot enjoy such an unfair wrestling match.”

When Lord Kṛṣṇa heard the people lamenting, He decided to stop the match by killing the wrestlers immediately. Kṛṣṇa struck Cāṇūra three times with His fist. The great wrestler was jolted but he joined his two hands and began to strike the chest of the Lord. Kṛṣṇa was not disturbed any more than an elephant is disturbed by the striking of a flower garland.

Kṛṣṇa caught the two hands of Cāṇūra and began to wheel him around until he lost his life air. Kṛṣṇa threw him to the ground and all of his ornaments were scattered around.

Balarāmā also struck Muṣṭika with great force. The huge wrestler began to tremble and blood and vomit flowed from his mouth. In great pain, he gave up his life and fell down just as a tree falls in a strong wind.

Other wrestlers came forward but Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā killed them all without difficulty. At last the remaining wrestlers fled from the arena out of fear for their lives.

The cowherd boyfriends of Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā ran to Them in great pleasure. While drums beat and everyone cheered in the arena, the ankle bells of the feet of Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā tinkled softly. Everyone was happy that Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā had defeated the wrestlers. Only King Kāṁsa lamented.

Questions

1. Describe the wrestling between Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā and the two men.
2. Why weren't the people in the audience pleased with the match?
3. How did Kṛṣṇa kill Cāṇūra?
4. How did Balarāmā kill Muṣṭika?
5. Who lamented when the wrestlers were killed?

New Words

Cāṇūra

Muṣṭika

difficulty

lament

defeat

The Killing of King Kāmsa

Kāmsa was full of anger and unhappiness. When he heard of Kṛṣṇa's victory in the wrestling arena he immediately gave the following orders: "Stop the drum playing! Stop the festival! I order that these two sons of Vasudeva be driven out of Mathurā. The cowherd boys who have come with Them should have all their riches taken away. Nanda Mahārāja should be arrested immediately and killed and the rascal Vasudeva should also be killed."

Lord Kṛṣṇa became very angry when He heard Kāmsa's voice and within a second He jumped over the high guards surrounding the king. Kāmsa drew his sword and shield in order to fight with Kṛṣṇa.

Lord Kṛṣṇa, who is all powerful, caught hold of Kāmsa with great force. He knocked the crown from the head of the king and grabbed his long hair in His hand. He then dragged Kāmsa from his seat to the wrestling arena and threw him to the ground.

Straddling his chest, Kṛṣṇa began to strike Kāṁsa over and over again. Simply from these strikes by Kṛṣṇa's fists, Kāṁsa lost his life. In order to prove that Kāṁsa was dead, Kṛṣṇa dragged him around, just as a lion drags an elephant after killing it.

On sight of this, there was a great roar from all sides of the arena. Some roared out of happiness and others cried out of unhappiness.

The demigods from the higher planets showered flowers on the wrestling arena. Lord Brahmā, Lord Śiva and the other demigods all praised Kṛṣṇa for killing the demon Kāṁsa. Heavenly drums were beat, flowers were showered everywhere and the wives of the demigods danced with joy.

Because he was afraid of death, Kāṁsa never forgot about Kṛṣṇa. While eating, while waking, while breathing, while sleeping, he never forgot the Supreme Lord. At the time of his death, Kāṁsa went to the Spiritual Sky. Now Kāṁsa has a body just like Lord Nārāyaṇa with a conch, wheel, lotus flower and club in his hands.

Questions

1. What was Kāṁsa's order?
2. What did Kṛṣṇa do when He heard Kāṁsa's order?
3. What did Kṛṣṇa do when Kāṁsa was dead?
4. Where did Kāṁsa go when he died?

New Words

victory

surrounding

straddle

Kṛṣṇa Goes to School

When Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā were still young, They went to the home of Their spiritual master, Sāndīpani Muni. For sixty-four days and sixty-four nights, They studied wonderful arts.

First of all, They learned how to sing different kinds of tunes. They learned various rhythms and how to follow them on different kinds of drums. They learned how to make sweet music and dance.

They learned how to write plays and act them out. They even learned to decorate the actors with flowers, sandalwood pulp and paint. They learned how to paint tilaka on the face and make different kinds of dots on the forehead and cheeks.

Then They learned the art of painting on the floor with a liquid paste made of rice flour. They learned how to make a resting place with flowers and how to decorate clothing with leaves and coloured paint.

They learned to set valuable jewels in ornaments and They learned how to ring water pots. When water pots are filled

with water, they make a sweet sound. By beating on the pots with a stick, different sounds are made. Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā learned to play music on the filled pots. They learned how to throw water in the rivers or lakes while taking bath with friends and They learned how to decorate with flowers.

Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā learned how to fix hair in various styles and how to set a helmet in different ways on the head.

They learned magic and They learned to make drinks out of different kinds of syrups. They even learned to make dancing puppets.

They studied soil to find different minerals. With herbs and plants They learned to make medicine. They trained lambs and cocks in sport fighting and They taught parrots how to speak.

Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā studied the art of solving crossword puzzles by filling up the missing spaces and making new words. They learned to draw pictures and to construct large buildings.

They learned how to wash hair, dye it in different colour and curl it in different ways. They learned the art of telling what is written in someone's book without seeing the book. They learned to tell what is in another's fist although the fist is kept shut.

Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā learned to speak and understand the languages of different people. They learned not only the language of human beings but They could even speak with the animals and birds.

They then learned how to make airplanes from flowers. Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā learned to tell the future by seeing different kinds of signs. If someone sees an empty bucket it is not a good sign but if someone sees a full bucket, it is a very good sign. Also, if someone sees a cow along with her calf then that is a good sign. Kṛṣṇa learned to read these signs and tell the future.

The boys learned to cut various kinds of stones. They learned to write poetry and read the mind of other people.

At the end of the sixty-four days, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā had become perfect in every art that Sāṅdīpani Muni could teach Them. To repay Their teacher, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā offered him anything that he desired.

Questions

1. Name as many arts as you can remember.
2. What did Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā do after they had learned the arts?

New Words

various

magic

rhythm

syrups

valuable

minerals

Kṛṣṇa Recovers His Teacher's Son

Guru-dakṣiṇa is a gift made by any student to his teacher. The student is thankful when the teacher instructs him. When the student offers his teacher a gift, it is called Guru-dakṣiṇa.

Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā offered service to Sāndīpani Muni because he had taught Them so many fine arts.

Sāndīpani Muni knew that Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā were not ordinary students. Therefore, he asked for something very difficult to get.

“My dear Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā, I want to you to get my son who drowned in the ocean.”

Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā immediately started for the ocean on Their chariot. Reaching the beach, Kṛṣṇa spoke to the lord of the sea, “Dear Lord Varuna, you caused the drowning of the son of Our teacher. I order you to return him.”

Lord Varuna replied, “That boy was not taken by me. He was captured by a demon named Pañcajana. This demon lives deep in the water in the shape of a conch shell. Perhaps the son of Your teacher is within the belly of the demon.”

Kṛṣṇa drove deep into the water and caught hold of the demon Pañcajana. He killed him on the spot but could not find the son of His teacher within the demon’s belly. He took the demon’s dead body (in the shape of a conch shell) and returned to His chariot on the beach.

Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā headed for the abode of Lord Yamarāja. When They arrived at the palace of Yamarāja, Kṛṣṇa blew on His conch shell, Pañcajana. Yamarāja appeared and offered all respects to Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā.

“How may I serve You?” asked Lord Yamarāja.

“I want you to return the son of My teacher,” commanded Lord Kṛṣṇa.

In only a moment, Yamarāja handed the boy to Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā. They took him straight to the home of Sāndīpani

Muni and said, “Here is your lost son. May We perform any further service for you?”

Sāndīpani Muni replied, “You have done enough for me. Your acts are all wonderful and I want to bless You for them. I give You the blessing that whatever You speak will remain ever-fresh. Your teachings will be heard in all places and in all ages.”

Being blessed by Their teacher, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā returned home on Their chariot. They travelled at great speed like the wind and made sounds like the crashing of clouds. The residents of Mathurā were joyous at the arrival of Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā.

Questions

1. What is guru-dakṣiṇa?
2. What service did Sāndīpani Muni want from Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā?
3. What demon did Kṛṣṇa kill while He was looking for the dead son?
4. What blessing did Sāndīpani Muni give to Kṛṣṇa and Balarāmā?

New Words

guru-dakṣiṇa

drown

capture

Word Study

Read and Pronounce

Devakī	Madhumaṅgala	Rohīnī
Sāndīpani Muni	Gargamuni	Yaśodā
Sudāmā Brāhmaṇa	Balarāmā	Nanda Mahārāja
Vasudeva	Rukmiṇī devī	Subhadrā
Rādhārānī	Śrīdāmā	Subala

Read and Answer

1. Which two are Kṛṣṇa's mothers?
2. Which are Kṛṣṇa's friends?
3. Who is Kṛṣṇa's spiritual master?

Write

1. Write five sentences. Each sentence should tell something you know about one of the people listed above.

Review

1. You have read these stories in your book. Tell what each one is about.

Keśī Killed

Kṛṣṇa Frees the Serpent

The Demon Who Flies in the Sky

Kṛṣṇa Swallows the Fire

The Demon Pralambāsura

Akrūra's Vision

Kṛṣṇa Slays the Washerman

Kṛṣṇa Blesses the Florist

The Great Wrestling Match

The Killing of King Kāmsa

Kṛṣṇa Goes to School

2. Find the story that you liked best. Read it again to yourself or tell it to the class.