



तव कथामृतं तप्तजीवनम्
tava kathāmṛtaṁ tapta-jīvanam

Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

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From Govinda Maṅgala by Duhkhi Syamdas



SRIDAMA'S STICK

His Divine Grace A. C.
Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Once Krishna was watching Sridama very expertly using his stick to fight with Balaram, who was an expert club fighter and who had even killed the Pralambasura demon with his club. When Krishna saw Balaram finally defeated by Sridama, who was using only a small stick, Krishna became filled with pleasure and began to look upon Sridama with great wonder. ❧

— Nectar of Devotion chapter 49

BALARAM KILLS PRALAMBASURA

From Govinda Maṅgala
By Duhkhi Shyamdas

For more about Duhkhi Shyamdas and his book Govinda Maṅgala, see Bindu issue 330.

vṛndāvane kṛiḍā kare brahmāṇḍa ṭhākura
ācambite mile āsi pralamba asura

The Lord of the universe was performing his pastimes in Vrindavan when suddenly the demon Pralambasura arrived.

mane mane mahāsura karaye vicāra
ki rūpe vadhiba āji nandera kumāra

That great demon contemplated how that very day he could kill the son of Nanda:

śisu saṅge thāki āmi śisu-rūpa dhari
pāśe pele nipātiba kaṁsera ba-iri



His Divine Grace

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

“I will adopt the form of a boy and enter into their group. Then I will get the opportunity to kill Kamsa's enemy.”

kāmarūpī asura aneka māyā jāne
śīsu rūpa dhari mile bālaka sandhāne

That demon could assume many different forms according to his desire, and he immediately took the form of a small boy and joined the group.

asurera māyā kṛṣṇa jānila antare
uṣat hāsiyā kṛṣṇa aruṇa adhare



Unknown artist

Lord Balaram with his plow and buffalo horn

Internally understanding the illusion of that asura, a slight smile appeared on Krishna's reddish lips.

*nikaṭe ḍākila kṛṣṇa yata śiśugaṇe
sabāre balila kṛṣṇa madhura vacane*

Krishna then called all the boys to come close and he spoke some sweet words to them.

*rāma-kṛṣṇa pāśe haila bālakera melā
hāsiyā balila kṛṣṇa kheliba eka khelā*

All the boys then gathered around Balaram and Krishna. Krishna smiled and said, "Now we will play a wonderful game.

*yuḍi yuḍi ha-iba yateka śiśugaṇa
mallayuddha prakāśiba dui dui jana*

"All of you boys should divide up into pairs and wrestle with each other.

*ye jana hāribe khele kandhe kari niba
bhāṅgīra vipina vaṭa nikaṭe rākhiba*

"Whoever loses the game will have to put the winner on his shoulders and carry him to Bhandira Vat."

*ihā śuni bhāla bhāla bale śiśugaṇa
yuḍi yuḍi hailā malla yudhera kāraṇa*

Hearing this, the boys said, "Very, good! Very good!" and then divided into pairs to wrestle.

*śrī kṛṣṇa śrīdāma saṅge subala sudāma
pralamba asura saṅge prabhu balarāma*

Sri Krishna and Sridama paired off, as did Subala and Sudama, while the demon Pralamba paired up with Prabhu Balaram.

*vasu saṅge stokakṛṣṇa subāhu arjune
jayavana varuṇa sahita dui jane*

Vasu was paired with Stokakrishna, Subahu with Arjuna, and Jayavan with Varuna.

*śuna pariḁṣita rājā kṛṣṇera kathana
śrīdāme hārila kṛṣṇa māyāra kāraṇa*

Oh King Parikshit, listen to this wonderful pastime! Krishna accepted defeat from Sridama for the purpose of establishing māyā, illusion.

*dheyāne nā pāya jāṅre sura munigaṇa
kāndhe kari lajjā gela bhāṅgīra kānana*

He whom even the gods and sages cannot understand, humbly carried Sridama on his shoulders.

*vaṭa nikaṭete kṛṣṇa rākhiba śrīdāme
saṁsāra sāgara tare ye kṛṣṇera nāme*

The same Krishna whose mere name releases one from the ocean of material existence carried Sridama to Bhandira Vat.

*subalera mallayuddhe sudāma hārila
kāndhe kari vaṭa-vṛkṣa nikaṭe rākhiba*

Subal defeated Sudama in wrestling. The loser had to carry the winner to the banyan tree at Bandhiravan.

*balarāme hārila se pralamba asura
kāndhe kari yāya daitya māyāra pracura*

Balaram defeated the demon Pralambasura, who then began carrying Balaram on his shoulders.

*balarāme kāndhe kari calila satvare
ei-rūpe diba laye kaṁsa barābare*

While he was carrying Balaram, Pralamba thought to himself, "I will carry him to Kamsa.

*nahe madhyapathe laye nipātiba vane
eta bali cale daitya tvarita gamane*

“Or perhaps I will carry him to the forest where I will kill him. Thinking in this way, the demon started running.

*asurera māvā jāni deva saṅkarṣaṇa
acala mandāra bhāra hailā tatakṣaṇa*

Recognizing the demon’s illusion, Lord Balaram made himself too heavy to carry.

*viṣṇu-śakti bhara daitya sahite nā pāre
āchāḍiyā pheli yena bhume paḍi mare*

Unable to bear the weight of viṣṇu-śakti, the demon decided to throw Balaram on the ground to kill him.

*eta cinti balarāme phelāite cāya
dui guṇa bhāra haila baladeva rāya*

Thinking this, he tried to drop Balaram. But Balaram then became twice as heavy.

*nija mūrti dhare daitya māyāra putali
nīlāmbare śobhā aṅga kare jhalamali*

*kundala keyūra hāra mukuṭa śobhana
kinkiṇī kaṅkaṇa tāra lohita vasana*

The demon then returned to his original form. He had an effulgent blue body and was ornamented with earrings, a beautiful crown, ankle bells, armbands, and was wearing reddish garments.



Early Bengal School, c. 1880

Krishna and Balaram



Unknown artist. South Indian mural

Haladhara Balaram

*hena mūrti dekhi baladeva mahāśaya
asura badhiva hela bhāvila hṛdaya*

When Balaram Mahasaya saw him in that feature, he thought to himself, “I will kill this demon now.”

*ati krodhāmbita mati rohiṇī-nandana
muṣṭi eka tāra muṇḍe karila ghātana*

The son of Rohini became very angry. With his fist he punched the demon in the head.

*vajrāghāta haya hena pūre digantara
pralambāra muṇḍa paise peṭera bhitara*

The punch was as powerful as a thunderbolt. When it struck Pralamba it pushed his head into his belly.

*paḍila pralambāsura yojana yuḍiyā
śīśu madhye gela rāma asure māriyā*

When the body of Pralambasura hit the ground it extended for eight miles. After killing the demon, Balaram returned to the boys.

dekhiyā vismaya yata vraja śiśugaṇa
dhanya dhanya balarāme bale sarvajana

Being astonished to see this, all the boys began to sing the glories of Balaram.

rāma kṛṣṇa kolākuli karila kānane
śiśu saṅge kṛiḍā kare yamunā puline

Rama and Krishna embraced each other and began to play with the boys on the bank of the Yamuna.

kṛiḍā baṅge dina śeṣa ha-ila vānane
gokule calila kṛṣṇā bālaka sandhāne

As the day ended, Krishna started for Gokul with his friends.

godhana mahiṣa meṣa dila cālāiyā
gokula praveśa haila veṇu bājāiyā

As the cows headed towards home, Krishna entered Gokul playing his flute.

nija nija grhe sabe karilā gamana
pralamba nipāta kahe sabāra sadana

When the boys went to their homes they all told the story of the killing of Pralamba.

śuniyā yaśodā nanda bale hari hari
sakala saṅkaṭe prabhu rākhibe daityāri

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Balaram Killing Pralambasura

Hearing this, Yasoda and Nanda called out, “Hari! Hari!” And prayed to the Lord to protect their son from all dangers.

dukhī-śyāma dāsa kahe hari-nāma sāra
govinda-caraṇa vinu gati nāhi āra

Dukhisyam Das says that hari-nāma is the essence. Other than the lotus feet of Govinda there is no other goal. ❧

— Translated from the edition published by Sri Biharilal Sarkar. Kolkata. 1808 Sakabda. (1886)

