

Famous Illustrated Tales of **SHRI KRISHNA**



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Illustrated Tales of Shri Krishna



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Kansa - Devaki

Long time ago, Mathura a city in india was ruled by king Ugrasen. He had a son named Kansa who was a great warrior but was too ambitious. He did not wait till his father retired to become the king. With the help of some demonic associates he dethroned his father, put him in prison and became the king. He had a cousin sister named Devaki of whom he was extremely fond. She was getting married to Prince Vasudev and on the last day of the marriage ceremony Kansa was taking them to their palace in a chariot driven by him.

On the way ,a heavenly voice said to Kansa, “Oh fool! The eighth child of Devaki, whom you are taking with you, will kill you.” On hearing these words Kansa caught his sister by her hair and drew out his sword to kill her. Seeing this Vasudeva tried to calm Kansa and spoke to him in sweet words, “O Kansa! You are a great hero praised by the warriors. How can you kill a woman and that too your newly married sister? This act will bring great disgrace and sin on you and your family. Please do not kill her. I promise to give all our newborn children to you as soon as they are born.”

Vasudeva was known for keeping his words and so Kansa left the thought of killing Devaki . Vasudeva was very happy and praising him reached the palace. When the first child was born Vasudev took him to Kansa. Seeing the noble nature of Vasudeva, Kansa thought “Why should I kill this child. The voice had said that only the eighth child of Devaki would kill me.”



Suddenly Narad a holy person appeared before Kansa and said “Kansa all the gods want to kill you. Please don't leave this child as it may harm you. Hearing these words Kansa got scared and snatched the baby from Vasudev and flung it on a stone.”

He then put Vasudeva and Devaki in the prison and killed all their six newborn children one by one. When Devaki conceived her seventh child she was hoping that this child would be saved from the cruel hands of Kansa. Devaki felt immensely blessed as god Shesh also called Anant had appeared in her womb. She was very scared as she knew Kansa would kill him too.

In the heavens The Lord ordered Yoga Maya, his own shakti, “O blessed Devi! There lives Rohini, the wife of Vasudeva. She lives in Gokul where Nanda is the prince and Yasodha is his wife. This place is not far from Mathura. Take the baby from Devaki womb and place him in Rohini's womb. He will be born as the son of Devaki and called by name Balram You must be born in the womb of Yashoda, the wife of Nanda.” He also told Yoga Maya that she would be worshipped as goddess Durga and in her other divine forms. Yoga Maya went to the earth and acted accordingly. Every one thought that Devaki had a miscarriage and felt bad and consoled her.



Kansa was more watchful at the eighth time as he knew that next would be his killer. Kansa saw divine splendour on Devaki's face, He thought to himself: "The destroyer of my life has already entered her. What should I do now? I

cannot kill my sister. He felt intense hatred for God and remembered him all the time. He kept Devaki and Vasudeva under close watch. He gave strict instructions to guards to inform him as the child is born.



Krishna is Born

Vasudeva was the first to see this divine child and on seeing this divine form Vasudeva and Devaki said “We are very scared that Kansa and all others will know you if they see you in this divine form. Please hide this form.”

The Lord then assumed the form of a small handsome baby through the power of his own Maya.



He said to Vasudeva, “If you are afraid of Kansa, immediately take me to Gokul and put me beside the sleeping Yasodha and bring here the baby girl Yoga Maya who is born to Yashoda.” When Vasudeva took the baby, all the chains tying his body broke. All the locked doors of the prison opened and the sentries slept under the influence of Lord's maya. The dark passages of the prison were lit by the light. There was gentle rain that night. Vasudeva carried the baby in a basket on his head and Shesh Naag spread forth his hoods like an umbrella to ward off

rain. The deep Yamuna, which was in floods, made way for Vasudeva.

Vasudeva crossed Yamuna and reached Gokul. He was surprised to see everyone sleeping.

Vasudeva placed the child near Yasodha and took away the female baby sleeping beside her. He returned to his prison and placed the child near Devaki and put chains as before on his legs. The prison doors closed on their own and the sentries woke up hearing the baby crying. The sentries ran and told Kansa of the birth of the child. Kansa jumped from his bed, and ran to the prison where Devaki was confined. The helpless Devaki told Kansa, “O Kansa! Please do not kill this baby girl. You have already killed all my sons. Now only this girl is remaining. Please have Pity.”



Kansa did not listen to her crying and seized the baby girl and dashed it on a stone. The baby girl was no ordinary baby. She was a goddess. She slipped from his hands and appeared in the sky in her divine form with eight hands. She had a bow, arrow, shield, sword, conch, disc and a mace in her hands.

She said, “O fool! What will you get out of killing me? Your enemy who will kill you has taken birth elsewhere. You are killing innocent children for no reason.” saying this she disappeared in the sky.

Kansa was struck with wonder when he heard these words. He released Devaki and Vasudeva and with great humility he said, “Dear sister and brother-in-law I am a great sinner. I have killed all your children. I am a wicked person and all my well wishers have left me. I do not know what fate awaits me after death.” He was filled with remorse as he started crying.

Putana the Demoness

In Gokul, Yashoda believed that she had given birth to a boy and not a girl as she was unconscious at the time of the birth . As an heir was born to the chief Nanda there was a month long rejoicing . There was endless stream of gopies coming to pay respect as they found the baby so beautiful with lotus eyes and ruby lips that they could not take their eyes off him. Nanda gave presents to Brahmins. People of Braj decorated their house and their cattles.

In the meantime Kansa called his counsellors and told them all that Goddess Maya had spoken. The ministers said, “Don’t worry O king, we will kill all children whether ten days old or not, whether found in towns or villages. Kansa ordered the demons to create havoc in all places and returned to his palace.



By Kansa's orders, the fierce demoness Putana went about killing children in towns, villages and pasture lands. Her only occupation was to kill babies. People hid their children in their homes in her fear. She had the power to fly and assume any form she liked.

One day this wanderer of the skies entered Gokul and assumed the form of beautiful woman. She entered the house of Nanda and saw the divine child

sleeping in the cradle. The cruel Putana took the baby in her lap and told Yashoda “What kind of mother are you? Can’t you see the child is hungry? I am going to feed him with my milk.” Putana was looking so beautiful that Yashoda thought, “I am so lucky. My son is being fed by such a lady. I will not stop her.” Putana had put deadly poison on her breasts. The moment she put her breast in Shri Krishna’s mouth to suckle, Lord squeezed her breasts by both his hands and sucked through them her vital breath.



She screamed loudly “Let go. Let go. No more!” Her eyes bulged out and she began sweating profusely. She started crying out loudly throwing her hands and feet on the ground. There was so much pain in her breasts that she could not hide anymore and took her original form of demoness. At last she fell dead like a great mountain. When her giant body fell it crushed large number of trees in the nearby area. The Gopis with Rohini and Yashoda came rushing to the spot and took away the child, who was playing fearlessly on the body of Putana. She was freed from her sins as she suckled the Lord. The smoke that arose out of her burning body was fragrant, like that of sandal wood, as the touch of Sri Krishna’s body purifies even the enemy. Putana became the foster mother of the Lord, although she had the evil intention of killing the child.



The Killing of Trinavarta

One day Yashoda was fondling the child Krishna on her lap. Suddenly Sri Krishna became very heavy like a mountain. She was not able to bear the weight of the child and so she made him sit on the ground. She then left him to attend to some household work.

A demon named Trinavarta, who was a servant of Kansa, came in Gokul in the form of a storm hurricane. He carried away the child sitting on the ground with him. The whole of Gokul was covered with dust and darkness for some time. No one was able to see anything for a few moments. Yashoda looked for her son in the storm but could not find him. She became lifeless with sorrow and fear and fell on the ground. When the effect of the storm became less, the Gopis came rushing hearing Yashoda crying.

The demon had flown with the child but was not able to go further as Sri Krishna had become very heavy. He slowed down. The child gripped his neck tightly and strangled the demon. He became powerless and his eyeballs popped out. He fell down on the ground, breathless with all his limbs shattered.





The Gopis and the Gopas saw a giant falling from the sky on the ground with Sri Krishna lying unhurt and happy on the chest of the dead Asura. They were astonished and quickly took Sri Krishna to Yashoda. Yashoda and Nanda baba felt that it was the result of their good actions that their son had come unhurt.

They felt blessed and prayed to God.



Krishna The Naughty Boy

Young Krishna was very naughty. He would untie the calves of the Gopis when it was time for the milking. He would steal the milk, butter and curds and divide remaining after eating among the monkeys and break the pots, if they did not eat. He made holes in the pots hanging in the tripod, to find out their contents; and after knowing the contents through the hole, he would place a mortar below and mount on it to reach them, if the pots were out of reach. He would illumine the dark room by the glitter of his own body and the jewels, to serve his purpose.

Once a Gopi took hold of Krishna by the hand and went to inform his mother about his mischief. Krishna miraculously escaped from her hand. She found the missing child near his mother. She felt abashed and returned to her house.

One day Balarama and the other boys complained to Yashoda that Krishna had eaten earth.

Yashoda got afraid that this might affect Sri Krishna's health. She rebuked Krishna, "O my naughty child! Why did you eat earth in secret?" Sri Krishna replied, "O mother! I did not eat earth. These boys have told a lie. Examine my mouth." Yashoda said, "Open your mouth, my child!" When Krishna opened his mouth Yashoda was dazed to see the whole universe of animate and inanimate things, the sky, the mountains, continents, seas, the whole earth, air, fire, the sun, the moon and the stars, the seven islands, the planets, the mind, the senses, Brindavan and herself in his mouth.



She was amazed, and began to reflect thus, “Is this a dream or a strange vision of God’s illusion or does my child possess any inborn Yogic powers?” But she lost her memory of the vision by powers of the Lord. She again knew Krishna to be her own son and placed him on her lap.



Damodar: Tying of Krishna

One day Yashoda was churning butter for her son. She was enjoying her work so much that she did not realize that her little son had got up from sleep. He came to his mother as he was hungry and wanted his mother to feed him. He took hold of the churning rod and stopped her churning. She then placed him on her lap and suckled her. Suddenly she noticed that the milk that she had put on the stove was boiling and was overflowing. She put her son down leaving him unsatisfied and went away in haste to remove the pot. Krishna became very angry. He bit his lips, broke the milk-pot with a stone. He went to another room and brought false tears in his eyes and started eating stale butter.

Yashoda came back after a short time and found the pot of milk she was churning was broken to pieces and the milk was spread all over. Yashoda at once guessed that it was her son's doing. Krishna had already left the place. She found Krishna standing on an overturned husking-stand freely giving away the contents of the hanging pots among the monkeys.



Yashoda quietly approached him with a stick. Krishna got down in haste from the husking-stand and ran away as if in fear. Yashoda ran after him and caught him at last. She threw away the stick and tried to tie him to the husking-stand with a rope; but when she began to tie him the rope was found to be short by a few inches.



She brought another piece of rope and joined it to the original one. When this also proved to be too short, she added another piece again. With every other piece she added, the rope was still short by a few inches. She was amazed.. Krishna saw that his mother was thoroughly exhausted and her body bathed in

sweat. He took pity on her and allowed himself to be bound to the husking-stand. He was called Damodar after this incident as his stomach was tied by the rope.



Yamala Arjuna Tree

While being tied to the husking stand Krishna started looking here and there and his eyes fell on the two Arjuna trees. Yashoda was engrossed in her household duties. These Arjuna trees had been sons of Lord Kubera in their previous life. Their names were Nala Kubara and Manigreeva. Once, these two brothers joined the group of Lord Shiva's followers.

They became very haughty as they had wealth and were followers of Lord Shiva. One day they took to drinking alcohol and were playing with Gandharva girls in a river, in a naked state. Narada happened to pass that way. The celestial damsels felt ashamed at their nudity, and at once put on their clothes, as they were afraid of the curse by the Rishi. But the two Yakshas who were under the influence of alcohol did not bother.

Hence Narada cursed them, "These two sons of Kubera belong to a good family but have become extremely insolent due to wrong doings. Let them become trees. But, they shall not lose memory as they are sons of my devotee Kuber. After one hundred Deva years, the touch of Sri Krishna shall save them." These sons of Kubera became a pair of Arjuna trees in Vrindavan. They were known by the name Yamala Arjuna trees.

Sri Krishna approached the trees, drawing the husking-stand behind him and came between the trees. He then came out but the husking stand turned and got stuck between the trees. When he pulled the stand by force the two trees shook and fell on the ground with a terrible crash. Two handsome men came out of the trees and illuminated the place with their lustre. They praised Lord Krishna and then rose upwards. Hearing the terrible noise, the Gopas and Gopis came to the spot. They all saw the two Arjuna trees fallen to the ground. When Nanda baba came to the spot the boys told them what they had seen. They said, "This is all Krishna's doing. He gave a pull and the two trees fell down with a crash. We further saw two persons coming out of the trees."





But no one could believe that such a small boy could uproot two big trees .They could see that Sri Krishna was still tied to the husking stand. Nanda Baba untied the rope that bound Krishna and did not give much importance to the talk of children.



Krishna in Vrindavan

Days passed, Krishna and Balrama played with the boys of their age. One day an old woman was selling fruits .She was calling out but no one purchased her fruits. She was very tired when Krishna observed her and said, “Mother, give me some fruits.”

The old lady immediately put her basket down on ground and filled the child’s palm with fruits. In return she had to be paid some grains. Asking her to wait the child went in filled his palms with grains and returned. But the grains had spilled from his hand and only few remained. Krishna placed those few grains in her basket. The old woman smiled at his innocence and filled his palms with choicest fruits. When she returned to her cottage and opened her basket she saw to her surprise the basket was filled with pearls and diamonds.





Inspite of these miracles the elders of Gokul were getting worried. They thought that their village was becoming target of evils spirits. First it was Putana, then whirl wind and now uprooting of trees. They decided to go to a safer place. Vrindavan was a safer place and the location was good. The river Yamuna was

flowing nearby and it had lush green meadows where their cattle could feed on grass. The gopas began their trek. The young and able bodied marched in front with trumpets and bugles .The old and ladies followed them in chariots. Reaching an open space they pitched their tents. They decided to make this place their home. The cattles found green grass to graze and cowherds were happy with their usual occupation of milking cows. Krishna and Balrama were growing firmer and stronger day by day.



Bakasur

Once Krishna, Balarama and their friends had taken their herd for cattle grazing. They took lot of playing material with them. They were playing with other cowherd boys and tending the calves on the bank of the Yamuna. They would play the flute or dance with gungroo tied on their feet. They would become ox and fight with each other. They enjoyed speaking like peacock, koel and monkey. Suddenly a demon named Bakasur took the form of calf and mixed among their herd had the evil intention of killing Krishna and Balarama. Krishna came to know of this and pointed him out to Balarama. Then He silently approached the Demon smiling at him. He caught him by the hind legs and tail and whirled him round in the sky and threw him against a tree. The tree fell and the demon was killed. The cowherd boys could not believe that their little Krishna could do this. They praised Sri Krishna and shouted, “Nobody can harm us till Sri Krishna is with us.”



One day the cowherd boys took their calves to the banks of a lake to drink water. They saw a huge monster like a mountain sitting there. He was the demon Bakasur who had taken the form of crane. His beak was very sharp.



The demon Crane suddenly pounced at Sri Krishna and lifted him with his beak and put him in his mouth. The gopis were so scared that some of them fainted. Krishna became so hot that the crane could not keep him in his mouth. The mouth of Bakasur started burning and so he spitted Sri Krishna out .He could not take a single bite. When Bakasur tried to catch him again with his hard beak, Sri

Krishna held the two beaks apart and tore them as sugarcane is torn. The demon Bakasur died .Everyone was happy and heaved a sigh of relief. The gods rained flowers on Krishna. Krishna returned with all gopis to his village with their herd.



Aghasur The deadly serpent

One day Krishna was playing with the boys in the forest. At that time a mighty Demon called Aghasur came. When he saw Sri Krishna playing and enjoying with his friends he felt very jealous. Aghasur was the brother of Putana and Bakasur and was sent by Kansa to kill Sri Krishna. He thought “He has killed my brother and sister and look how happily he is playing. I will take revenge now and kill Krishna along with Balrama and his friends.”

The wicked demon took the form of a huge python. His body became so big that it looked like a huge mountain. He had opened his big mouth so that he could swallow all the children. His mouth was so large that the lower lip touched the ground and the upper lip seemed to touch the sky. His jaws were like small caves and his big teeth were like hills. There was darkness inside his mouth. His tongue was like a wide red road and his breath like a storm. His eyes were shining like fire.



When the boys saw him they thought it must be a great attraction of Vrindavan. All the boys with all their calves clapped their hands and with a smile entered

the mouth of the python. All the while they talked and wondered if they were entering the mouth of python. They did not fear as they knew their Sri Krishna was with them and if something happened, he would come for their rescue.

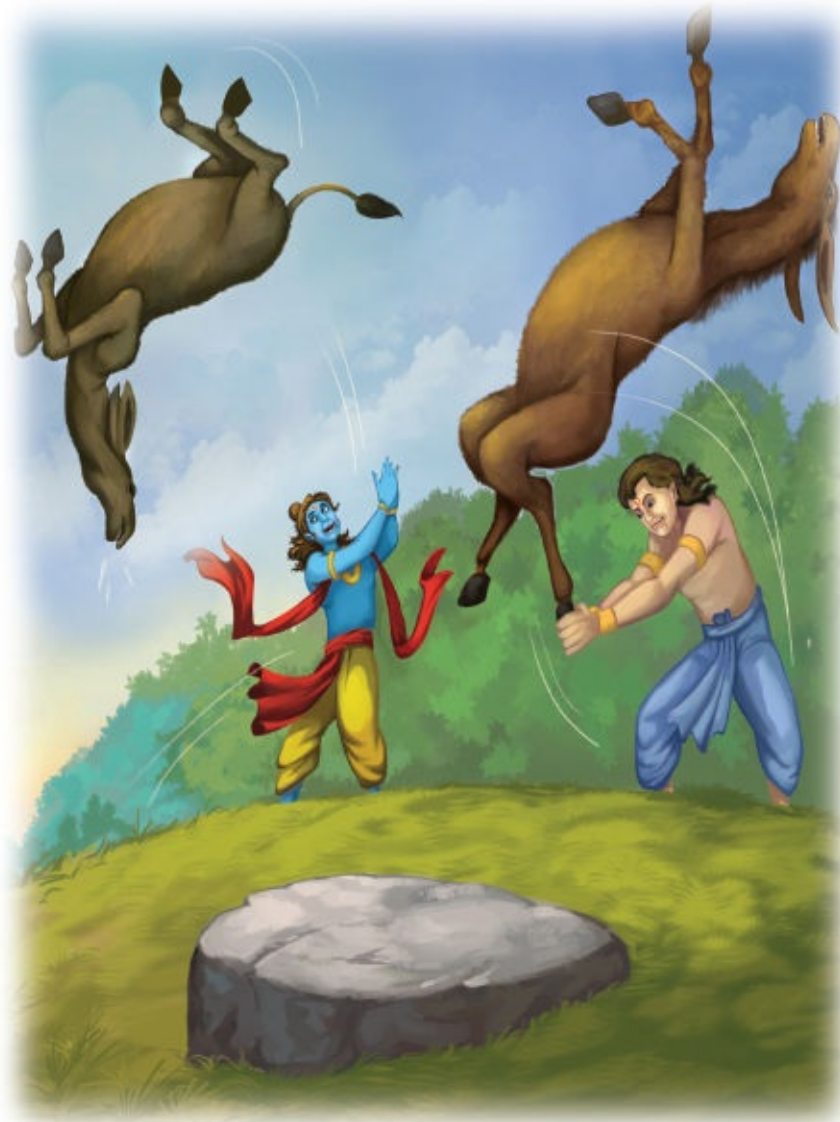


The python did not close its mouth as he was waiting for Krishna to enter. Krishna knowing very well that the gopis had entered the wicked Aghasura's mouth followed his friends and went into the mouth of the python. Aghasura closed his mouth immediately. Krishna's enlarged his body so much that it choked Aghasura's throat. His eyes turned outwards and his breathing stopped. The Asura died and Krishna giving fresh life to the cowherd boys and calves and came out with them from the mouth of the Asura.

Dhenukasur

One day Sridaman, best friend of Balarama and Krishna, Subala, Stoka and other companions approached Krishna and Balarama and said, “Not far off is a beautiful grove of palmy trees. There are rows of trees full of ripe palmy fruits. But nobody can enter it, because one Asura named Dhenuka lives here with his family and prevents people from entering the grove. He has the form of an ass. He is so powerful that he can kill anyone entering the garden. He has already killed many men. Therefore people do not enter the place out of fear. They said, "We can smell the fragrance of the fruits even from here. They are very tempting. We want to taste them.”





Balarama boldly entered the forest and shook the trees violently. Numerous fruits fell down from the trees. When the Dhenuka heard the sound of the falling of those fruits, he rushed forth and violently kicked Balarama on his chest with his hind feet. Balarama took hold of the ass by both its hind feet and whirled round his head and hurled it with force against a very large palm tree. The Asura died. Then all the kith and kin of Dhenuka attacked both Balarama and Krishna. They were all killed by Balarama and Krishna. The companions of Krishna and Balarama ate the palmy fruits to their heart's content. After the death of Dhenuka and his family, people entered the grove fearlessly and the cattle also freely grazed on the pasture in that grove.



Lord Brahma & Krishna

Krishna saved all the cowherd boys from Aghasur. He then brought them to the sandy bank of the river Yamuna. He told his friends, “Here the sand is soft and clean, we will all play here. But let us have some food first.” They left their calves to eat grass and all sat down to have food. While they were having fun eating and playing their calves strayed deep into the jungle in search of grass.

When the gopis looked for their herd, they could not see them. The cowherd boys were overtaken with sudden fear. They were about to go in their search when Krishna stopped them and said, “Don’t worry I will bring back the calves.” He took his food in his hand and went out in search of the calves.

Lord Brahma wanted to play a prank on Krishna. He took the calves and the cowherd boys to a secure place and disappeared. Krishna could not find the calves and when he returned to the sandy bank of the Yamuna he found that the cowherd boys had also disappeared. He at once knew that Brahma was playing a prank. Krishna then assumed the form of the calves and the cowherds.

All the calves and boys resembled exactly in the way of calves and boys that were missing. The mothers became more attached to their sons, because Krishna himself had assumed the form of their sons. The cows also began to show extraordinary love to their calves.



Krishna went on playing this game for one year. When only five or six days remained for the completion of the year, Balarama began to reflect within himself thus “I have never before witnessed such deep affection between the cows and the calves that had been weaned long ago. The residents of Vraja are showing more love and affection towards their sons than Krishna. Surely Krishna has exhibited His powers.”

Balarama opened his eyes and saw Krishna present in all calves, cowherds, flutes, sticks, ornaments etc. He then said to Krishna, “O Lord! These calves and cowherd boys are neither Devas nor Rishis. They all look like you, O Krishna! What is this great mystery?” Krishna explained to Balarama about the trick

played by Lord Brahma.

Brahma returned to Vraja. He saw Sri Krishna playing with the cowherd boys and calves as he had been doing a year before. He thought, “How can this be? I had placed all the gopis and their calves under a spell and hidden them.” On the other side he saw that the gopis and calves still hidden and were still under his maya. He got totally confused. He could not make any distinction between those he placed under his own maya and those who were created by the maya of Krishna.



Brahma wanted to delude Krishna, but he himself became deluded. Then he saw Sri Krishna himself present in all cowherd boys and calves. He could see now

that all possessed the blue complexion and were clad in the yellow silken robes. All had four hands and the divine weapons. All wore crowns on their head, earrings, necklace, bangle, trinkets on their feet, shining rings in their fingers. He also saw many brahmins worshipping Sri Krishna. Seeing this wonderful sight Brahma was amazed and stupefied.

Sri Krishna then drew off the veil of maya. Brahma regained his consciousness and prayed at the feet of Sri Krishna again and again with tears in his eyes and praised him. Brahma then brought all calves and cowherds to their original place. Sri Krishna then took the calves to cowherd friends where he had left them eating food. Although one year had passed, but his friends thought it was only a moment since Krishna had left them. Krishna returned with his friends and calves to Vraja.

Kaliya Serpent

Apoisonous snake of gigantic size named Kaliya lived in a cavern at the bottom of river Yamuna. It had poisoned the water and its poisonous vapours that killed birds flying over it. Even the Kadam tress died due to its poisonous effect. No fish could live in that poisoned water and cows drinking the water would lie dead on the bank of the river.

Sri Krishna noticed that the most venomous snake had rendered the water of the Yamuna poisonous. He wanted to expel the serpent from the river in order to purify the water. Sri Krishna tightened his girdle, climbed a lofty Kadamba tree, and jumped into the pool of water. The waters sprayed and overflowed the banks. The serpent fiercely attacked Krishna and tightened him in its coil.

The cows and the Gopa boys became scared. When Nanda, Yashoda and other Gopas came out, they saw him in the grasp of the powerful serpent and wept bitterly. Nanda wanted to jump in the river and save their son, but Balrama stopped from doing so as he knew Sri Krishna was no ordinary boy. He was God. Sri Krishna seeing everyone worried shrunk himself and came out from the clutches of the serpent.



When Kalia tried to bite Krishna he put his foot down on his hood, and when Kalia raised his other hood to strike Krishna he got upon its hoods and danced upon them. It had one thousand hoods, and each hood had a red stone embedded in them. Sri Krishna trampled down with his feet each one of the hoods. The body of the serpent was shattered. The serpent sought the protection of the Lord. The wives of the serpent praised Krishna and prayed for their husband's life. The Lord stopped his dance. Kaliya slowly recovered consciousness.

Krishna said, "O serpent! Do not stay here any more. Go to the sea immediately with all your kinsmen and, wives. Let the water of the Yamuna be used by the cows and men. I know that you left Ramanaka island for you feared Garuda and came to live in this pool. But now, as your hoods bear the marks of my feet,

Garuda will not touch you.” Thereupon Kaliya proceeded to the Ramanaka island in the sea with his wives, friends and children. The waters of the Yamuna then turned as sweet as nectar.



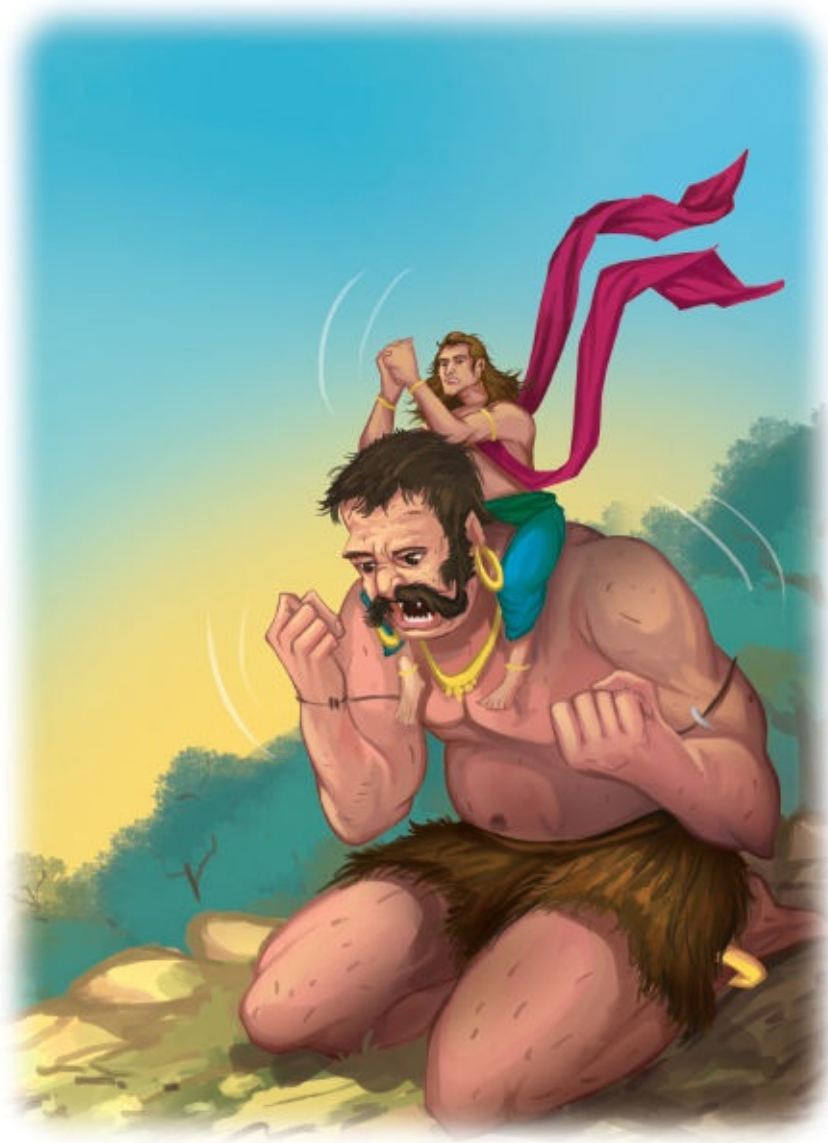
Kaliya used to live on the island of Ramanaka with other serpents .They made offerings in form of presents and sacrifices to Garuda (Lord Vishnu’s carrier) who also lived on the island. Kalia would often eat the presents that were meant for Garuda. A fight took place and Kalia had come to live in the cavern in Yamuna. Garuda could not come to this cavern as a sage had given a curse that whoever came catch the fish in cavern will die.



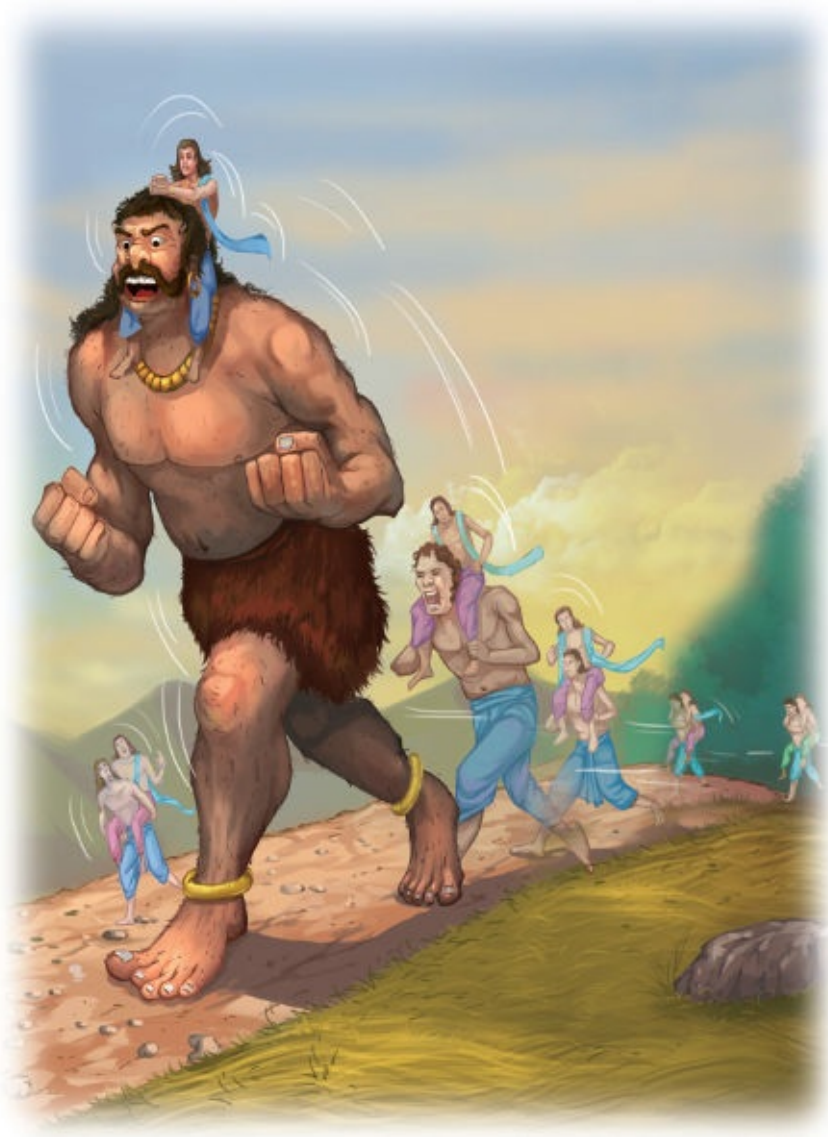
Pralambasura

One day, Balarama, Krishna and other boys adorned themselves with red corals, tufts of peacock feathers, garlands and beautiful forest flowers and entered the forest. Some began to dance, while others began singing at the top of their voice. They were in a playful mood. An Asura named Pralamba, disguised himself as a Gopa boy and mixed with the other boys. His intention was to carry away both Balarama and Sri Krishna. The all-knowing Krishna found him out but he pretended friendship in order to kill the Asura.

Sri Krishna made a proposal to his friends. He said, “O friends! Let us divide ourselves into two parties and play.” Thereupon the boys divided themselves into two parties. Some chose to play under the leadership of Balarama and others under the leadership of Sri Krishna. The defeated party had to carry the members of the victorious party on their backs to a certain point.



In the course of the play, Sudama, Vrishabha and other boys belonging to Balarama's party gained victory. Therefore Sri Krishna carried Sudama, Bhadrasena carried Vrisha and Pralamba had to carry Balarama. Pralamba ran with Balarama beyond the mark.



Balarama suspected something evil. Pralamba resumed his own huge form. Balarama hit the Asura on his head with his strong fist and smashed the head of the Asura. The Asura vomited blood and fell dead. The cowherd boys who had come to help, lifted Balarama on their shoulders and returned singing his praises.



Govardhan puja and Lord Indra

One day, Krishna observed that the people were preparing for the worship of Indra. He asked his father Nanda “Tell me, O father! What is this occasion for your great festivity? By whom and how is the sacrifice to be performed?”

Nanda replied, “My beloved child! Indra is the Lord of the clouds. He will give us rain by worshipping him. The rains give life to all beings. The trees bear fruits and green grass grows everywhere. Our cows graze happily and we live because of our cows. Therefore, people worship Indra by these returning to him as sacrifice a part of the wealth.”

Krishna replied, “O father! “Our wealth and prosperity is due to our own actions. Where does Indra come in? If all we have to worship we should worship Govardhan hill which sustains us and our cattle. Let's cows be properly fed. Let's the cows be supplied with fodder.”

Nanda and other Gopas did as Krishna said. The Gopas and Gopis dressed in their best clothes and carrying vessels of milk and ghee and curds began to worship Govardhan. They made offerings to the cows, to the Brahmins and to the hill Govardhan. Sri Krishna assumed another gigantic form and manifested himself on the top of the hill in order to confirm the faith of the Gopas. He told the people that he was the deity presiding over the mountain. He then began to consume the offerings that were made to the hill.



Indra, the lord of heaven became very angry when he saw that the sacrifices meant for him were now given to Govardhan. He wanted to teach the people of vrindavan a lesson. He sent forth his clouds and winds. The thunder rolled and burst with a heavy downpour of rain. Continuous lights lit up the skies. House and haystacks were flying in the air. Hail stones pelted without mercy. The people of Vrindavan cried, “Protect us O Krishna we take refuge in you.”



Krishna said, “Do not be afraid enter this cave, all of you with your flock.” So saying this he lifted the mountain Govardhan with trees high above his head. The people of Vrindavan with their cows took shelter beneath the mountain. There was continuous rain for seven days. Sri Krishna held up the hill for seven days continuously without moving an inch. Indra was quite amazed. His pride was destroyed. He withdrew the clouds and winds.

The Gopas went to their own places with their cows and property. Sri Krishna set down the mountain in its original place. The Gopas were struck with wonder. They came to Nanda and said, “This boy of seven years uprooted the Govardhan hill from the earth and held it up with one hand continuously for seven days. This marvellous feat cannot be done by an ordinary man. Your son is certainly the Lord of all Lords. He is the Atman of all beings.” Indra and Surabhi came down from Heaven. Indra fell at the feet of Sri Krishna and begged forgiveness for his mistake.”



Krishna in Mathura

When they entered the city of Mathura, it was evening. On the way at many places people of other villages came to meet them. Nanda Baba was waiting for them in Mathura. After reaching Mathura Sri Krishna asked Akura to go home taking the chariot. They wanted to get down and come after some time. Akura did not want to leave them and requested them to come to his home and take rest.

They had heard about the great exploits of the two brothers and now wanted to see them. Akura invited them to his house but Sri Krishna said, not today Akura, we have to kill Kansa first and then we shall be able to enjoy your hospitality. Akura gave the message of their arrival to Kansa and went home.

The next day they set out with their friends to see the city of Mathura. The city was very beautiful. The houses had big doors made of gold and silver. They were beautifully decorated. There were gardens and well paved streets. The balconies and floors were studded with jewels. There were beautiful flowers in the gardens and strewn on streets in their welcome. The city showed grandeur. They saw ladies crowded on terraces and windows showering flowers on their arrival.



As they moved on they saw a washer-man approaching with his attendants carrying bundles of dyed clothes. Krishna called out, “Can you give us some clothes. We will reward you” The washer-man spoke to them very rudely, “You are junglees, do you know how to wear clothes? These clothes are for our King Kansa .You will be killed so just run away.”

On hearing these words Krishna extended his arm and knocked his head off .The attendants ran away in fear leaving the bundles on ground. Krishna and his friends untied the bundles took out the clothes which were beautiful and costly. Sri Krishna chose a gold coloured garment and Balarama a blue one and distributed the remaining among his friends. A tailor in the city was very happy to sew the garments to their sizes. He was suitably rewarded for helping Sri

Krishna and his friends.

They met a garland maker on their way. He was very happy to see Sri Krishna and Balarama and placed his basket of garlands in front of them. Krishna chose Vijayanthmala and Balarama chose a garland of blue lotuses. The garland maker was given a divine form, good health and life long prosperity in return.



They continued their journey in the town like conquerors. They saw a woman who had a beautiful face but bent on three sides in body limping. Sri Krishna said, “O beautiful lady who are you and for whom are you carrying the sandalwood in your hand. If you give us this sweet smelling scent we will reward you. The woman looked at Sri Krishna and said ” O Beautiful I am carrying this sandalwood and other scents for Kansa but you both are more

deserving. I shall give them to you. Krishna was very happy with her affection and devotion. He decided to remove her bends and make her stand straight. So he pressed his toes on her feet and lifted her chin with his two fingers. At once her whole body straightened and she turned into a beautiful woman. She was very happy and pleaded them to stop at her home. Sri Krishna saying, “We have other works to complete but we will come.” Then he left her and walked further with his friends.



Killing of Kansa

Krishna and his friends reached the place where the Dhanur Yagna was being performed by following the crowd which was coming to worship the bow. Kansa had kept a Great Bow of Lord Shiva in a hall for public worship. They performed some rituals around the great bow and prayed with folded hands. Krishna then lifted the mighty bow and strung it and pulled the bow. The string broke in two with a loud noise. The soldiers who were guarding the bow rushed with their weapons towards Sri Krishna. But Krishna and his friends easily beat them up. The soldiers wanted to tie them but they escaped easily. They left this place and walked on seeing more of the city.

Next morning Kansa announced the wrestling march to begin. Citizens were welcomed and were seated in the galleries in the arena. Kansa took his seat in the highest place in the arena. The drums started to beat. The wrestlers of Kansa Chanur, Mushtik, and others were already inside the arena ground. When Sri Krishna and Balarama were approaching the entrance of the arena they found a huge elephant by name Kuvalyapeedha along with his caretaker mahout blocking their way. They requested the mahout to give way and when not agreed even threatened to kill him. The mahout was very angry and urged the tusker forward to kill Sri Krishna. Krishna was ready and he promptly stepped aside. The elephant immediately turned around and took Krishna on his trunk. Sri Krishna easily slipped down and placed himself under his belly and caught of his tail. He started pulling the tail and dragging the elephant as a playful child drags a calf for fun. Then he ran in front of the elephant and pretended to fall on the ground. The elephant which was running after Krishna pierced the ground with his tusks to kill him and could not pull out his tusks. Sri Krishna was quicker than him and already taken his trunk in his hand and gave him a mighty blow. The elephant fell down dead. Krishna pulled out the tusks dripped in blood. Krishna shouldered one tusk and Balarama the other and thus armed entered the two brothers in the wrestling arena.





People sitting there were delighted to see such brave youth and prayed for their well being. Chanur and Mushtik were waiting for them. Chanur said, “We have heard that you are good wrestlers. Let us please the king Kansa as he is very fond of wresting sport. Krishna teasing him replied Chanur uncle we are too young to fight with you. You must fight with people of your age. Chanura retorted, “Have you not just killed a mighty elephant. Don’t be a coward and let us fight. The fight began and Chanura fought with Krishna and Mushtika with Balarama.



The ladies who had come to watch the wrestling fainted seeing this unfair match. Vasudev and Devaki who were also present could not bear to see their children fighting with the professional wrestlers. Suddenly they saw that Krishna and Balarama had laid their opponent on the ground and were on the top of them fisting very fiercely. Chanura and Mushtika could not take any more powerful blows. they began to vomit blood and rolled up their eyes and lay dead. Two of their brothers came in to fight but Sri Krishna and Balarama killed them too. There was uproar in the stands. Sri Krishna brought all his Gopi friends inside the arena and they all danced and sang in victory. Kansa was very angry. He stopped the playing of drums and asked his soldiers to kill Vasudev and Devaki.

He was screaming, “Bind them all kill them all.” Sri Krishna jumped and reached the stage where Kansa was sitting, Kansa took out his sword to kill




Krishna, but Krishna was on top of him and threw him down. As he lay on the ground Krishna with his whole weight of the world stood on his chest. Kansa was dying and saw Krishna in his divine form. The onlookers saw a wonderful spectacle. A glorious luster emerged from the body of Kansa and entered Sri Krishna. Kansa had attained salvation. Krishna and Balarama leave for Sandipini's ashram.



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