

Love quarrel with his consort Rukmiṇī described. Once when Kṛṣṇa was sitting at leisure, Rukmiṇī who was nearby fanned him. Kṛṣṇa indulged in fun and asked her how she chose a poor fellow like him leaving princes of equal status with her, and added that he was willing to let her go and marry a powerful Kṣatriya prince. This put out poor Rukmiṇī who wept bitterly, speaking words showing her unflinching loyalty to him. Noticing her sincerity Kṛṣṇa consoled her that he simply cut a joke. He said that she knew him to be Hari to whom Rājaṛṣis like Aṅga, Nahuṣa and Gaya had dedicated their lives leaving their kingdoms, and that Brahmā and Śiva sang his praises. Kṛṣṇa assured her of his loyalty to her. In this way he led a household life just like an ordinary mortal. Each one of his eight chief queens gave birth to ten sons, and each thought that Kṛṣṇa was only living with her, as there was a Kṛṣṇa by the side of each lady including the 16000 of Naraka's harem. He played with them blindman's buff, exchanging betels, scents, etc. The chief queens were Rukmini, Satyabhāmā, Jāmbavati, Satyā, Kālindī, Mādri, Mitravindā, and Bhadrā. Attended Aniruddha's marriage with Rocanā at Bhojakata. Heard from Nārada of Aniruddha's imprisonment by Bāṇa of 1000 arms and besieged Śonitapura. Defeated Śiva who came on Bāṇa's behalf and at Śiva's request, let Bāṇa go with his four arms remaining. Returned to Dvārakā with Aniruddha and Uṣā.<sup>31</sup>

Heard from a Brāhmaṇa of the externment of Pāṇḍavas to the forest, and riding on a chariot with Satyabhāmā, met them and consoled them; came back with Subhadrā and Abhimanyu. Heard a report of a huge lizard in a well, and lifting it up, he found it to be a divinity who revealed himself as king Nṛga and who went to heaven. Taught the citizens of Dvāraka on the invisibility of Brāhmaṇas' property.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Bhā. X. Chaps. 60-63; Vi. IV. 15. 30-4; V. 33. 12-53. <sup>32</sup> Bhā. X. Chap. 64.