

from air that her eighth son would kill him, to give him all sons born of Devakī to be killed by him. Took her first son to Kamsa who spared him; was thrown in prison with Devaki by Kamsa. Vasudeva's prayer to the new born Kṛṣṇa; took the babe to Nandagopa's house and exchanged him for the daughter, born to Yaśoda at that time, without anybody knowing it. Released by Kamsa;² met Nanda who went to the capital for paying annual tribute and after enquiring of his welfare advised him to return home as he expected some trouble at the Vraja. Requested Garga to go to Vraja and perform *samskāras* to his sons.³ Visited by Nārada. Vasudeva enquired of *Bhāgavata dharma*; listened to the traditional account of the talk between the nine sons of Ṛṣabha and Nimi and was pleased along with Devakī;⁴ met by Kṛṣṇa at Sudharmā sabhā painted by Citralekhā;⁵ joined the Yadus in defeating Pauṇḍraka Māyā. Vasudeva cut off Sālva before Kṛṣṇa in battle. Welcomed Kṛṣṇa after the Kuru-kṣetra war; went to Syamantapañcaka for the solar eclipse; here he met the sages and asked them how to get rid of karma by karma. Nārada's praise of. The sages induced him to undertake a sacrifice; requested by Vasudeva to be his Ṛtviks for the *yajña* they agreed. At the end of the sacrifice, he had his *avabhṛta* with all his eighteen wives to the great satisfaction of Rāma and Kṛṣṇa, when all castes and even animals were fed; others were honoured with presents. At leave-taking Vasudeva took hold of Nanda's hands and showed that the tie of friendship was the greatest of all ties and wept in joy. Gave Nanda presents; praise of Kṛṣṇa and Rāma and his joy.⁶

Kamsa who heard from Nārada that Vasudeva had kept his sons Rāma and Kṛṣṇa under the safe custody of Nanda wanted to kill him. When he was persuaded not to do so, Kamsa imprisoned Vasudeva until Kṛṣṇa released him; celebrated his *upanayana*.⁷ Stationed to defend the eastern gate of Mathurā; consulted by Kṛṣṇa on the eve of attack on Jarāsandha. His part in the third campaign of Jarā; came with Devaki and Kṛṣṇa