

short in spite of bits being added. At last Kṛṣṇa pitied her and allowed himself to be tied; with the mortar he passed between two tall Arjuna trees, when down fell the trees, cut of which emerged two men Nalakubera and Maṇigrīva (sons of Kubera) who had been cursed by Nārada. Kṛṣṇa blessed them and sent them back to their abode.¹⁰

Enjoyed the company of Gopis singing and dancing. Gifts on his *janmanakṣatra* day. Noticed a Daitya in the guise of a calf and taking him by the tail, he whirled him to death and flung the body on the top of a *kapitha* tree. On another occasion Asura Baka met him in the guise of a crane, when Kṛṣṇa tore its jaws asunder. Once when in the forest with his playmates, Agha, an asura friend of Kāmsā took the form of a boa-constrictor with a view to devour the cattle and all boys together. All of them entered his open mouth with Kṛṣṇa who took his life out of his body and came out to the wonderment of gods. The *ajāgara* skin when dried was a cave for Vraja people. Agha, however, attained salvation.¹¹

One day the boys sat and ate merrily when the cattle had gone far into the hill and dale and Kṛṣṇa promised to bring them back. In the meantime Brahmā had them hidden. So Kṛṣṇa created duplicates of the cattle and the children that had been lost. These went home as usual and this continued for a year, when Brahmā released the hidden cows which suckled their calves, and came to see the child, the one Brahman without a second, and belauded the baby Hari, and returned to his region. More boyhood sports.¹²

In regularly tending cows, imitated voice of beasts and birds in Brindāvana just like a rustic. Once the cattle drank of the poisonous waters of the Yamunā and became unconscious. After reviving them he found the reptile Kāliya in the waters. He immediately jumped into the pool and was enclosed in its coils. At this Nanda and the whole Vraja moved to the banks of the river with great concern.

¹⁰ Bhā. X. Chaps. 8, 9 and 10; Vi. V. 6, 8-19. ¹¹ Bhā. X. Chap. II. ¹² Ib. X. Chaps. 13 and 14; Vi. V. 6. 30 to the end of Chap. 9.