

Rāma advised them to be cool. Slowly Kṛṣṇa brought the reptile under his control, and getting on its hood, began to dance, when the Kāliya acknowledged defeat. Finding his end near, Kāliya's wives prayed to Kṛṣṇa to spare him. The generous Lord allowed him to make his abode in the sea, thus purifying the Yamunā once for all.<sup>13</sup>

After this incident the whole Vraja was encamped for the night in that vicinity. A forest fire attacked the camp, when Kṛṣṇa swallowed it and protected its inmates. His dances and songs; other past-times. Among the games was one in which the victor rode on the back of the vanquished. Kṛṣṇa carried Śrīdāma on his back.<sup>14</sup>

Once again the cattle went astray in the thick forest, and surrounded by fire they bellowed in thirst and hunger. Kṛṣṇa and his playmates found it impossible to reach the spot. So Kṛṣṇa got upon a tree and called the cattle by names, and they responded. Asking his followers to shut their eyes, he swallowed the forest fire. When they opened their eyes, they found themselves in their homes.<sup>15</sup>

Kṛṣṇa filled Brindāvana with Gāndharvan music and played at times on flute. Hid the clothes of Gopis who observed *Kātyāyani vrata* to get him as their husband, and returned them only when they saluted with their two hands over their heads as a penance for bathing naked during the period of a *vrata*. It was a severe day in summer when some Gopas approached him for food. Kṛṣṇa advised them to go to the neighbouring *yajñasāla* and ask for food, singing the praises of Balarāma and himself. The sacrificers were silent at their request. Kṛṣṇa asked them to repeat their request to ladies in his name. The ladies took four kinds of food and in spite of protest by their male relations, they came to have *darsan* of the Lord and placed before Him all the eatables. On Kṛṣṇa's advice they went back to complete the sacrifice, and assured them of their being accepted by their relations and the world. Their male relations

<sup>13</sup>Bhā. X. Chaps. 15 and 16. Vi V. 7 (whole). <sup>14</sup>Bhā. X. Chaps. 17 and 18. <sup>15</sup>Ib. X. 19. 1-13.