

|| Om Namō Bhagavate Vasudevaya ||

- At that time, the ruler of Magadha (Jarasandha) desired to battle and, together with all Kings, attacked Yadavas yet again. Sri Krishna, although endowed with eternal, lasting and unlimited strength, decided on his own accord to move far from there.
- To show the *niti* that must be followed even though a Kingdom is powerful, if they are numerically inferior in terms of number of warriors and weaponry, and if facing an army that is superior in numbers and weapons, Sri Krishna, along with Balarama, went thus towards the South.
- Sri Krishna was endowed with unlimited strength, the one whose was Supreme and the one with no fear. Yet, in order to teach *Rajaniti*, he left the place and met Sri Parashurama on the way. Although both of them were the same (form of Sri Hari), they sportingly appeared to be separate individuals and Sri Krishna learnt that Gomanta mountain was a place unreachable by the enemies. He, along with his elder brother, proceeded there.
- Around that time, in order to allow the unliberated devatas to perform his puja, the birthless Sri Narayana had come to a suitable place from his original abode (where only the liberated are allowed). In order to see him, (the daitya) Bali too had come there.
- In order to show everyone that he (Bali) had *asuravesha* at that time, Sri Vishnu, the one who always performs exemplary deeds and the one who can never be fully understood, glanced at the devatas once and appeared as if sleeping deeply, even though he is one without sleep always.
- Understanding the real intention of Sri Hari, all the devatas closed their eyes and rested on the beds. Bali picked up the crown of Sri Vishnu and left from there. The devatas laughed at this.
- Even as Brahma and the rest of the devatas, along with Sri Narayana himself, were laughing, Garuda departed to Patala. There, he defeated Bali and returned to where Sri Krishna was present, along with the crown.
- Garuda placed it on Sri Krishna's head and sang praises of him, the one who is the lord of the devatas and who is the lord of Lakshmi. He was instructed by Sri Krishna thus – "Come to me when I summon you". He then left for Ksheera Samudra where Narayana resided.
- Since there is absolutely no difference between the different forms of Sri Hari, the crown which was placed on Sri Krishna's head sat there comfortably. Due to Sri Krishna's wish, that crown placed itself on the head of Sri Narayana in Ksheera Samudra at the same time.
- The divine weapons of Sri Krishna, which had arrived earlier, and which had returned to Vaikunta, came down there (to Sri Krishna). At the same time, the weapons of Balarama too, along with this wife Varuni, came down.
- She (Varuni) also came there in another form as Sri, along with the *avesha* of Mahalakshmi. Another wife of his called Kanti also came there. There is a second Kanti who is the wife of Soma. Among the two, the wife of Shesha is the more beautiful one.
- Balarama, along with them, sported there. His radiance was brighter than that of the group of moons. The drink named Kadambari had the presence of Varuni in it. Balarama consumed it.
  - Note: Kadambari belonged to the category of '*madya*' but it was not forbidden since it had the presence of the devata Varuni.

- In this way, when the two of them were enjoying there, Jarasandha surrounded the Gomanta mountain and, along with many other (evil) Kings, set fire to the same. Sri Krishna and Balarama, the powerful ones, saw this and jumped up while pressing the mountain down.
- The mountain sunk inside the earth by eleven *yojanas* due to the pressing by their feet. Due to the friction of the mountain with the earth, a spring came up and the water from the same spread all around and quelled the fire.
- 15 and 16) Sri Krishna and Balarama, the best amongst the devatas, rushed inside the army and destroyed the entire group of Kshatriyas. The group of evil Kings, including Hamsa, Dibika, Keechaka, Ekalavya Shishupala, Paundraka Vasudeva, Narakasura's son Bhagadatta, Dantavakra, Rugmi, Salva the King of Saubha, Mainda and his brother Vivida, and many others surrounded them and angrily showered many arrows at them.
- 17) Although they were inherently devotees of Sri Krishna, due to the fear of Jarasandha, and on account of having been imprisoned by him, Kings such as Shalya, Bahlika, Somadatta, Bhurishravas, Virata and Drupada the King of Panchala showered weapons, astras, groups of trees, rocks and arrows at him.
- 18) Sri Krishna made all of them lose their charioteers, horses, flags, weapons and shields with his shower of arrows. Making them bleed profusely and suffer from immense pain, he chased them away like a Lion chases away deer.
- 19) Having thus destroyed twenty-three *akshouhinis* of the enemy army, Sri Krishna only spared Rugmi causing less pain, keeping Rugmini in mind. He broke his weapons, made him chariot-less and chased him away.
- 20) Jarasandha engaged in a fierce battle with the son of Rohini (Balarama) for a long time. He was hit by the force of the plough and lost consciousness. Regaining senses after a long time, he became extremely agitated and smashed his mace at Balarama's chest.
- 21) Balarama, having been hit badly by him, instantly fell down unconscious. The reason for this was the boon of invincibility obtained from Brahma. He was earlier held by Balarama only due to the *avesha* of Vishnu in him.
- 22) When Balarama fell unconscious thus, Sri Krishna attacked the lord of Magadha with his mace. He hit him on his chest and the middle of the neck. Jarasandha, having been hit badly, fell down bleeding profusely.
- 23) At that time, Balarama got up. Along with him, Jarasandha, the valorous one, also got up. The powerful Rama was instigated with anger and held Jarasandha's head, and lifted his plough to kill him.
- 24) At that time, Vayu (*ashareeravani*) spoke thus – "O Rama! You will not be able to kill this Maagadha. Do not waste your strength on him. Just as your strength, your astra too is extraordinary"
- 25) "There is another strong warrior who will kill him". Having heard thus, Balarama left the son of Jara and went away. When Jarasandha came again to attack them, Sri Krishna hit him with his mace.
- 26 and 27) Due to the blows by Sri Krishna, Jarasandha's body was bruised badly. He rolled down unconscious. He got up after a long time and, due to extreme embarrassment, got together with the remaining few Kings, and escaped from there not to be seen anywhere. "I have spared you" – with such a sendoff from Sri Krishna, he reached his city. Thereafter, he kept attacking Sri Krishna many times in a similar fashion, along with many Kings and got defeated every time.

- 28) Sri Krishna, having defeated Jarasandha, joined Balarama and Damaghosha and left from there. Damaghosha was the husband of Sri Krishna's paternal aunt. Although he was defeated earlier in battle by Sri Krishna, he had been spared considering that he was a relative.
- 29) "Let us visit the Kshetra of Mahalakshmi; let us go to Karaveerapura" – thus requested Damaghosha, the one who was defeated in battle. Due to his devotion, Sri Krishna agreed and went with him.
- 30) Damaghosha was originally a Gandharva by name Danu. He had taken birth as a human. Therefore he had devotion towards Sri Krishna. When the sinner Srugala Vasudeva heard that they (Sri Krishna and Damaghosha) had come to his city (Karaveerapura – Kolhapura), he came to battle with them.
- 31) With the boon of invincibility from Surya, he (Srugala Vasudeva) climbed a divine chariot given by Surya and came there to fight with Sri Krishna. He released a shower of arrows. Sri Krishna immediately beheaded him.
- 32) Sri Krishna split his body into two (with the Sudarshana chakra). He crowned Shakradeva, who was his devotee and the son of Srugala Vasudeva, as the King and returned to his city (Madhura) along with his elder brother (Balarama). In his original form, Shakradeva was a devata called Manibhadra.
- 33) Having shown to all that statecraft was in avoiding powerful armies and going afar to safeguard one's own army, the all-complete and most powerful Sri Krishna, who was naturally endowed with infinite strength, reached his city once again and stayed there, being worshiped by all the people.

|| End of chapter 16, known as 'Srugala Vadha', from the Mahabharata Tatparya Nirnaya, composed by Srimadanandatirtha Bhagavatpada ||

|| Sri Krishnarpanamastu ||