

SRI BALAKRISHNA LEELA, *the pastimes of Lord Krishna*

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→ **Sri Krishna reveals the Universe in His mouth**

One day, *Balara:ma* and his friends brought *Krishna* to *Yaso:da* and said, "Mother, *Krishna* was eating dirt from the earth." *Yaso:da* caught *Krishna* by the hand and yelled at him, "Mischievous boy! Is it true what all your buddies say? Even your big brother said you ate the mud. Why? Don't you have enough to eat in our house?" *Sri Krishna* replied innocently, "Mother, I did not eat the mud. They are lying, if you do not believe me, look into my mouth yourself."

Sri Krishna opened his mouth wide, and *Yaso:da* looked closely to see any remnants of mud. *Yaso:da* saw not just mud, but the earth, and the whole universe of animate and inanimate things. She witnessed all the *de:vathas*, all the primal elements, and finally saw even the village of *Vraj*, and she herself kneeling in front of *Krishna* looking into His mouth. *Yaso:da* felt faint and felt as if she were going crazy! She thought, "Is my son some kind of *yo:gi*, or could it be that He is God Himself?" *Yaso:da* started praising *Sri Krishna* as being the Lord Almighty and prostrated before Him in complete surrender. To restore things to normal, *Sri Krishna* carefully infused *yogama:ya* back into *Yaso:da*'s mind, such that she could

once again only know Him to be her little Boy and fondle Him with Love in her arms.

We may ask why simple cowherd folk like *Nanda* and *Yaso:da* could have such good fortune to have ***Sri:man Na:ra:yana*** Himself for their Son. The Lord is always eager to fulfill the wishes of His Devotees, as well as those of *de:vathas* and saints. In their previous life, *Nanda* and his wife belonged to the beings called *Vasus*, and were known as *Dr:ona* and *Dhara*. Out of their intense devotion, *Bramha* gave them the boon that they would be able to raise the Lord Himself as their own son. Hence, they were born as the parents among the cowherd clan, and could witness His Amazing *Li:las* (sports).

Once, in the month of *Shravana*, Mother *Yaso:da* was churning yoghurt by hands to make butter, thinking about *Sri Krishna*'s acts and singing His praises for His being born as her Son. She was engrossed in *Sri Krishna* totally. At this time, *Sri Krishna* woke up and being quite hungry, wandered into the kitchen for milk. *Yaso:da* took Him in her lap and started feeding Him, but at that moment she saw the milk overflowing on the stove. She placed *Sri Krishna* on the side and ran to take care of the milk. *Ba:la Krishna* became very fussy and angry, broke the pot of yogurt that she had been



preparing, and ran into an adjoining room where he found and started eating some stale butter that was to be thrown away. By the time that *Yaso:da* found Him in this adjoining room, *Sri Krishna* had somehow managed to bring down a pot of yoghurt that she had hung from the ceiling to keep out of His reach, and was now feeding it to the monkeys.

Wanting to teach her naughty boy a lesson that he would not soon forget, *Ya:soda*, grabbed a stick and began waving at Him. *Sri Krishna* acted frightened, and began to cry. Unable to bear this, *Yaso:da* threw down the stick with the intent to hug him. But, catching herself, and continuing to want to discipline Him for being far too mischievous, she grabbed some rope, took *Sri Krishna* outside and began to tie him to a big heavy grinder made of stone, that was used to grind spices. At first, no matter how hard she tried, she never seemed to have enough rope to wrap around the child and the grinder. Each time, the rope fell short by about an inch. Seeing her frustration, the Lord finally succumbed to His Mother's Loving Anger, and allowed Himself to be tied. This was the Lord's Ultimate Grace to *Yaso:da*, because neither *Bramha*, nor *Siva*, nor the Divine Mother *Maha:Lakshmi* Herself could ever contain the Lord in all His Power and Independence. But here she was, *Yaso:da*, a human being, an illiterate member of a clan of simple cowherd folk, who was given power over the Lord of the Universe.

Secure in the idea that her Son was finally going to be in one place for

sometime, *Yaso:da* returned to her household duties nearby. But, the always playful *Sri Krishna* found ways to have more fun. He began to crawl towards two twin trees that were standing in *Nanda's* backyard, pulling the grinder stone along with him. Soon, he crawled his way between them, but the grinder to which he was tied got stuck between their two stout trunks. *Sri Krishna* tugged and tugged on his rope and forced on the grinder to such an extent that the two trees were plucked out and fell on either side. The loud crash of the trees falling caused such a stir that even *Nanda* and the other *gopas* came rushing to the scene. There they found *Sri Krishna*, still tied to the grinder, laughing and giggling as though he had been tickled and fondled. This is because in his mischievous act, the Lord had fulfilled His Eternal Desire to save souls from the bondage caused by their own *karmas*. In this case, the two trees were actually the twin sons of *Kube:ra*, *Nalkube:ra* and *Manigri:va*, who had once received a curse from *Na:rada* that they remain as trees until the Lord Himself free them.

To the frightened people of *Vraja*, however, the falling of the two trees was just another set of mysterious happenings that seemed to be directed towards their favorite Little Boy's Life. Based on all that was happening, *Nanda* decided that all the cowherd folk should relocate from *Vraj* to the nearby town of *Vrindavan* in order to ensure their safety, and their Dear *Sri Krishna's* safety. But, the amazing *li:las* of the Lord were just beginning.

Jai Srimannarayana !