

SRI BALAKRISHNA LEELA, *the pastimes of Lord Krishna*

Padmakant Khambhati

SACRIFICE (YAGNA) TO INDRA

Once on seeing the many gopas engaged in collecting the requisites needed for an annual Vedic yaga in honor of deity Indra, Sri Krishna with the intention to make Indra humble in his pride, asked His elders in all humility and politeness the reason, its fruits and motive for such elaborate preparations, even though He is aware of everything happening as Antaryami, Inner controller, Lord of all.

Lord Krishna said, "In this world, people engage in many Karmas without the knowledge of them. So their actions are not fruitful as they wished, so I want to know what is this going on around is according to our scriptures or traditional? Would you please tell Me.

" Nanda replied, "O dear Son! This yaga is our annual grand pooja of Indra, the controller of the rains. Because it is he who makes the whole world happy by sending adequate rain in time every year. From it the grains are grown in the fields and our lives are pulling on that with three necessities, wealth Artha, Righteousness (Dharma) and desires (Kama). This tradition is in our lives since long time and we should not abandon it."

Bala Krishna then in sweet and wise words said, "All the animals take birth by their Karma only. When all the animals exist due to their Karma only, why do we need Indra? We, due to our past karma only have been born here and act as per our capacity and experience of the past births. Brahmins do the Vedic study and teach them in right way, Kshatriya protect the cows, brahmins and earth, Vaisya trades in agriculture, business

and cow protection and Sudra serve all of them. We as Vaisya, do only cow protection.

O father, we do not have any country, state and towns. We live in forests and mountains. That cattle form the wealth of our tribe, then these offerings meant for securing adequate supplies of grass and water for them deserve to be made to this mountain Govardhana. So let us worship cows, brahmins and Giriraj Govardhan mountain, rather than Indra. Let us prepare all kinds of delicious dishes; the milk of the whole Vraj be collected here; Veda knowing brahmins should do this Yagna and let us give them gifts and money; also all the people and cows and even dogs should be fed. Then all this food should be offered to Giriraj and then we all will eat as Prasad, be happy and we all circumambulate this Giriraj with beautiful dresses on, singing and dancing together. I would love this way, if you all agree with Me. This yagna will satisfy cows, brahmin and Giriraj and I will also be very happy." (Here Bala Krishna taught the elders of the Vraj what is the right Dharma and whom to believe and worship in the life. This is like an initiation to Vaishnavism to the villagers.)

Lord Krishna wanted to straighten the pride of Indra. The elders including Nanda accepted this proposal from Bala Krishna very joyfully and they started the yagna just as said by Sri Krishna; first they offered the food and gifts to brahmins and Giriraj, then Nanda



and others, keeping cows in the front, started procession walking around the Giriraj. The beautifully dressed gopi sitting in the well decorated bullock carts also started going with the males around the two Giriraj singing the praises of Krishna. (The tradition of circumambulation around the Giriraj in Vrindavan started from this day.)

Bala Krishna also to convince about Giriraj and what He said to them before, took the form of Giriraj mountain Himself and said loudly, "I am Giriraj" and began eating all the food offered. (This event is celebrated as Annakoota festival today.) At the same time, Krishna in His regular form as gopa bowed down to Giriraj with all other folks there and said, "Don't you see? I was not wrong! This Giriraj mountain wonderfully appeared before us by his grace and has physically consumed all our offerings. Even if Indra be angry with us, this mountain is capable of protecting us all and the cattle. If we do not believe in

Giriraj, he can take any form to harass and destroy us, so now let us bow down to him and worship him reverently." So with the inspiration by Sri Krishna, Nanda and all others Gopas, worshipped the Giriraj, cows and brahmins ritually with very much faith and respect. Thus after getting blessings from the Giriraj, all the cowherd people completed the GiriYagna festival and returned to Vraj in a mood of great jubilation

with Sri Bala Krishna

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