



SRI BALAKRISHNA LILA

THE PASTIMES OF LORD KRISHNA

Padmakant Ramanuja Dasa

De:vaki and Vasude:va

About 5000 years ago, the world was under the rule of some very egoistic, inefficient and cruel kings, who controlled the people with their multitude of demoniac armies. Mother Earth was so disturbed by the cruelty of this age and the suffering which it was rendering upon Her Children that She decided to approach *Bramha*, the 4-headed god whom the Supreme Lord assigned the responsibility of creating this Universe.

Hearing Her heartfelt pleas for redemption from the wicked kings, *Bramha*, alongwith the other demi-gods went to the abode of *Sri:man Na:ra:yana*, knowing that He alone, with His Unconditional Compassion had the Power and Knowledge to redeem the world.

The Lord said, "Do not be afraid. I will incarnate as *Krishna* in the clan known as the *Ya:davas*, and I will put an end to the Earth's miseries. *Maha:ma:ya* will also incarnate with Me. All the gods should incarnate in the *Ya:dava* clan and begin preparations for My arrival." The Lord continued, "You will know me as the eighth son of the pious lady *De:vaki*, who is the cousin to *Kamsa*, the cruelest among the evildoers who currently plague the Earth, and who was the evil *Ka:lane:mi* in previous life. My thousand-headed snake, *A:dise:sha* will incarnate as *Balara:ma* before My birth."

The Lord reassured the demi-gods by reminding them how such an act was a small one for Him. It could be accomplished with just two tiny hairs from His head. But, His desire to incarnate was motivated by a much Greater Purpose, to bring Himself to the world for the benefit of all devoted souls.

Meanwhile, on Earth, a grand wedding took place between *Kamsa's* cousin, *De:vaki*, and the noble *Vasude:va*.

Soon after the wedding, *Kamsa* was taking the newly wed couple back to their new home in his palace at *Matthura*. Suddenly, a mysterious voice was heard resounding from the sky, saying, "O Fool! The eighth child of this *De:vaki* and *Vasude:va*, whose chariot you lead today, will destroy you in future."

Kamsa was enraged and fearful, and caught hold of *De:vaki* to kill her right then and there. But, *Vasude:va* pleaded to spare her, promising that he would bring not only the eighth child but all his children to him as soon as they were born. *Kamsa* agreed, but also decided to ensure this by imprisoning the couple in his jail.

In due course of time, six sons were born to the pious couple, and all six, as promised were handed over to *Kamsa* and were immediately killed. While the deaths of these infants were unjust and cruel, it was their *karma* from past lives that had caused the short life of these souls on earth. These six souls were the sons of *Ka:lane:mi* in their previous birth. And, *Kamsa* was *Ka:lane:mi* himself in his previous birth. *Ka:lane:mi* was the great-grandson of *Hiranyakasipu*, who had found his own end at the hands of *Lakshmi:Na:rasimha*, another incarnation of the Supreme Lord. Since these six souls did not acknowledge that their wicked great-grandfather was a god, *Hiranyakasipu* cursed them that in another life they should be killed by their own father. Hence, the six souls were freed of this *karma* by meeting their end at the hands of the the one who had been a father to them in a previous birth.

But, the wickedness and cruelty of this dynasty of demons would soon come to an end, as the seventh and eighth sons of *Vasude:va* and *De:vaki* were soon to be born for the redemption of the world.

Jai Sriman Narayana!

