

SRI BALAKRISHNA LEELA, the pastimes of Lord Krishna

- Padmakant Khambhati

LIFTING GOVARDHAN MOUNTAIN

When Indra found that Krishna diverted the Yagna which should be done for him by people of Vraj, he was so angry with Nanda (father of Krishna) and others. Indra was so egoistic Deva, that he thinks that he was the master of all the three worlds. Krishna wanted to teach a lesson to Indra.

Indra ordered the big rains named Samvartak to harass the Vraj people by the torrential rains to drench and drown them and all their belongings and the cattle. He thought that this little boy Krishna is foolish like other people in world, trying to liberate themselves from this difficult Maya by using the means like Yagna, and other Karma, forgetting the only and the best means being the total surrendering to Sriman Narayana.

When the cowherds everywhere were distressed by the torrential rains accompanied with the fall of enormous hailstones, they began to cry aloud for protection from the wrath of Indra. The cows and calves were completely wet, shivering with cold winds and were in suffering and agony. They approached Bala Krishna and entreated, "O dear Krishna, you are the only fortunate among us. You only can save and protect us from this misery. You love dearly your devotees and do anything & everything for them, now we urge you to do something for our distress of these rains."

Lord Krishna knew that this was the act of Indra and thought, "Indra has become arrogant thinking that he himself is the protector of all the worlds. Devas should not behave like this, but they should be prideless and Sa:thvik. I should save this Vraj, their people, and their belongings including cattle.

It is my oath, my promise that once anyone surrenders to me totally, and says, 'I am yours', I take care of that person fully, so now that time has come to save these people of Vraj."

Lord Krishna told the Vraj people, "This mountain Govardhan (literally meaning, the protector of the cows) has proved to be the deity of our clan. He will certainly protect us from Indra's mischief. Have no doubt about it."

Reassuring them thus with a smiling face, Bala Krishna uprooted the mountain with His one little finger. He said to Vraj people, "O mother, father and other Gopa and Gopi, you all with all your belongings, cows and calves, come inside this big pit under this protector Govardhan mountain, stay here without any fear from Indra."

Relying on Krishna, everyone entered the shade under the mountain, along with their cattle, carts, cows, calves, and families etc. He held the mountain Himself and all the cowherds were so happy with pleasing looks and conversations. Some of them tried to help Krishna by their staffs to give some supports.

Watching this... Indra thought, "Look at the impudence of this boy! But tired hands will force Him to set down the mountain before long." So he continued to pour down heavy rains for seven days and nights.

Lord Krishna also held the mountain for those many days and nights



and all the people and cattle in the pit did not feel hungry or thirsty for seven days and nights at all by the grace of Krishna.

Now Indra saw this miracle of Bala Krishna and got wonder struck. He stopped the rains; all the clouds were gone and the Sun came out. Then Krishna announced, "Now you all can come out with everything, the rains are stopped and the river is also not flooded."

All the people then came out of the pit into the open. Lord Krishna replaced the mountain Govardhan in its place. The overjoyed Vraj people came rushing to Krishna with big love and hugged Him, kissed Him. The elderly ladies blessed Him with rice, water, and yoghurt etc. Nanda, Yasoda embraced and blessed Him. The gods in the sky praised Him and showered on Him the flowers, they played different musical instruments in His praise. The cowherds after witnessing such tremendous feats of Bala Krishna questioned Nanda about Krishna and His horoscope to convince themselves what they thought about Bala Krishna.

Then Nanda informed them of what sage Garga had prophesied about Him, by saying, "This kid incarnates in each Yuga with different colors, white, red and yellow. This time He is dark colored; He has many qualities, names and forms. He will make you all so happy in Vraj and with His help, you all will be saved from many mishaps. In short, sage Garga said that this child is like Sriman Narayana by qualities, effulgence, beauty, fame, powers etc." The people praised Nanda and Sri Krishna so much and went home convinced that this child is a form of Lord Narayana.

Indra who realized his mistake by his defeat and downfall came to Lord Krishna with his celestial cow Kamadhenu and began to sing praise of Krishna touching His feet with his crowned head.

The celestial cow, Kamadhenu bathed Bala Krishna as in a royal coronation with milk from her love-swollen udder and thus made Him famous as GOVINDA, the Lord of the cows. Indra bathed Him in great joy with the holy waters of the heavenly Ganga brought by his celestial white elephant Airavatha in his trunk.

Then Indra said to Sri Krishna, "This is done because the cows told me to do it, but my Lord, I want to tell you something for your work to reestablish the righteousness on this earth, please listen. O Great lord! My son has been born to Kunti and his name is Arjuna. Please protect him all the time, because he will help you a lot in your mission."

Lord Krishna replied to Indra, "I know about Arjuna's birth and I will take care of him as long as I will be on this earth. After killing many demons like Kamsa, O Devendra! There will be the war of Mahabharatha and my mission of establishment of Dharma will be almost done by that. No enemy of Arjuna will be able to defeat him and I will take care of all pandavas and after war, I will hand them over to mother Kunti. So do not worry."

Indra then embraced Janardana Sri Krishna and went back to his heavenly abode (swargam).

Lord Krishna taught a lesson to Indra that, though Indra has the ability and authority to give rains etc., it is He, the Supreme Lord Narayana who is actually giving that ability and everybody should realise this fact and do their duty without any ego. One should not try to prove supremacy and authority on the innocent devotees of Lord. If anyone does so... Lord Krishna will teach them the lesson very soon.

