

SRI BALAKRISHNA LILA,

The Birth of Lord Krishna

The time had come for Lord to descend onto the Earth, in the form of *Krishna*!

The seventh child of *Vasude:va* and *De:vaki* was an incarnation of *A:dise:sha*. With the instructions and powers bestowed upon him by God, *Vasude:va* removed the foetus from the womb of *De:vaki* and placed it in the womb of his second wife, *Ro:hini*, so that it would appear that *De:vaki* had miscarried.

Immediately after this, *Sri: Hari* entered the womb of *De:vaki* for the benefit of the world. *De:vaki* was so beautiful and dazzling in her pregnancy that it became difficult for people to look at her without feeling a sense of awe. In her praise, the *De:vathas* sang that *De:vaki* was the subtle *Para-Prakruthi* who had carried *Bramha* in her womb prior to the time of Creation. She was carrying the Supreme Lord, *Sri:man Na:ra:yana* Himself.

The Lord would take His Birth at midnight of the eighth day of the month of *Sra:vanam* under the star *Ro:hini*. After Lord's birth, His parents saw Him in all His Fullness, with four hands and *Sri:Vathsam* on His Chest. The Lord said, "O *De:vaki*, here I fulfill your one time wish of the past and have become your son." The Lord then assumed an infant form, and instructed *Vasude:va* to take Him to *Go:kula*.

With the Lord's Grace and Power, *Vasude:va* escaped from the prison easily, carrying little *Krishna* in a basket on his head. *Kamsa*'s guards had fallen asleep due to the magical spell cast by the divine will of the Lord. The river *Yamuna* also cooperated, by not crossing *Vasude:va*'s waist despite the

torrential rains. And to protect the child from these rains, *A:di:sesha* wrapped himself around the basket and formed an umbrella over Him, in a mood of pure loving service that has been praised by the *A:Iwa:rs* and *A:cha:ryas*.

Arriving at *Go:kula*, *Vasude:va* arrived at the place which the Lord had instructed Him to visit, the home of the village chief *Nandago:pa* and his wife *Yaso:da*. The same night, *Yaso:da* had given birth to a baby girl. *Vasude:va* exchanged the babies while the parents were asleep and returned to *Matthura* with the new-born girl.

The moment *Vasude:va* completed the given task, the magical spell cast earlier, was released. The guards suddenly awakened to the baby's cry and ran to *Kamsa* to announce the birth of *Vasude:va*'s eighth child. Despite *De:vaki*'s pleadings, the cruel *Kamsa* grabbed the girl with the intent to hurl her to the ground. But, this was no ordinary baby girl, but the incarnation of *De:vi: Maha:ma:ya* that *Kamsa* now held. She jumped from his vicious grip and revealed herself in her eight-handed form, shouting out, "Fool! What are you going to accomplish by dashing me on this stone? Your killer is already born now and He is the Lord Himself, *Sri:man Na:ra:yana*, who killed you easily in your previous birth as *Ka:lane:mi*. There is nothing you can do to save yourself." With these words, *De:vi: Maha:ma:ya* disappeared.

Filled with both fear and rage, *Kamsa* called for his advisors and set out on a plan to find and destroy his enemy. They immediately sent out secret agents to every corner of the land to seek out and kill every child in the kingdom which was born that night.



Jai Srimannarayana!

