

wood, musk etc. reduced into a paste to be smeared on the body). She told them that she was the maid-in-attendance of Kaṁsa ; her name was Trivakrā and the aṅgarāga in the vessel was for the use of Kaṁsa. She felt pure love for Kṛṣṇa and gave him the aṅgarāga along with the vessel. Rāma and Kṛṣṇa smeared their bodies with it. Kṛṣṇa stepped on her feet and with his right hand raised her chin upwards and she was cured of her hunch. Her love for Kṛṣṇa knew no bounds and she begged him to spend the night in her house. Kṛṣṇa promised to oblige her on another occasion and continued the walk.

(5) *Kṛṣṇa broke the bow.* Rāma and Kṛṣṇa continued their walk into the Yajña hall of Kaṁsa. A big bow was seen there, and Kṛṣṇa broke it with his left hand before the guards could approach him. With the broken pieces of the bow he killed the soldiers sent by Kaṁsa to take him and Rāma into custody. They again continued their walk. The sun set, and though they lay down to sleep thoughts about the underhand dealings of Kaṁsa kept them sleepless.

(6) *Kṛṣṇa killed the fierce elephant.* That night Kṛṣṇa dreamt many an inauspicious dream. The next morning Kaṁsa set up an arena for pugilistic combats. Yādava chiefs like Nandagopa, many other important persons in Mathurā and Kaṁsa took their seats on the dais. Famous pugilists like Cāṇūra, Muṣṭika, Kūṭa, Śala and Kosala also entered the scene. Kaṁsa had stationed a fierce elephant called Kūvalayāpīḍa on the way Rāma and Kṛṣṇa had to take to enter the arena for pugilistic competition. The mahout prompted the elephant to catch hold of Kṛṣṇa, and in the fight that ensued with the animal Kṛṣṇa killed it and gave one tusk of it to Rāma. Kṛṣṇa beat the mahout also to death with the tusk. After this they entered the scene.

(7) *Kaṁsa killed.* The pugilistic competition started. Cāṇūra fought against Kṛṣṇa and Muṣṭika against Rāma and both Cāṇūra and Muṣṭika were killed. Rāma and Kṛṣṇa killed three other famous pugilists too, who confronted them following the death of Cāṇūra and Muṣṭika. Thereupon the remaining pugilists ran away into the forest. Kaṁsa, burning with anger, jumped up from his seat roaring, "Annihilate the Gopālas, kill Nandgopa, drown Ugrasena, the friend of our enemies, in the Kāṁḍī" etc. Responding to Kaṁsa's war-cry Śrī Kṛṣṇa jumped into the former's sofa and pushed him down. Kṛṣṇa jumped on to the back of Kaṁsa and killed him. Balabhadra killed with his iron club the eight brothers of Kaṁsa who rushed against Kṛṣṇa. After consoling the women, who lamented over the death of Kaṁsa and others Śrī Kṛṣṇa got their dead bodies duly cremated. Rāma and Kṛṣṇa released Vasudeva and Devakī and Ugrasena immediately from prison. Ugrasena was crowned King of Mathurā.

(8) *Farewell to the people of Ambāḍi.* Rāma and Kṛṣṇa saluted Nandagopa and Yaśodā, and entrusted to them their clothes and bows for safe custody. Then saying that they would return after strengthening the Yadu dynasty, Rāma and Kṛṣṇa sent their parents and the other Gopas home. (Bhāgavata, 10th Skandha).

11) *Education of Rāma and Kṛṣṇa.*

(1) After bidding adieu to the people of Ambāḍi, Vasudeva, on the advice of sage Garga sent Rāma and Kṛṣṇa for their studies to the Āśrama of the great sage Sāṁdīpani. During their education at the Āśrama Kṛṣṇa

and Kucela became intimate friends. One day, at the instance of the wife of their preceptor, Kṛṣṇa and Kucela went into the forest to gather firewood. In the heavy rain and storm that followed they lost their track and wandered about in the forest. The next day the preceptor brought them back from the forest. Kṛṣṇa learned the sixty-four arts and dhanurveda (science of archery) at the feet of Sāṁdīpani. (Bhārata, Southern Text, Page 802 ; Sabhā Parva, Chapter 38).

(2) *Gurudakṣiṇā (Preceptor's fees).* When Rāma and Kṛṣṇa completed their studies they asked the preceptor as to what he wanted by way of tuition fee, and the guru wanted to get back his son, who was, years ago, drowned in Prabhāsa tīrtha. Accordingly Rāma and Kṛṣṇa went in their chariot to Varuṇa at the sea coast. Varuṇa told them that it was the Asura called Pañcajanya, who lived in the sea in the form of a conch, who had killed their preceptor's son. Śrī Kṛṣṇa entered the sea and killed the Asura. But, the child was not to be seen inside the conch. Blowing this conch, which in later years became famous as Pañcajanya, Rāma and Kṛṣṇa went to Yama's abode, who on being told about the object of their visit returned the child to Rāma and Kṛṣṇa. They presented the child to their preceptor. He blessed them and they returned to Mathurāpurī.

12) *Upto Kṛṣṇa's return to Dvārakā.*

(1) *Message through Uddhava.* Rāma and Kṛṣṇa who returned to Mathurāpurī after their studies at Sāṁdīpani's Āśrama thought about the people of Ambāḍi. It was a long time since they had heard about them. So Kṛṣṇa sent a message to Ambāḍi by his minister Uddhava. After duly delivering the message Uddhava stayed at Ambāḍi four or five months after which he returned to Mathurā with the presents given to Kṛṣṇa by Nandagopa, Yaśodā and the other Gopas.

(2) *Visited Trivakrā.* Kṛṣṇa had promised to visit the house of Trivakrā at the time he cured her of her hunch, and she had been for long awaiting Kṛṣṇa. But only now he got the opportunity to fulfil his promise. He accepted her hospitality at her house and thus ended her grief.

(3) *Interested himself in the Pāṇḍavas.* By this time Pāṇḍu had died. The Pāṇḍavas and Kuntī, sister of Kṛṣṇa's father were living at Hastināpura along with the Kauravas. They were victims to all sorts of miseries. Hearing about the sad plight of the Pāṇḍavas Kṛṣṇa deputed Akrūra to Hastināpura to enquire about them. Kuntīdevī, with tears in her eyes, told Akrūra about the injustice being done against the Pāṇḍavas by the Kauravas and the continuous attempts being made to kill Bhīma. Akrūra visited important persons like Vidura, Dhṛtarāṣṭra etc. Akrūra exhorted Dhṛtarāṣṭra, who had succeeded Pāṇḍu as King, to mete out equal justice to Kauravas as well as to the Pāṇḍavas. Akrūra returned to Mathurā and gave a report to Kṛṣṇa about his visit to the Pāṇḍavas.

(4) *The Jarāsandha war.* Asti and Prāpti, wives of Kaṁsa complained about the killing of their husband by Kṛṣṇa to their father Jarāsandha, King of Magadha. Jarāsandha, aided by such famous Kings as Śālva, Kaliṅga, Cedirāja, Dantavakra and Śiśupāla besieged Mathurāpurī with a big army. Yādava leaders like Kṛṣṇa, Balabhadra, Uddhava, Akrūra and Kṛtavarma met the enemies in battle in which many kings got