

Part thirty-Three

DESCENTION OF RADHA KRISHNA TO GOLAK DHAM BRINDABAN

Sixty-First Chapter

AYAN BADE FAREWELL TO RADHA ASKED MOTHER JATILA TO GO TO PRABAS



Kutila, Radha's sister-in-law (Courtesy: Pinterest)

Listening to the strange words coming out from Radha's mouth, Ayan with folded hands, made another query. "You are independent and free. Who could have stopped you from going away if you wished. Why had you stayed at my house as if you had been tied with a rope?"

Without waiting for an answer, Ayan said to Radhika, "If you decide to go now, please let me ask you for another boon before you leave. I have no doubt that with your kindness at heart, you will grant me this last request though I do not know if I deserve it."

Shreemati Radha replied, "If it is something I can bestow on you I will surely do so." Ayan once again with cloth around his neck, prostrated and made his request, interrupted with sobs, "My lady you are the final resort for all the destitute and the impoverished people. For me, I was born as a human being, who was surrounded by all kinds of illusion that was created by our senses in this physical world. I was thus kept blind about what you are."

"I am very repentant that I took you to be my wife. I have used many harsh words and expletives to you. I am sure I will be punished by Yam after my death. Thinking about this, I have an incessant feeling of fear and extreme anxiety. Because of this, when my end comes could I ask that you two Radha and Krishna give your auspicious sight, standing in front of me and put your four feet on top of my head for a split second?"

This is all I ask of you. Once you have given me this blessing, please be away and be by the side of the Lord, happily for ever after. I would also be going to the Goberdhan Hill.” Radha was exhilarated with the piousness of Ayan. In a voice that had a unique quality and was sweeter than the melodious voice of a cuckoo, Radhika granted all the wishes of Ayan.

Before that, the ever-merciful Radha tried to mitigate all the worries of Ayan. She explained. “In family life, a husband scolding his wife is the usual dharma, the rule of the world. I was all the happier whenever you told me off. Do not worry about it now.”

“Besides, as I promised, you have no sins in your life anymore. At your death throe, you will receive the vision of Radha and Krishna. And after your death, you will come back to Golak in the form of a *sadyasya* [superintendent priest]. Having heard Shreemati Radhika agree to absolve all his sins and bestow new boons, Ayan stood up and gave a pleasant valediction.

He then went to his mother and kneeling before her, said, “Please listen to me my dear mother. To be virtuous, I will be going to the ravines of Gobardhan for meditation. It will not be very long, and I will be back.

Please give me your blessings. In the meantime, you go to Prabhas tirth. On the day of the solar eclipse have a dip in the holy water of Saraswati. Nand, Yashoda and all the people from Braj are also going there. Please bring Kutila and Radha with you. Do not worry about the house. Ayan then left his house with profound peace in his heart.

To hear her son’s bidding for her to go to Prabhas was a great fillip to Jatila in making up her mind in a positive way. She was thrilled. She called Kutila and passed on the information. Kutila was initially excited about it, but hearing that Radha would also be going, she became raving mad. She was known in Braj as a bit cantankerous. She derided her brother, gave her mother a dirty look and walked away.

Sixty-Second Chapter

HOW KUTILA REACTED TO HER MOTHER’S PERSUASION TO GO TO PRABAS

Hearing of her mother’s intention to take Radha with her to Prabhas, Kutila was bursting at the seams with frenzied fury. She beat her chest with her fist. She flung her arms, shouting, “The whole Brajbhumi knows about it. All the lanes and alleys are filled with the news that our dynasty that has maintained its high position in society for a considerable time, is going to be wiped out because of my sister-in-law.

But my dear brother is pretending to be stone deaf. He can hear only what my sister-in-law says to him. What kind of spell or black magic has his wife cast upon him? He does whatever she says. It is not only him, even my mother is hooked. I cannot really blame my brainless mother. It is my henpecked brother. It is true that if a wife is wicked there is no medicine to treat her.

The world is controlled by beautiful women. They snare men like animals. They will break the hard meditation of many rishis and munis and in the blink of an eye many of them would be ruined. They can make the moon in the sky come down to earth. Their wit and vivacity can charm even Brahma off his feet.

There is no way my witless brother can understand. I have seen it so many times and I have pointed it out to him. Still, obviously oblivious to these intricacies, he simply told us to take Radha to Prabhas. And then, he left for Gobaradhan, pretending to meditate or contemplate.

Listen mother. I will tell you this. If you go to Prabhas, taking your daughter-in-law, you will not come back with her. If you do come back, you will be back with your hands on your head [a gesture that signals frustration and stress]. The whole Brajbhumi knows, whatever Kutila says is as certain as thumping the soil with your fist. Think very hard mother before you lose face.”

Jatila was listening to what Kutila was saying. But she kept quiet, while she went through many options in her mind, such as, “What if I take Radha with me? Could what Kutila is saying happen? If I left Radha behind what would happen to her? If three of us stayed behind, what would the people of Braj say?” What a dilemma?

She was also worried that if all the people had gone away from Braj, how would the three of them survive in Braj, which has its share of thieves and dacoits? If certain misfortunes were to befall us, they would have a very bad name. Unable to make a firm decision, Jatila went to her room and sat there mulling things over.

Sixty-Third Chapter

All the residents of Braj thronged around Nand’s Palace, humming and drumming. Yashoda Rani who was looking around, noticed that there was no sight of Jatila, Kutila and Radha, whereupon Yashoda, who had a long-standing uncanny opinion about Jatila and Kutila, beckoned Kritika, the mother of Radha and said to her, “Look Kritika, because of their love for my son everybody is so anxious to go to the yagna, but I do not understand why Jatila, Kutila and Radha have not arrived.”

Yashoda knew about the infamous and aberrant behaviour of Jatila and Kutila against Radha. With a niggling suspicion at the back of her mind, Yashoda said to Kritika, “Let us go and bring them along.” So, they went to Jatila’s house. As they arrived at Jatila’s house, Jatila gave them a warm reception. Once she had seated them, Jatila asked the reason for their unusual visit.

Yashoda replied, “Everybody in Braj, having been informed with the blowing of the *Bheri*, are ready to depart for a holy dip in the tirth at Prabhas, on the day of the auspicious solar eclipse. They had now gathered around the palace, but since we did not see you, we thought we would go and ask you, dear friends, to come along with your daughter, daughter-in-law and all the servants. Everybody is waiting. Come on, hurry up.

Jatila responded, “I am also very keen to go there, but I do have a problem. My daughter and daughter-in-law are young women, and my daughter-in-law is very beautiful. The road to Prabhas is long and we must travel through the woods and forests. That is what I am frightened of.”

Yashoda rejoined, “You are right, but do not worry. Bring your daughter and daughter-in-law. Their security is my responsibility. We will keep them in the middle of the crowd. Their safe future is also guaranteed as apart from you, Kritika and I, the two mothers, are also going with them.”

Kritika, a bit irate because of Jatila’s demeaning of her daughter, shored up Yashoda. She said to Jatila, “You are worrying for nothing. All the men and women of Braj are going. They are also taking their innumerable daughters and daughter-in-laws.

More than anything else, my daughter Radha is sati. A sati will be defended by her sati-hood dharma. Fire, water, home, or forest are the same to her. Nobody would be able to touch her. Radha’s sati-hood is well known in Braj. Who is going to harm her, especially while I am with her?”

Yashoda and Kritika went back to the palace. The news that Radha would be going to Prabhas delighted everybody. They were all waiting for Radha to arrive.

The assurance of Yashoda and Kritika convinced Jatila, and she made her mind up to go along. She called her daughter Kutila and said to her that it would be better if the three of them went to the yagna, rather than staying behind alone.

Kutila retorted, "I knew you will certainly be going there, but remember what I said, and have it written on the wall. You will lose your life for the sake of your daughter-in-law. Now please yourself, mother. Do whatever you want, even though you will drag me along to my early death."

Jatila answered calmly. "It is all destined. What is the use of we three women remaining behind in Braj? It does not make sense that only three of us would meet with misfortune among so many. We are going to Prabas. Go and tell your sister-in-law that she should also come along with us. She must bring all her *sakhis* as well."

Kutila, unable to disobey her mother, shouted to Radha, "Sister-in-law, my mother says you should go to Prabas for a holy bath along with your friends. You must get ready soon with your belongings for the travel." Radha was euphoric to hear Kutila's call. She had been wondering how to leave Ayan's house despite Ayan's fond farewell.

It is rapturous to hear about the Radha Krishna leela. It is a path to travel to find pure devotion. Whoever listens to the stories will be rewarded by Hari with a heart for pious devoutness.

ANNOTATION

From the transliterator.

The character of Jatila and Kutila, especially Kutila, is negative. Kutila was always badmouthing Radha, calling her *Kalankini*. It seems to me that the constant nagging and shouting at Radha for everything was having a positive effect in increasing the eagerness for Radha and Krishna to meet and play in the Ras leela. Jatila and Kutila were also instrumental in facilitating the 'Parakriya Ras' or the mellow of paramour love in the loving pastimes of Shree Radha and Shree Krishna (cf. Part Thirty. P185).

Their love was like that of Romeo and Juliet. The enmity between the Montague and Capulet families helped Juliet in her quest to be with Romeo, even though she did not fully understand the intensity of Romeo's feelings. Radha and Krishna's love story is a great tragedy.

Jatila and Kutila are only prominently mentioned in the Gauria Varshana texts in which Radha is explored to a much greater extent. And it is emphasised that one could only reach Krishna through Radhika.