

Appearance of Lord Krishna

Once upon a time, the Goddess of Earth, Bhumi, took the form of a cow and went to ask Lord Brahma for help while crying. She said, "The whole world is upset because of the demoniac kings." So Lord Brahma, the father of the universe, along with Bhumi and all other demigods went to the ocean of milk to see Lord Vishnu on His planet of Svetadvipa and prayed sincerely by reciting nice prayers.

Lord Vishnu conveyed message in the heart of Lord Brahma, "Soon, I will come down to the earth as the son of Vasudeva, along with My brother and sister, Balaram and Yogamaya. All of you demigods should take birth on earth in the Yadu family. Then, I will come Myself as the Supreme Lord Krishna to save all the devotees and to kill all the demons." Lord Brahma conveyed that message to the other demigods.

Some time later, Vasudeva, the son of the Yadu King Surasena, married Devaki, the beautiful daughter of Ugrasena. After the wedding, Devaki's brother Kamsa drove them home on a wonderful golden chariot. There were hundreds of other gold decorated chariots, horses and elephants, along with wonderful music.

Suddenly, a great voice was heard from the sky: "Kamsa, you are such a fool, the eighth son of you sister will kill you." Kamsa became afraid. Immediately he caught Devaki's hair and raised his sword to kill her. Vasudeva, her husband, stopped him and said, "My dear brother-in-law, please do not kill your own sister. She will never give you trouble. Right now you are safe. I promise to give you all the children born to her." Kamsa knew that Vasudeva would keep his promise, so he did not kill her.

But he locked up Vasudeva and Devaki and his own father Ugrasena inside the prison. Then Kamsa made himself the king. He began to disturb all the Yadu family and even killed all the baby boys born to Devaki and Vasudev, one after another.

Krishna's sister Yogamaya took Devaki's seventh baby, Balarama, away and put Him safely in womb of Rohini, one of the wives of Vasudeva, when she was staying in the house of Nanda and Yashoda. Then Lord Krishna entered Devaki's womb. As the days went by, an

ocean of hate grew in Kamsa's heart. He waited for the child to be born; hoping to kill Him as he had killed Devaki's other six sons. He was always thinking of Krishna twenty-four hours a day. While sleeping, eating, working while talking, sitting or walking, all Kamsa could see around him was Krishna.

At the time of Krishna's birth, there were good signs everywhere.

Then in the darkness of night, during a heavy rain storm, Lord Vishnu appeared as the Supreme Personality of Godhead before Devaki. Vasudeva saw his wonderful baby son with four hands holding a conch shell, club, disc and lotus flower, and flashing His bright effulgence within the room. He had the special mark of Srivatsa in His chest and the jeweled necklace with the Kaustubha stone around His neck. He was dressed in yellow silk, valuable golden



bracelets, bangles, earrings and other ornaments all over His body. He had hair on head and wore a helmet with the Vaidurya stone. Vasudev prayed and bowed down with folded hands to offer prayers, "My Lord, You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead and You have so kindly appeared in my home to kill the demoniac kings of the world like Kamsa. Knowing that You will kill him and his followers, Kamsa has already killed Your six baby brothers before You. As soon as he hears that You took birth, he will try to kill You, too." Devaki was very afraid of her brother and prayed, "My dear Krishna. Please save me from the cruel hands of Kamsa. As soon as he knows that You have taken birth, he may hurt You. So please hide Your four-armed form from our eyes."

Krishna answered, "I know you are thinking about Me out of great love and are afraid of Kamsa. Therefore, take Me now to Gokul Vrindavan and exchange Me with the daughter who has just been born to Yashoda."



Then the Lord turned Himself into a small baby. Vasudeva quietly took his little son out of prison. Because of Krishna's power, everyone in Kamsa's palace including the doorkeepers, were in deep sleep and all the doors automatically opened. The night was very dark and it was thundering and raining. While Vasudeva carried little Krishna in the heavy rain, Lord Ananta Sesha spread His serpent hood over the head of Vasudeva like an umbrella. Yamuna was roaring with big waves and foam. But Vasudeva could cross it by Krishna's mercy. On the other side, he went to the home of Nanda Maharaj in Gokul Vrindavan, where everyone was in deep sleep because of Krishna's power. He walked inside quietly and put Krishna down next to Mother Yashoda. Then he picked up Yashoda's baby girl and went back with her to the prison of Kamsa, where he put her next to Devaki. Prison doors closed on their own because of Krishna's power.

Later the gatekeepers woke up and heard the new baby crying. They informed Kamsa. Kamsa was so afraid that his hair stood on end. He jumped out of bed and cried; "Now the cruel death of my life is born!" Then he hurried to the prison.

Devaki said, "My brother, Kamsa, please do not kill this baby girl. You won't be killed by a girl." Cruel Kamsa grabbed the new born child to throw her down hard on the stone. But that baby slipped right out of his hands and went into the sky! Actually she was Goddess Durga. She wore a beautiful dress, flower garlands and shining jewels and ornaments. In her eight hands she held a bow, spear, arrows, bell, conch shell, disc, club and shield. The goddess Durga shouted at Kamsa, "You rascal, you cannot kill me! The child, who will kill you, is already born before me somewhere within this world. Don't be cruel to your poor sister." Then she disappeared.

Kamsa became more afraid. He said, "My dear Vasudeva and Devaki, I have been just like a demon to kill your six babies. Please excuse my terrible behaviour." He unlocked them

But the next day, he had change of heart. Kamsa, who was the greatest rascal, ordered his demon friends to disturb all kinds of saintly persons and to kill all the children born in the last ten days.

In Vrindavan it was declared that a baby boy was born to Yashoda. On this occasion Nanda Maharaj gave away 2,00,000 well-decorated cows, mountains of grains, golden-bordered cloth and ornaments to the brahmanas, musicians and singers. The brahmanas chanted different Sanskrit hymns for the good fortune of the child. All the cowherd men and their wives, the gopis, dressed up nicely and brought gifts for the new baby. When they visited Nanda Maharaj and Yashoda's house, the gopis gave their blessings to Krishna by mixing turmeric powder, oil, yogurt, milk and water and sprinkling it on baby Krishna and on everyone there. The cowherd men saw the fun and they in turn, joyfully threw yogurt, milk, ghee and water on the gopis! Then everyone began to throw butter on each other! Nanda Maharaj was very happy to see everyone enjoying Krishna's birth ceremony and prayed to the Supreme Personality of Godhead to protect his child.

