Govardhana Puja

The day after Diwali is referred to as Annakuta, or Govardhana Puja. On this day the inhabitants of Vrindavan traditionally held a harvest festival in honor of the demigod King Indra who provided the rains essential for the harvest.

When Sri Krishna saw the cowherd men busily preparing for a sacrifice to Indra, He inquired about it from his father, Nanda. Nanda explained that the rain given by Indra enables all living entities to maintain their lives, and therefore this sacrifice would be executed to satisfy him.

Krishna responded, "It is because of karma alone that living entities take their birth in a certain body, experience varieties of happiness and suffering in that body, and then give it up as the karma pertaining to it runs out. Indra can do nothing to alter the happiness and distress of anyone, for everyone is tightly bound by his karmic reactions. The clouds give forth rain when they are impelled by the mode of passion, and cowherds prosper by protecting the cows. Furthermore, the cowherds' proper residence is in the forest and on the hills. Therefore you should offer worship to the cows, the brahmanas and Govardhana Hill.There is no need to worship Lord Indra."

Govardhana Puja

After Krishna spoke thus, He arranged for the cowherd men to worship Govardhana with the paraphernalia collected for the sacrifice to Indra. He then assumed a huge transcendental form and devoured all the food and other offerings presented to Govardhana.

As He did so, He proclaimed to the cowherd community that although they had worshiped Indra for so long, he had never appeared in person, whereas Govardhana himself had now manifested before their eyes and eaten their offerings of foodstuffs. Therefore they should all now offer obeisances to Govardhana Hill. Then Lord Krishna joined the cowherds in offering obeisances to His own newly assumed form.

Indra became very angry upon hearing the news that the Vrajavasis had not worshipped him. He wanted to punish the supposed miscreants. Hence, he sent the clouds known as Samvartaka, whose function is to facilitate the destruction of the world. He sent them to harass the Vrajavasis with downpours of rain and hail.

The cowherd community was very disturbed by this and approached Krishna for shelter. Understanding that this trouble was the work of Indra, Krishna decided to smash to pieces Indra's false prestige, and thus He lifted Govardhana Hill with one hand. He then invited the entire cowherd community to take shelter in the dry space beneath the mountain.

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Govardhana Puja

Govardhan lila

For seven successive days He held up the hill,until Indra finally understood Krishna's mystic power and ordered the clouds to withdraw. When the cowherd villagers emerged from beneath the mountain , Krishna put Govardhana Hill back in its proper place

The cowherds were in ecstasy, showing loving symptoms such as flowing tears and bodily hairs standing on end. They embraced Krishna and offered Him benedictions according their respective positions, to respective positions, while the demigods in heaven rained down flowers and sang the Lord's praises.

Ashamed of having attacked Vrindavana with a violent storm, Indra secretly came before Lord Krishna, offered obeisances and praised Him. Satisfied with Indra's prayers, Sri Krishna told him that He had stopped the Indra-yajna so that Indra, puffed up as he was with false pride, would remember the Lord.

Lord Krishna ordered Indra to return to his proper position in heaven and to serve there without egotism. Indra, along with the cow Surabhi, then performed a bathing ceremony for Krishna, using the water of the heavenly Ganges and the milk of mother Surabhi

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare