**A Day in Dwaraka**

**Cast**

Krishna -

Balarama -

Pradyumna

Samba –

Charu –

Nrga -

Brahmana 1 –

Brahmana 2 –

Cow - Dayita

Duryodhana –

Karna -

Shakuni -

Laksmanaa -

**SCENE ONE - The Forest**

**Samba**: This looks like a good place to have lunch, Pradyumna.

**Charu**: Good idea, Samba; I'm starving!

**Pradyumna**: You're always hungry, Charu. If we had to stop every time you wanted to eat, we would never get anywhere!

**Samba**: Please, Pradyumna, let's sit here for a while. I'm so tired!

**Pradyumna**: Very well, little brother. Come, let's rest under this tree and eat our lunch.

*They sit down and unwrap their lunches. As they open them, they express their satisfaction with the contents. Charu has a double-sized lunch pack. They say, “Jai Sri Krishna!” and offer their obeisances. As he offers obeisances, Samba steals Charu’s samosa.*

**Charu**: Who stole my samosa!? Was it you, Pradyumna? No, it was you, Samba! You’re so greedy, you want me to fast? Give it back.

**Samba**: No!

*A fight begins.*

**Samba**: Pradyumna! Pradyumna, HELP!

**Pradyumna**: Stop this at once! Charu, sit down! Samba, you come and sit by me and behave yourself!

**Samba**: I'm thirsty!

**Charu**: Me, too!

**Pradyumna**: Fine, we’ll look for a well! Let's spread out; the first one to find water should shout very loud. You stay with me, Samba.

*They walk in different directions and leave the stage. Music. The well prop, containing King Nrga is placed on the stage.*

**SCENE TWO – The Well**

*Voices off stage, then Pradyumna and Samba enter.*

**Pradyumna**: Come on, Samba, I can see a well just over here. Let's see if there's any water in it.

(Pradyumna looks into well.) WOW!

**Samba**: What is it, Pradyumna?

**Pradyumna**: A lizard! There's a lizard in the well!

**Samba**: Let me see! I want to see the lizard! WOW!! Charu! Come quickly!

**Charu**: (enters) What is it? What did you find?

**Pradyumna**: A well with an Enormous lizard in it!

**Charu**: (enters) A lizard? Let me see!

*All the boys look into the well gleefully*.

**Samba**: Poor thing, he can't get out!

**Charu**: How do you suppose he got in there?

**Samba**: Do you think it's trapped in there?

**Pradyumna**: Yes, I’m sure it is. The sides are very steep and there cannot be much nourishment in the well. Who knows how long it has been dried up!

**Charu**: The compassionate thing to do is to get the lizard out.

*They try to reach the lizard with cloth and sticks for some time and then give up, exhausted.*

**Samba**: Whew! It’s too far down! What are we going to do?

**Pradyumna**: It’s no good, we'll never get him out like this.

**Charu**: I know, if we hold on to Samba’s feet and lower him down head first, he can pull the lizard out. Come on, Samba, over you go.

**Samba**: (frightened) No! No! Let me go! I want my mata!

**Pradyumna**: Put him down, Charu.

**Charu**: Why?

**Pradyumna**: What if the lizard eats him? Hi mom would kill us. She’d get her big old bear of dad after us. He is so strong he killed armies of Ravana’s rakshasas.

**Samba**: Ya, don’t you lay a finger on me! My grandpa will crush you! And Pita will spank you!

**Pradyumna**: What we should do is to get Pita to come here. He can get the lizard out.

**Samba**: Yes! Let’s go! (to lizard) Don’t you worry, Big Guy, the my dad is the King. He will get you out! We’ll be back later today!

**Pradyumna**: (to others) Race you there!

*All run off.*

**SCENE THREE – Krsna’s Palace**

*All the young princes talk at once as they push and pull at Lord Krsna with great excitement. He is bemused and goes along with them.*

**Samba**: We saw it! It is sooooo big! He’s in the middle of the well and he’s stuck!

**Pradyumna**: Surely, if You tried, You could get him out! I’ve never seen such a big lizard!

**Charu**: And ugly, too! All scaly and slimy with long yellow teeth and a long red tongue! Please get him out!

**Samba**: The poor thing!

**Pradyumna**: We’d let him go free in the forest and I’m sure he would be soooo happy!

**Charu**: Please!

**Samba**: Please, daddy!!

**Krishna**: All right! Take Me to see your lizard friend!

*They exit*

**SCENE FOUR - The Well**

**Charu**: Over here Pita, hurry!

**Samba**: Pita, may I keep the lizard? I promise to feed it. May I, Pita? Please!

**Pradyumna**: (looking) He's down there, Pita! Please help him. Poor thing!

*Krsna reaches his hand down and touches the lizard.*

**Krishna**: I have him, now! What's this? The lizard is changing.

*Nrga steps out during some flashing lights or similar. He kneels with folded hands before Lord Krsna.*

**Nrga**: My Lord, I offer my obeisances unto you! Thank you for liberating me!

**Krishna**: My dear, fortunate demigod, now I see that your body is so beautiful and lustrous. Who are you? We want to hear from you how you were put in this position.

**Nrga**: My dear Lord, in my previous life I was King Nrga. As King Nrga, I was very charitable and had given away so many cows that the number was equal to the amount of dust on the earth, the stars in the sky and the rainfall. The cows given in charity were not ordinary cows. Each one was very young and had given birth to only one calf. They were full of milk, very peaceful and healthy. All the cows were purchased with money that was earned legally. Furthermore, their horns were gold-plated, their hooves were bedecked with silver plates and they were covered with silken wrappers that were embroidered with pearls and necklaces. These valuably decorated cows were not given to any worthless person but were distributed to the first class brahmanas whom I also decorated with nice garments and gold ornaments. In spite of all this, unfortunately one of the brahmana’s cows chanced to enter amongst my other cows and, not knowing this, I again gave it away in charity to another Brahmana.

*Lights dim and backdrop change.*

**SCENE FIVE – Nrga’s palace**

**Nrga**: My dear Brahmana, please accept this lovely cow. She will certainly supply you and your family with all you need.

**2nd Brahmana**: May you live long and prosper!

*He begins to lead cow off.*

**1st Brahmana**: (bursting upon scene, loud and very pompous) This cow was given to me, so how is it that you are taking it away??

**2nd Brahmana**: (very powerful and intimidating) No, this excellent cow was just given to me by the King!! You must be very mistaken!! Very, foolishly mistaken, simple one.

**1st Brahmana**: You’d better step back from that cow, panditji. You have no idea who you are messing with!

**2nd Brahmana**: Me? I could turn *you* into a cow with one rip of my Brahmana thread!

**1st Brahmana**: Not if I break mine first!

**2nd Brahmana**: You’re either quick or dead!

**Nrga**: Gentle Brahmanas, please, don’t fight! It may be that this cow has wandered back into my herd and I have unwittingly given her away again. Therefore, I will give each of you one hundred thousand cows in exchange for the one cow that is causing the fight between you.

**2nd Brahmana**: I am not a merchant and feel no obligation to sell my cow.

**1st Brahmana**: Your cow! This cow is mine, she wants to go to her home, now.

**2nd Brahmana**: I am taking my cow and I am leaving! I am never coming to this horrible kingdom again!!

**1st Brahmana**: This king is so offensive that he is watching a brahmana’s property taken away! I am leaving here and never coming here again!!!

*They both storm off.*

**SCENE SIX – back at the well**

**Nrga**: After this incident, when the time came to give up my body, I was taken before Yamaraj, the superintendent of death. Yamaraja said that the results of my pious activities were practically limitless, but because I had offended brahmanas, I would have to suffer that reaction as well. He gave me the choice as to which results to receive first, and I chose to suffer first. He said for one lifetime I would have to become a lizard. In spite of being put into that degraded condition of life for a very long time, I simply thought of You, my dear Lord, and my memory was never vanquished. I had a great desire to see You personally, but knowing how hard it is for even the greatest mystics, I am very surprised that I am able to see You personally. Now, as a demigod, I will have to go to some heavenly planet; so I am taking this opportunity to beg for Your mercy, that I may have the benediction of never forgetting Your lotus feet, no matter to which form of life or planet I may be transferred.

*King Nrga offers obeisances and leaves.*

**Krishna**: This story teaches a lesson. Ordinary poison affects only those who drink it and ordinary fire can be extinguished by pouring water on it; but the fire ignited by the spiritual potency of a brahmana can burn to ashes the whole family of one who provokes such a brahmana. My dear boys and relatives, I therefore advise you that even if a brahmana becomes angry with you and calls you ill names or cuts you, still you should not retaliate. On the contrary, you should smile, tolerate him and offer your respects to the brahmana. You know very well that even I Myself offer My obeisances to the brahmanas with great respect three times daily. You should therefore follow my instruction and example. I shall not forgive anyone who does not follow them, and I shall punish him.

**Samba**: Don’t worry, Pita. I will follow your example. I am going to be just like you when I grow up…fighting demons, helping brahmanas, stealing princesses…

***Krishna pats him on the head and they exit****.*

**SCENE SEVEN – Hastinapura**

*Duryodhana, Shakuni, Karna and Laksmanaa on stage, scanning the audience who are there for the swayamvara Duryodhana has arranged.*

**Duryodhana**: Take your time my dear Laksmanaa. As you are my only daughter I want to savor this moment as we choose your husband together. The greatest personalities in the world are all sitting before you!

**Laksmanaa**: But there are no Yadavas or Pandavas here.

**Karna**: He said the greatest, not the lowest!

**Shakuni**: She obviously cannot make such a difficult decision herself, dear Duryodhana. Uncle Shakuni is at your service, child. I am the world’s top judge of character. Might I suggest the son of Narakasura?

**Duryodhana**: Ah! Good choice Shakuni! I would be thrilled for my daughter and her future children to have the esteemed last name: Asura.

**Laksmanaa**: You would have me marry a demon from hell?! Not even a human?

**Duryodhana**: Well demons from hell have their advantages, but I understand if you want to be fussy.

**Shakuni**: Look over there, Laksmanaa! What a handsome man! Do you like what you see? That happens to be my son, Uluka!

**Laksmanaa**: Eeew! He is a creep!

**Shakuni**: I thought you’d like him!

**Karna**: I’ll tell you what, Duryodhana. What better way to honour our friendship than to have your daughter marry my son?

**Duryodhana**: Karna, I thought you’d never offer. Think how powerful such offspring would be! My mace skills, your archery skills, my brain and your looks, my resourcefulness and your charity, they would be like elephants as bright as the sun!

*As they are talking, Samba walks onstage, unknown to them, and introduces himself to Laksmanaa. She obviously likes him and through gestures they decide to leave together.*

**Shakuni:** Uh…Duryodhana?

**Duryodhana:** Well, my dear, that’s decided then! I hope you enjoyed this swayamvara! Karna’s son is the one over there…Laksmanaa? Dear? Where did she go?

**Shakuni**: She left with this boy just now. He looked like a…a..a…Yadava.

**Duryodhana**: What?!? After him at once!

*They exit.*

**SCENE EIGHT – the fight**

**Laksmanaa**: Why did you stop, Samba? They will catch us if we stop.

**Samba**: Exactly! They should be here any minute now. I am showing them I am not a coward. I am Krishna’s son – I can fight anyone.

**Laksmanaa**: You don’t understand – the Kurus are the most powerful warriors in the world!

**Samba**: I know. But my father is Krishna, and my uncle is Balarama. What do I have to worry about? Stand aside or you will get hurt.

*Kurus enter.*

**Duryodhana**: Samba? How dare you steal my daughter on her marriage day! You will die for this!

**Laksmanaa**: No daddy, I like him. I want to marry him.

**Duryodhana**: What?!?! No you don’t! You will marry the son of my friend…

**Laksmanaa**: Oh no I won’t. Don’t you remember what happened to your grandma, Amba? No one would dream of marrying me if I love someone else.

**Duryodhana**: Grrrrr!!!!!

**Samba**: Did you come here to fight or just talk? Protect her dignity, father-in-law!

*He pulls out his sword and attacks. Fight scene. All three Kurus, gang up on him and arrest him.*

**Karna**: I guess we can’t kill him, but we’ll put him in a dungeon and let him rot!

**Laksmanaa**: Then put me in the dungeon too!

**Duryodhana**: Please Shakuni, please tell me this is all a nightmare!

*They exit.*

**Scene NINE – the news reaches the Yadavas**

*Krishna and Balarama are in their palace. Pradyumna and Charu rush in.*

**Charu**: Pita! Pita! Pita! It is terrible! The worst news!

**Krishna**: What is it boys? Where’s Samba?

**Pradyumna**: Well, that’s the problem. He, uh, decided to go kidnap a princess and fight anyone who tried to stop him.

**Balarama**: Hahaha, I wonder where he got that idea?

**Krishna**: He is quite capable. Who did he kidnap and who tried to stop him?

**Pradyumna**: Duryodhana’s daughter, Laksmanaa. The Kurus have arrested him.

**Krishna**: Uh-oh.

**Charu**: He’s gonna die. We’ll never see him again! Boohoohoo!

**Pradyumna**: Come on, Pita, let’s go kill those Kurus.

**Balarama**: Gentlemen, please! I know that people are prepared to fight one another by the slightest provocation in this age, but I do not like the idea of two great dynasties, the Kurus and the Yadus, fighting amongst themselves. I will go to Hastinapura by myself and see if the matter can be settled by mutual understanding.

**SCENE TEN - Hastinapura**

**Balarama**: My dear friends, this time I have come to you as a messenger with the order of the all-powerful King Ugrasena. His Majesty knows very well that you warriors of the Kuru dynasty improperly fought with the pious Samba, who was alone, and with great difficulty and unrighteous tactics you have arrested him. We have all heard this news, but we are not very much agitated because we are most intimately related to one another. I do not think we should disturb our good relationship; we should continue our friendship without any unnecessary fighting. Please, therefore, immediately release Samba and bring him, along with his wife, Laksmana, before Me.

**Duryodhana**: Did you hear that Shakuni? The language and tone used by Balarama are simply abusive and due to the influence of this age of Kali, it appears that the shoes befitting the feet want to rise to the top of the head, where the helmet is worn! We are connected with the Yadu dynasty by marriage, and because of this they have been given the chance to come and live with us, dine with us and sleep with us. Now they are taking advantage of these privileges. They had practically no position before we gave them a portion of our kingdom to rule, and now they are trying to command us!!!

*Although He remained patient and silent, Balarama appears to be burning with anger and thinking of a way to retaliate with a great vengeance.*

**Karna**: We have allowed the Yadu dynasty to use the royal insignias, and we did not check them due to our family relationships. Now, they have the audacity to order us to do things. Well, enough of their impudence!! It is improper to feed a snake with milk, since such merciful activities simply increases its venom! The Yadu dynasty is now trying to go against those who have fed them so nicely! Their flourishing condition is due to our gifts and merciful behavior and still they are so shameless that they are trying to order us!

**Shakuni**: How regrettable are all these activities! No one in the world can enjoy anything if themembers of the Kuru dynasty do not allow them to do so! Exactly as a lamb cannot enjoy life in the presence of a lion, without our desire it is not even possible for the demigods to find enjoyment in life, what to speak of ordinary human beings!!

*The Kuru leaders turn and walk away towards Hastinapura.*

**Balarama**: It is true that when a man becomes too puffed up because of his family, opulence, beauty and material advancement, he no longer wants a peaceful life but becomes belligerent towards all others. It is useless to give such a person good instruction; on the contrary, one should search out the ways and means to punish him! It is clear now that these leaders of the Kuru dynasty have become mad over their worldly possessions and opulence! Every statement they made was full of crazy proposals! I should immediately take them to task and bring them to their senses. If I do not take steps against them, it will be improper on My part. Therefore, on this very day I shall rid the world of any trace of the Kuru dynasty!!!

*Balarama stands up steadily and begins to strike the earth again and again with His plow [loud smashing sounds] to separate the city of Hastinapura from the earth. Use all the special effects you can find - strong music, sound effects, crowd sounds, cries, howling in anxiety. The Kurus run back on stage and act terrified. The set should appear to tremble, objects and people fall over, etc..)*

**Karna**: What is happening! I have never encountered an astra like this before.

**Shakuni**: It is not an astra, you fool! Balarama is dragging the city with his plow!

**Duryodhana**: Help! My beautiful city is being dragged towards the Ganges River!

**Shakuni**: Quick! Bring Samba and Laksmanaa to him!

*They quickly bring Samba and Laksmana to Lord Balarama.*

**Duryodhana**: O Lord Balarama, reservoir of all pleasures, You are the maintainer and supporter of the entire cosmic situation. Unfortunately, we were all unaware of Your inconceivable potencies. Dear Lord, please consider us most foolish. Our intelligence was bewildered and not in order. Therefore, we have come before You to beg Your pardon. Please excuse us! We are now completely surrendered unto You. Please, therefore, be merciful upon us and give us Your protection!

**Balarama**: As you have complied with our request, there is no reason to be fearful. Do not worry.

**Shakuni**: You see, actually we only fought Samba to see that he was actually the suitable match for Laksmanaa. In order to better see his personal strength, we fought him unfairly. Similarly, we challenged You just to see for ourselves Your inconceivable strength.

**Duryodhana**: Here is my daughter, Laksmanaa. It is my great pleasure to give her in marriage to Samba along with a royal dowry. Please stay for the most grand royal wedding ever held!

**Balarama**: I am pleased. I will leave the city sloping toward the river just as a reminder so this doesn’t happen again.

**Duryodhana**: Sri Sri Krishna Balarama ki! X 3