

9 How Krishna got the name Giridhari

One day Krishna and Balarama saw that the cowherd men were busy preparing for a sacrifice.

Krishna: Dear father, I see that the people are busy. What is the name of the ceremony you are organising? Which demigod are you trying to please? What is the result of such sacrifice?

Nanda remained silent thinking that Krishna was a little boy and would not be able to understand.

Krishna: My dear father, I am just a young boy, but that shouldn't keep you from answering My questions. Nothing should be kept secret from family members and friends.

Nanda: My dear son, our only wealth are these cows. They live on grass which needs rain to grow. Rain comes from the clouds which are controlled by the demigod Indra. Without rains we can't farm or produce grains. We must show our gratitude to Indra, so that he may be merciful upon us and send down rains which are the basis of our livelihood. Therefore we are performing this elaborate sacrifice to please him.

Krishna: I think you need not perform a sacrifice to please Indra. You see, he is pouring his waters everywhere, on the lakes, rivers, ponds and oceans where there is no need of water. We must actually pray to Govardhana hill, who is so kindly providing our cows with the best of grasses and water.



The simple and honest cowherd men, headed by Nanda, accepted Krishna's proposal.

Krishna: Collect grains, milk, fruits and vegetables. Make many tasty dishes as offerings. Invite the Brahmanas to chant Vedic mantras. Decorate the cows and feed them well. Everyone should be fed, even the dogs.

Cowherd men: Yes! Let us begin preparing for the Govardhana festival.

Soon the grand festival started. Everyone bought offerings for Govardhana. The beautifully dressed gopis were chanting the glories of Krishna's pastimes. There were singers and dancers too. It was a majestic sight.

Suddenly Krishna assumed a huge, transcendental form and declared to the inhabitants of Vrindavana that He, Himself, was Govardhana hill. He started accepting the offerings and finished them all. Then suddenly all the offerings reappeared. Thus He performed this wonderful pastime for the pleasure of the people of Vrindavana.

Actually Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He knew that Indra was feeling proud of his position and therefore He wanted to help His dear devotee overcome his pride.

Meanwhile Indra was sitting in his palace, heart burning with anger.

Indra: Just look at these foolish cowherd men! They are following the instructions of a mere child!
They have impudently stopped my sacrifice. Now just see how they suffer. Ha! Ha! Ha!

In a fit of rage, he called out to the Samvartaka clouds. These clouds pour down torrents of rain upon the universe at the time of destruction. With a thunderous sound, the Samvartaka clouds entered.



Indra: Go! Go to Vrindavana, and submerge the entire village. Not a single person or animal should be spared. Those simpletons will pay for their offence

Samvartaka: (hesitatingly) We ..er don't think it will beuh...possible O king.

Indra : Fear not! I will follow you on Airavata, thunderbolt in hand. Be gone now.

Samvartaka : Yes master! We will do as you say. We will shower down torrents of heavy rain. We will cause strong icy winds to blow. The whole of Vrindavana will be flooded.

These dark dense clouds gathered above the village of Vraja and began to pour down torrents of rain. It looked as though there would be a great flood. All the inhabitants of Vrindavana ran to Krishna, their one and only shelter, knowing He would protect them.

Cowherd men : O Krishna! O Govinda! You are just a simple cowherd boy, yet Your face shows no fear. Our hearts are captivated by Your moon like face. O Krishna please protect us from this devastation.

Krishna could understand that Indra was showing his anger in the form of this storm, thus misusing the power given to him.

Krishna : I will save My devotees by My mystic powers.

He immediately picked up the Govardhana hill on the little finger of His left hand. He picked it up as easily as a child picks up a mushroom from the ground.

Krishna: My dear father, My dear people of Vrindavana. You can safely enter under the umbrella of Govardhana. Bring your animals along with you. Do not be afraid.

The inhabitants of Vrindavana and their animals remained there for seven days and seven nights. They were not disturbed by hunger or thirst or any other discomfort.

Seeing the extraordinary mystic power of Krishna, Indra was amazed. He realised that he had committed a great offence. Along with the Surabhi cow he arrived at Vrindavana to beg forgiveness from the Lord.

Indra: My dear Lord please forgive me. I have committed a great offence unto Your lotus feet. I was falsely proud of my material opulence. I did not know Your unlimited powers. I acted out of anger. You are the Supreme Personality



of Godhead. You are so kind that you bestowed Your mercy upon me and destroyed all my false pride. Please forgive me and accept me as Your eternal servant.

Krishna: My dear Indra. I stopped your sacrifice just to remind you that I am your eternal master. I am not only your master, but the master of all demigods as well. Now please resume your position as the king of heaven.

Indra bowed down humbly and started bathing the Lord with the milk of the Surabhi cow and the water from the Ganges. All the demigods and residents of the higher planets came to worship the lord and offer prayers. There was a joyful celebration. Krishna was very pleased with all of them. Finally Indra took permission and returned to his heavenly kingdom.





All Glories to Giri Govardhana

Krishna and the gopas of Vrindavana

Love to play here at Govardhana

They decorate themselves with flowers and clay

Red, Yellow, blue, green, white and grey.

Govardhana is covered with grass so sweet

For all the cows and calves to eat.

Waterfalls and fresh bubbling springs

For washing, and cool water to drink.

Sweet honey, mango and pilu juice.

Soft roots and delicious fruits.

Smooth rocks in which they see their faces

Rocks also make nice sitting places.

Giriraj Govardhana is so very dear.

Krishna and Balarama spend so much time here.

Celebrate Govardhana Puja

Make Govardhana out of cooked rice.

Make the eyes, nose, mouth and tilak with dry fruits and vegetables or even cookies.

Decorate Govardhana with flowers, crown and flute

Everyone can bring small offerings for the lord


You can have a wonderful festival with chanting, dancing and feasting!



Teacher will read to you how the residents of Vrindavana celebrated Govardhana puja. This pastime is described in the 'Krsna' book.

Now you can make a list of the things you require to celebrate this festival in your class.

We Need....





Activity Time

Discussion:

Indra was so proud that he forgot Krishna is the Supreme Lord and he, Indra, was accepting offerings on Krishna's behalf.

PRIDE

Can you read the above word and understand the hidden meaning?

What would you do?

We often come across pride in some form or the other. How would you behave in the following situation? Put a tick according to your choice

Vikram has just had a wonderful birthday and is telling every one about it

- 1) You listen for a minute and start describing your own birthday party.
- 2) You encourage him to talk and praise his party.
- 3) You listen quietly with no expression on your face.



You have come second in a race

- 1) You think you will try much harder next time and come first in the race
- 2) You tell everyone that the boy who came first was wearing special running shoes.
- 3) You are happy and grateful that you took part and managed to come second in the race.



You are walking and dash into someone

- 1) You say sorry and move on
- 2) You retort, 'Are you blind?'
- 3) You say, 'Please be more careful next time.'

You and your friend are not talking to each other because you just had an argument with her.

- 1) You say sorry and become friends again.
- 2) You say nothing and wait for things to become normal again.
- 3) You wait for your friend to say sorry.



Discuss your answers with each other.

If you think deeply about it; we will realise that there is nothing to be proud of because everything we have come from Krishna.

When we are proud, we think only of ourselves. We must try to see things from someone else's point of view.

Take the above examples and try to imagine yourself as Vikram and the rest of the children.

Actually-----

Everything we see, any good qualities in ourselves and in others all come from Krishna.

Krishna has made all of us different and given us different qualities, talents and appearance.

He is living in everyone's heart.

Therefore we should respect every living entity and everything in Krishna's creation.

Lord Krishna says in Bagavad Gita (10.41)

Know that all opulent, beautiful and
glorious creations spring from
but a spark of My splendour.

