

Akriya—the son of Gambhira. Of his wife was born Brahman.

Bhā. IX. 17. 10.

Akrūra (1)—a Yadu prince; welcomed Kṛṣṇa to Dvāraka.¹ The foremost of the sons of Śvaphalka and Gāndinī; married a daughter of Ugrasena and had two sons, Devavān and Upadeva (Deva and Anupadeva-Vi).² Stayed in Madhurā (Mathurā) when the Yadus migrated.³ Once visited Brahmaṛada.⁴ Kāmsa sent for him and asked him to take in his chariot Kṛṣṇa and Rāma to the capital for the Dhanuryāga ('festival of arms') at which they were to be killed. Returned home with this message.⁵ When the night passed by, Akrūra started for the *vraja* of Nanda thinking all the way of the meeting and embraces of Kṛṣṇa and Rāma who had made friends with people of Brindāvan. Reached Gokula by evening.⁶ Saw Rāma and Kṛṣṇa in fine deportment and form, milking cows: prostrated before them in divine ecstasy. Welcomed in the proper way by the brothers and Nanda, Akrūra was lost in wonder, and did not feel the fatigue of the journey.⁷ Gopis who came to know of Akrūra's mission called him Krūra for taking away Kṛṣṇa from their midst.⁸ It was early morning when Akrūra and the two brothers started after morning prayers. Reaching the Yamunā, Akrūra went to the river for a bath, asking the brothers to stay in the chariot. But he was surprised to see the brothers in the waters, and at the same time in the chariot also. He also saw Hari reclining on Śeṣa.⁹ Akrūra's praise of Hari.¹⁰ Congratulating himself on his luck to have had a *darśan* of Hari, he drove Kṛṣṇa and Rāma to Mathurā before sunset.¹¹ Invited Kṛṣṇa to his home, and the latter agreed to go to his place only after Kāmsavadha. Informed Kāmsa of

¹ Bhā. I. 11. 16; 14, 28. ² Bhā. IX. 24. 15, 17, 18; Br. III. 71. 113; Vi. IV. 13. 126; 14. 7, 10; Vā. 96. 112. ³ Bhā. X. 2. 4 []. ⁴ Bhā. X. 28. 16. ⁵ Bhā. X. 36. 27-40; Vi. V. 15, 9, 12. ⁶ Bhā. X. 38, 1-24 Vi. V. 15. 24. ⁷ Bhā. X. 38. 25-43; Vi. V. 17. 2-25. ⁸ Bhā. X. 39. 21-26. ⁹ Bhā. X. 39. 32-57; Vi. V. 18. 11 and 19. ¹⁰ Bhā. X. 40. (whole). ¹¹ Bhā. X. 41. 4-6.