

was safe. Disheartened, Kāmsa let Vasudeva and Devakī free. Consulted his ministers who advised him to kill all infants in the kingdom, and to hurt all Brāhmanas and cows, the root cause of Hari's *dharma*. Messengers were sent out on this mission.²

An incarnation of Kālanemi. Threw his father Ugrasena in prison and assumed regal administration.³ Encouraged by his Asura friends such as Pralamba and Baka, as also by the Māgadhan king, he tyrannized the Yadus who left the land for other countries like Kuru, Pāñcāla and others. The Brāhmanas were afraid of him.⁴

Heard from Nārada that Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma were Vasudeva's sons; when he went to slay Vasudeva, Nārada prevented him from it. He then threw Vasudeva and his wife in prison. He summoned his councillors and asked the Mallas, Cānūra and Muṣṭika to get ready for a wrestling match with Kṛṣṇa and Rāma; ordered his mahout to station the State Elephant at the gate of the enclosure (*Raṅga*) and get Kṛṣṇa and Rāma trampled under its feet; when he was asked why he was out to kill those two boys, he narrated the story of his mother once going in the garden thinking of her husband Ugrasena. Then a Gandharva Drumila personated Ugrasena. Discovering that he was not her husband, she asked him in wrath who he was. He tried to console her saying that she would give birth to a heroic son. The chaste lady retorted that he would be cruel and unrighteous. Such being his birth, he hated his kith and kin. Then he commanded to commence the *Dhanuryāga*. Akrūra was sent for and ordered to take his chariot and bring Kṛṣṇa and Rāma to the *Dhanuryāga* with all gopas. He proposed to kill all of them and rule the kingdoms with the help of friends like Jarāsandha. Thanked by Akrūra for an opportunity to visit Kṛṣṇa and Rāma; Akrūra reached the Vraja and was welcomed by the brothers and Nanda. Informed of their arrival by Akrūra. Much concerned to know of the breaking of his bow by Kṛṣṇa and further the killing of his guards. He had no sleep all night and had bad dreams, all in fear of Kṛṣṇa. Next morning he drove