

regretted having missed a chance of meeting the Lord. Then food was distributed among his friends.¹⁶

Kṛṣṇa saw the Gopas worshipping Indra and as residents of hills and forests, he suggested worship of mountains and cows. When this was accepted, Indra sent a heavy downpour which was warded off by Kṛṣṇa, a boy of seven,¹⁷ holding up the Govardhana for a week. A visit from Indra and Surabhi who anointed him, Indra, of Goloka and gave him a new name Govinda. Rescued his father Nanda from Varuṇa region and took him with other Gopas to Brahma-ḥrada where the Vedas were praising Hari. Once when playing on a flute, the Gopīs who were in the midst of household duties stopped them and came to where he was in spite of protest from their male relations. Kṛṣṇa advised them to go back to Vraja and be loyal to their husbands. They refused to return as their minds were fixed upon him and longed for *mokṣa*, and insisted they were his *dāsis* and should be accepted. After some time he disappeared for their peace and redemption. They indulged in *gītam*, when the Lord appeared in their midst and shone like *Puruṣa* among *śaktis*. After consoling them he engaged them in a *rāsakrīḍa*, and finding them wearied, he engaged them in watersports and sports in the *upavana* on the river-bank. There was no carnal act of sin. The Lord who had no *bandha*, did all this in sport.¹⁸

Released Nanda from a reptile who turned out to be vidyādhara Sudarśana. One day Śankhacūda a follower of Kāmsā seized some ladies of Kṛṣṇa's party and ran away. They cried for succour. Kṛṣṇa and Rāma followed. He left the women behind and ran. Rāma took charge of the ladies while Kṛṣṇa pursued him, cut off his head and took the cūḍāmaṇi which he presented to Rāma. Killed Arīṣṭa in the form of a bull who entered the Vraja and terrified the inmates.¹⁹

¹⁶ Bhā. X. Chaps. 21-23. ¹⁷ Ib. X. Chaps. 24-26; Vi. V. 10. 25-41; 11. 16-25; 13. 3-62. ¹⁸ Bhā. X. Chaps. 27-33; Vi. IV. 12. 12. ¹⁹ Bhā. X. Chaps. 34-36; Vi. V. Chap. 14.