

Gopālas (*Gopas*)—Ābhiras and Dasyus,¹ chief weapons of, staves and cudgels.²

¹ Vi. V. 38, 24 and 49. ² Ib. 38. 50-5.

Gopāli—one of the five Śveta Parāśaras.

M. 201. 33.

Gopi—(girls) see *Kātyāyani vrata*. The *gopi* women were enchanted by the music of Kṛṣṇa, took to Brindāvana, and worshipped him. By singing his glories and through *Kāma* they became one with Him.¹ On another occasion they were so much moved by his music that they left their household work, children and male members and came to Brindāvan. Though they were asked to go back they refused, and desired to attain His feet. While they were enjoying his presence, Kṛṣṇa suddenly disappeared. They wandered all the forest in search of Him, addressing all trees and plants as to his whereabouts. During all this time each thought that every one of them was Kṛṣṇa and imitated his boyish exploits. After vain search they came to the very place wherefrom they started and meditated on his greatness. They praised him in the form of *gītam* looking forward to his arrival. Soon he was in their midst and consoled them. They took part in the *rāsa krīḍa* where was seen a Kṛṣṇa between every two women. They sang and danced unconscious of the loosening of their jewels, braid or clothes. When they sweated in fatigue, Kṛṣṇa wiped off their sweat. They then enjoyed water-sports, and sports on the river-banks in the *upavana*. By dawn they repaired to their homes.² When some *gopis* were forcibly taken by Śankha Cūda, Kṛṣṇa released them and killed him.³ When Kṛṣṇa was away in the woods, the *gopis* who were at homes sang in praise of his *venu gītā*.⁴ *Gopis* heard of Kṛṣṇa going to Mathrā with Akrūra and characterised Akrūra to be only a Krūra as he brought about Kṛṣṇa's separation from them. They turned their minds on the past deeds of Kṛṣṇa, and stood motionless as pictures at his leav-