

# CHANDAN YATRA - DAY 6

## Gomati - Krishna with the Cows

Upon completing His morning duties, Krishna quickly goes to the gigantic goshala to milk the cows. In Vraja, the surabhi cow barns have crystal walls, enormous gold pillars and emerald roofbeams. The roofs are made of various jewels with ruby capped pillars. White as the deity of the goddess Sarasvati, and sober and grave like great ascetics, splendid surabhi cows wander in the courtyard of these barns. Seeing the beauty of these cow sheds fills Krishna with great satisfaction. The prince of Vraja daily enjoys a great festival of protecting and milking cows.

Around the cow-barns in Vraja there were heaps of cow-dung that appeared like great mountain-peaks and many palm trees. There were passionate bulls fiercely fighting for the sake of a cow. There were hundreds of gopas and gopis collecting cow-dung and smiling and laughing as they narrated the pastimes of Krsna. There were hundreds of gopas carefully protecting the calves, and there were elderly gopis making cow-dung patties. When Lord Krsna thus saw Vrajabhumi's great opulence and exalted residents, He became happy with transcendental bliss.

The prince of Vraja daily enjoys a great festival of protecting and milking the cows. With happiness He eagerly enjoys pastimes with them in the forests of Vraja.



## Why is the Dust of Vrindavan so Soft?

(VOICE publication – More about Krishna book)

“Ha! Ha! Ha!”, the gopas giggled, “Krishna You are such a baby”. “Your mother only gives You calves to take care of!”

Hearing the teasing words of the gopas Krishna’s lower lip started to tremble. Big tear drops fell from His rosy cheeks like shiny pearls. The words of His gopa friends rang in His ears. He pattered on His little lotus feet, back to the palace.

The sky was bright orange and the sun was setting. Mother Yasoda was waiting at the doorway. She spotted her beloved child. He was all alone today. She ran ahead to welcome Kanha, without even looking at her Krishna ran past her.

“Kanha! Kanha!” Mother Yasoda called. “Listen to me”, she said walking into His room. “Come let me bathe You, You are covered with dust.

“Why won’t You talk to Your mother. Tell me what the matter is. Are You hurt? Did Dauji say something to You?”

Krishna looked so sad. “Come I have made sweetmeats for You”, said Mother Yasoda trying to coax her son to talk. “Do You want some sweet rice or puris filled with cream?”

But nothing seemed to make Krishna happy. In this way, He fell asleep.

That night Yashoda spoke to Nanda Maharaja. “Kanha has become a big boy now. He is five years old. I have been thinking that we should hand over the charge of the cows to Him. What do you think? Am I right?” Nanda Baba agreed readily.

Next morning when Krishna woke up, Mother Yashoda said, “I have spoken to Nanda Baba. He said, “Kanha has become a big boy now. From today He must take care of the cows. Be quick now, You have to take the cows to the forest.”

Krishna leapt into His mother's arms with a big smile. He appeared like a fully blossomed lotus. That morning Krishna got ready very fast. In no time He was at the doorway. He was amazed to see that there were so many cows. Nanda Maharaja had 9 lakh cows.



Mother Yashoda handed Krishna a lunch bag, an umbrella and His shoes.

"Mother, what about My cows? How will they walk without shoes? Is there anything to protect them from the sun? If not, please give Me shoes and umbrellas for My cows too."

"Shoes and umbrellas for cows? Whoever heard of that Kanha? And we have 9 lakh cows. Each cow was four hooves. Moreover, cows don't need shoes."

"Mother, if you won't give Me shoes and umbrellas for My cows, I too will go to the forest without My shoes and umbrella."

Mother Yashoda had no choice but to allow Krishna to go without shoes and an umbrella.

When the cows heard that Krishna would go into the forest without his shoes, their hearts filled with sorrow. The cows could not bear to think that their beloved Krishna would walk on the thorny, rocky paths in the forests of Vraja.

They started stomping the ground with their hooves. They stomped and stomped until the dust of Vrindavana became very soft. In fact, they stomped so hard that it became as soft as butter. Now they are happy that Krishna would have no trouble walking barefoot in the forests of Vraja.



Let me worship these surabhi cows, whose horns are studded with jewels, whose hooves are splendidly decorated, and whose splendid neck is decorated with a swinging golden bell. Sometimes Krishna feeds the calves earnestly, placing small bunches of tender fresh grass in their mouths. I yearn to one day see these calves of Lord Krishna jumping and frolicking in Vrindavana.

## SLOKA TIME

namo brahmanya-devaya  
go-brahmana-hitaya ca  
jagad-dhitaya krishnaya  
govindaya namo namah

"My Lord, You are the well-wisher of the cows and the brāhmaṇas, and You are the well-wisher of the entire human society and world." (Viṣṇu Purāṇa 1.19.65)

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Cows are one of our 7 mothers.
- There are four main colours of cows – white, red, black and yellow. Each colour has 25 divisions, making a total of 100 colours. Other qualities such as having a head shaped like a mridanga drum create 8 groups. So in total there are 108 groups of cows.
- Krishna counts the 108 groups of cows on a mala of precious gems. So before going back home from the forest, Krishna calls out the leader of the white group of cows to come forward and counts them on His jewel beads.
- Once Srimati Radharani wanted to see Krishna's form of Vishnu Sheshanaga laying in the ocean of milk. Krishna wanted to fulfil Her desire so He started playing the flute so beautifully. All the cows started soaking the grounds of the forest with endless streams of milk that created an enormous lake and Ananta-sesa appeared. Krishna assumed the form of Lord Vishnu and Radharani took the form of Laksmi devi. Krishna layed down on Ananta-sesa and placed His feet on Radharani's lap and She began to massage His lotus feet.



## ACTIVITY TIME – Krishna's Surabhi Cow

### You will need:

- White paper for Surabhi cow
- Light blue A4 card
- Green paper for the grass
- Glue
- Scissors

### Steps to follow:

**\*Follow the video tutorial below -<https://youtu.be/mnDoR5MifNE>**

1. Cut the white A4 paper in half to make 2 sheets of A5 paper.
2. Fold the A5 sheet paper in half length wise and draw a cow face on it.
3. Cut it out.
4. About 1/3 of the way from the bottom of the face, make a fold to make the cow's muzzle.
5. Make a second fold that meets the same point. When you unfold the cow's face, you can poke this fold to pop "inside".
6. Colour in the cow's head, ears, eyes and muzzle.
7. Draw a long semi-circle for the cow's body from the other sheet of white A5 paper, colour it in and cut it out.
8. Draw a tail, colour it in and cut it out.
9. Cut the green paper in triangles to form grass.
10. Fold the light blue card paper in half. Fold the cow's body in half and paste it in the centre of the card.
11. Glue the grass and tail in place too.
12. Add glue to the centre fold of the cow's nose and fold the nose to go in.
13. Add glue to the ears and glue in place, ensuring that the fold down the centre of the face is aligned with the card's fold too.
14. Add horns.
15. You can also decorate the card with clouds, bumble bees, birds and other of Krishna's animals.





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