

cuta-pravala-barha-stabakotpalabja

malanuprikta-paridhana-vicitra-vesau

madhye virejatur alam pasu-pala-goshthyam

range yatha nata-varau kvaca gayamanau

TRANSLATION

Dressed in a charming variety of garments, upon which Their garlands rest, and decorating Themselves with peacock feathers, lotuses, lilies, newly grown mango sprouts and clusters of flower buds, Krishna and Balarama shine forth magnificently among the assembly of cowherd boys. They look just like the best of dancers appearing on a dramatic stage, and sometimes They sing.

Here the gopis are describing the fortune of the cowherd boys. They are trying to hide their prem-bhav and giving an ordinary kind of description. They are saying that these gopas have performed so much pious activities that they are getting such constant companionship with Krsna, able to see his beauty, his dance, play with him,we are unfortunate. We have not done any pious activities.

As we saw in the last sloka that the gopis hearts were dying to drink the nectar of Krsna's lips, they want to embrace him....Other gopis are saying – how can we quench this thirst of ours. The whole of Vraj will see us and it is not possible. So they are replying – yes, it is not possible to fulfill this desire, see Balaram is also there, but lets go there where the sound of the flute is coming from, we will hide behind the bushes and we will drink the sweetness of his beauty atleast. So their desire is to see KRsna, but they are also talking of Balaram inorder to hide their special prem towards Krsna – this is what Sri Jiva Goswami comments on this.

Krsna and Balaram's decorations are being described. Young sprouts of the mango leaves, peacock feathers, bunch of flowers are all decorated on their heads – cudayam. Utpala – means kamal, lotus whose outer petals are removed and only the inner part is there. This is decorating their ears. Krsna keeps rotating a lotus in his hands – nila kamal. They wear a garland around their necks. Krsna wears yellow garments and Balaram wears blue garments. They also have other clothes for the sake of dancing which are yellow, red, white and such colors which they would tie around their waist. Krsna wears yellow color dhoti, but he also wears other colors too on different days. Sometimes the two of them sing and dance during the cowherding pastimes. Other times they are playing during this time. One will do circus, others will be watching. Sometimes Balaram or others play the flute challenging Krsna's flute....Sometimes they do wrestling among themselves. Balaram will never gasp during wrestling, but Krsna would end up gasping. So in between these varieties of pastimes, sometimes they would sing and

dance. So the gopis are glorifying the fortune of these cowherd boys. Although they are also seeing all this, still they are glorifying these cowherd boys who are able to enjoy all these freely without fear of others around.

When Krsna dances, all around him the sakhas are sitting . And from all sides, whoever is sitting, they can see him dancing facing them. So, he is facing all of them on all the directions. This is called mandali. In this way Krsna and Balaram are singing and dancing in the mandali of the gopas. So 3 things are being described here – singing, dancing and decoration.

The gopis are saying that they seem to be like the dancers on the stage. Just like Krsna Balaram, the gopas are also dressed up ready to dance along with them. All the varieties of instruments would be ready to serve them. Even the devatas would be there to serve them. The main dancers would be KRsna Balaram and the gopas would dance all around them. When they are tired, Krsna would tell them to sit and take rest and watch and enjoy.

Hey Sakhi, see how Krsna dances among the company of gopas with no hindrance, no fear, so free, he has never danced like that with us ever. Although, during the night, KRsna does dance in the same way freely without any fear, still however, the gopis prem makes them feel that the gopas are having better opportunities with KRsna.

The next slokas will also describe the same bhav of the gopis. We will find the gopis glorifying everyone else other than them.

Sripad Jiva Goswami says that - Just as Krsna Balaram are dressed, similarly the gopas are also dressed up with the tender mango sprouts, bunches of flowers, garlands, etc. They also shine like the dancers on the stage. Krsna has many parikars with different bhavs. Krsna is one , but he behaves different with his different devotees according to their bhav. And as such , his lila varies with each of them. And accordingly his dressing also changes. Here the gopis are describing his association with the gopas. And they feel this is the best. This is complete prem, where one always feels the other's position is better and feels unsatisfied with one's own position.

In this way the gopis are describing KRsna's lila, dance, singing, games , beauty, decorations etc of Krsna with the gopas.

Hare Krishna.