

**A “KṚṢṂA KILLS THE DEMONS”
TIME CHART**

Introduction

In Kṛṣṇa's original pastimes there are four divisions: *bālyā*, *paugāṇḍa*, *kaiśora* and *yauvana* (childhood, early boyhood, later boyhood and youth.) – CC Ādi 13.18



Kṛṣṇa's eternal form is that of a fifteen year-old youth. However, His *kaumāra* and *paugāṇḍa-līlās* (childhood and boyhood pastimes) also eternally remain within His body. According to His sweet will, Kṛṣṇa manifests one particular pastime form or another. Kṛṣṇa displays these different pastime periods to fulfill the desires of His devotees, who themselves are wish fulfilling creepers. Although the stages of His childhood, boyhood and youthful pastimes differ in nature, they do not conflict with each other. Kṛṣṇa, the embodiment of transcendental bliss, maintains the eternal *kaiśora-rūpa* (form of youth) within Himself. His pastimes, therefore, do not undergo any transformation. In order to nourish his *bālyā-līlā* (childhood pastimes) Kṛṣṇa conceals His six opulences and His form of eternal youth by His sweet will. This is the explanation of Kṛṣṇa's pastimes.

Although Kṛṣṇa showed His manifold opulences when He killed Pūtanā, Trṇāvarta, and other demons, He quickly hid these powers in order to preserve the sweet mellow of *vātsalya-rasa* (parental love). Therefore the influence of Kṛṣṇa's divine majestic powers (*aiśvarya*) remain in the background so that He can relish the sweet flavor (*mādhurya*) of His Vṛndāvana pastimes with His intimate loving servants. Within Kṛṣṇa's transcendental body of eternity, knowledge, and bliss the various mellows of parental affection, friendship, and paramour love reach perfection. Why does Kṛṣṇa perform these pastimes? To favor His devotees, who are fixed in the mood of *vātsalya*, *sākhya*, and *mādhurya bhāvas*. Kṛṣṇa allows Himself to come completely under their control.

These various pastime periods of Kṛṣṇa are eternal and beyond judgement and argument. – *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū* (Bewilderment of Lord Brahmā)



In his “*Padyavali*”, Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī gives examples of Kṛṣṇa's inconceivable ability to manifest and interchange His different pastime ages at whim to intensify the love and pleasure of His devotees. We would like to share one of our favorites with you:

The *gopīs* complained: “We will tell Your mother what You have done, how, even though You pretend to be only a small child, You enjoy amorous pastimes with the doe-eyed girls, delighting their eyes in the caves of Govardhana Hill.” In the view of all these *gopīs*, baby Kṛṣṇa cleverly placed a finger in His mouth and began to suck on it to refute their arguments. May baby Kṛṣṇa purify the entire world.

—Śrī Vanamālī
(Text 137)

***Kṛṣṇa-Bālyā-vilāsa** (Kṛṣṇa's Childhood Pastimes)**

(1 – 5 years old)

1. Pūtanā (Gokula)
2. Śakaṭāsura (Gokula)
3. Tṛṇāvarta (Gokula)
4. Deliverance of Nalakūvara and Maṇigrīva (Gokula)
5. Vatsāsura (Bank of the Yamunā, Vṛndāvana)
6. Bakāsura (Bank of the Yamunā, Vṛndāvana)
7. Aghāsura (Vṛndāvana forest – killing not disclosed till pauganḍa age (6-10 years))
8. *Brahmā-vimohana-līlā* (Bank of the Yamunā, Vṛndāvana)

* Sometimes called *Kaumāra-līlā*

Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī also includes the pastimes of defeating Kāliya and extinguishing the first forest fire in *Bālyā-vilāsa*.

KṚṢṆA: THE SUPREME ABSOLUTE TRUTH IN HUMAN FORM!

Śrī Kṛṣṇa Bālyā-vilāsa smaraṇa

- 1) At this time, Kṛṣṇa, whose body is softer than the petals of a lotus, crawled around Nanda's courtyard on His hands and knees. Hearing the sweet tinkling of His own waist-bells, Kṛṣṇa stopped moving and looked around with surprise. Turning His conch-shell shaped neck, He glanced curiously over His shoulder. Seeing these childish antics of Kṛṣṇa filled Mother Yaśodā's heart with inconceivable joy. Crawling across the room, Kṛṣṇa eventually came to the door leading outside. Birds sat on the arches over the jewel-inlaid doorway. Seeing the birds' forms reflected in the jewels, Kṛṣṇa tried to touch them with His soft reddish fingers, which resembled the pink color (*aruna*) of the sky at dawn. The elderly *gopīs* relished these simple yet sublime pastimes of Kṛṣṇa-kumāra.

– *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū* (Kṛṣṇa's Childhood Pastimes)



- 2) Sometime later Kṛṣṇa crawled into a room full of gems and jewels, and became afraid upon seeing His own reflection in the jewels. In His enchantment He tried to erase the reflection with His hand. But He could not remove the image at all. Overcome with fear, Kṛṣṇa climbed up on Yaśodā's lap in order to escape. Kṛṣṇa tried to stand up and take a few steps on His own. Falling on His bottom, He would look unhappily at Yaśodā and cry for a moment. To encourage Him, Yaśodā held Kṛṣṇa's finger and walked beside Him. Then that lotus face, which had previously wilted from crying, blossomed with a bright smile. Thus Kṛṣṇa brought great joy to mother Yaśodā with His moonlike face which bathed His body in the nectar of gentle beauty.

– *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū* (Kṛṣṇa's Childhood Pastimes)



- 3) The spiritual bodies of Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma glistened like the attractive glow of the blue sapphires and pure crystals. When Balarāma embraced His brother in a playful mood of ecstasy, Kṛṣṇa looked like a blue jewel held within a conchshell. Seeing the mixture of Their brilliant effulgences, Yaśodā could not tell Them apart. At such times she often mistook Kṛṣṇa for Balarāma. During Their childhood, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma behaved very naughtily. Taking sticks in Their hands They used to chase ferocious animals. Sometimes They ran into blazing forest fires, or dashed in front

of terrified Yaśodā and Rohiṇī, and filled them with apprehension and concern for their beloved boys.

– *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū* (Kṛṣṇa’s Childhood Pastimes)



- 4) One day when no one was looking, Kṛṣṇa began His pastimes of stealing fresh butter. Startled upon seeing His own reflection in a jeweled inlaid pillar, He shivered in fear and said, “O dear brother, do not tell mother. I will save some butter for You and You may enjoy too.” Watching her mischievous son from a hidden place, Mother Yaśodā heard these sweet broken words with great relish. Then she innocently appeared before Kṛṣṇa and Rāma. Pointing to His effulgent reflection, Kṛṣṇa said, “O Mātā! Being very greedy, this boy came here today in order to steal your butter. Although I forbade him, He did not listen to Me. And when I got angry with him, He also got angry. But I am not at all greedy for butter.”

– *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū* (Kṛṣṇa’s Childhood Pastimes)



- 5) One day while Yaśodā was outside the house engaged in some domestic activities, inside the house Kṛṣṇa stole butter again. When Yaśodā returned and called out, “O my darling Kṛṣṇa! Where are You and what are You doing?” Hearing her, Kṛṣṇa became afraid and stopped stealing butter. Pausing for a moment, He answered, “Mother! My hand started burning from the shining effulgence of My ruby bangles, so I stuck it in this butter pot to relieve the pain.” Pleased by her son’s clever words, Yaśodā said, “Hey Vatsa! Please come sit on my lap. Oh My darling, show me the burns on Your hands.” Then Yaśodā kissed Kṛṣṇa’s hand and consoled Him, saying, “Ahh...ahh...Look, Your hand has been burned. So let me remove these ruby bangles.”

– *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū* (Kṛṣṇa’s Childhood Pastimes)



- 6) Kṛṣṇa kept looking fearfully back over His shoulder while running away from Yaśodā. Though Yaśodā felt fatigued and mentally distressed, her body, arms and legs looked very beautiful as she pursued her mischievous son. Full of pride and anger, Yaśodā continued shouting to Kṛṣṇa, “Stop, You thief and liar! How can You carry on like this? Where are You going? Just stop running and stand where You are!”

Kṛṣṇa said, “I will stop if you drop your stick.” After saying this Kṛṣṇa stopped running away, but kept a safe distance from His mother. Yaśodā said, “If You are afraid of being punished, then why did You break my yogurt pot today?”

Kṛṣṇa said, “I will never do it again. Now just drop the stick from your hand.” Yaśodā’s mind turned into an abode of amazement as she tried to approach her son. But seeing her angry mood, Kṛṣṇa quickly ran away again while speaking in a distressed tone, “Mother! Please drop that big stick and do not punish Me! O sinless one, if you do this I will come to you.” After hearing Kṛṣṇa’s innocent appeal Yaśodā dropped the stick. Seeing this, Kṛṣṇa stopped running.

– *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū* (Binding Śrī Kṛṣṇa)



- 7) Kṛṣṇa continued to walk along with the calves and cowherd boys. He carried a flute in His tender leaf-like left hand, and elegant stick in His right, and an enchanting buffalo horn tucked in His belt. A peacock feather crown rested upon His splendid curly locks. An attractive *guñjā-mālā* hung from His neck, a pair of earrings dangled from His ears, and sparkling rings adorned His fingers. As Kṛṣṇa ran along with the cowherd boys a *vaijayanti* garland swung gracefully across His chest, graced with a splendid golden line. Actually Kṛṣṇa did not like gem-studded armlets, jeweled bangles, and the other valuable ornaments given by His mother. He preferred to wear the simple, natural decorations produced from Vraja’s forest flowers, leaves, unguents, and mineral powders given by His beloved friends.

– *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū* (The Bewilderment of Lord Brahmā)



- 8) At that time Kṛṣṇa said, “O My friends! Now please take all the foodstuffs off your carrying poles.” Their full *tiffins* emitted brilliant effulgences in all directions. The cowherd boys placed their *prasāda* on flowers or leaves, on rocks, the bark of trees, or on their *cāddars*. Some held the *prasāda* in the auspicious lines of their palms, and a few put it on their strongly built thighs. Other boys artistically arrayed their best *prasāda* on leaf plates and affectionately offered it to Kṛṣṇa.

As Kṛṣṇa ate, He spoke sweet words that washed over His lips like a stream of nectar. Moving His hands in expressive *mudrās*, Kṛṣṇa took great pleasure in entertaining the boys with witty words. They responded by telling funny jokes that filled Kṛṣṇa with laughter. The blissful smiles on the lotus faces of the cowherd boys revealed the happiness of their hearts. Kṛṣṇa’s warm personal dealings increased the affection felt by His boyfriends.

– *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū* (The Bewilderment of Lord Brahmā)

***Pauganḍa* (Early boyhood, 6-10 years) and *Kaiśora Vilāsa* (later boyhood, 11-15 years)**

9. Dhenukāsura (Tālavana, 8 miles south-west of Mathurā)
10. Subduing Kāliya (lake within the Yamunā River)
11. Extinguishing the Forest Fire (Banks of the Yamunā)
12. Killing of Pralambāsura (Vṛndāvana Forest)
13. Devouring the Forest Fire (Īṣikāṭavī Forest)
14. Delivering the Wives of the Sacrificial Brāhmaṇas (Forest of Vṛndāvana, on the bank of the Yamunā.)
15. Indra's Pride Vanquished (Govardhana Hill.)
16. a. *Varuṇa-Lilā* (Yamunā River)
b. Snake Swallowing Nanda Mahārāja *Lilā* (Ambikāvana, on the banks of the Sarasvati.)
17. Śaṅkhacūḍa Killed (Vṛndāvana Forest)
18. Ariṣṭāsura Killed (Vṛndāvana)
19. Keśī Killed (Vṛndāvana)
20. Vyomāsura Killed (Top of Govardhana Hill.)

* Jīva Gosvāmī indicates that pastimes 9 and 12-20 are all *Kaiśora-Vilāsa*. He also tells us that the *Vyomāsura-lilā* happened near Kāmyavana.

** ŚB 10.15.1p indicates that the killing of Dhenukāsura is *Pauganḍa-vilāsa*.

*** Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura's *Sārārtha-darśini* (15.1 p) indicates that both the killing of Dhenukāsura and the subduing of Kāliya are *Pauganḍa-vilāsa*.

KṚṢṆA: THE SUPREME ABSOLUTE TRUTH IN HUMAN FORM!

Sri Kṛṣṇa Paugāṇḍa-vilāsa smaraṇa

As Kṛṣṇa entered His *paugāṇḍa* period (six to ten years old) He looked exceedingly attractive with His sweet nectarean smile, puffy raised cheeks, the natural fragrance of His body. At this time Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma no longer played in the dust of Vṛndāvana, nor did They play with the honeybees that always buzz in the lotus flowers. For mother Bhūmi, the touch of Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet gave the perfection of happiness. At six years of age Kṛṣṇa and the *gopās*, the abodes of purity and good qualities, stopped caring for the calves and tended the cows instead.

Now Kṛṣṇa rarely acted restlessly and frivolously as He did during His *kaumāra* period. As a student of the *Vedas* becomes sober and serious, Kṛṣṇa turned thoughtful, and grave in His movements. His waist reduced to slender proportions and His eyes shone with a glimmer of excitement. He cast anxious glances in all directions. Where did Kṛṣṇa's naughty childish behavior suddenly go?

As a great epic is full of expertly placed words and phrases, similarly, Kṛṣṇa now used precise language with perfect pronunciation. The nectarean beauty of Kṛṣṇa's effulgence far surpassed the splendor of a *tamāla* tree blooming in spring with fresh sprouts and colorful flowers. Every part of Kṛṣṇa's transcendental body diffused a special sweetness like the liquid nectar oozing from a lotus flower. When flower buds unfold their petals, pollen, and honey they become surrounded by swarms of eager bees. Similarly, at this time Kṛṣṇa's body revealed all the qualities of beauty, softness, fragrance, and sweetness. Kṛṣṇa combined these attributes with a playful desire to enjoy in a way just suitable for this age. This is symptomatic of His characteristic as Cupid personified and His *dhīra-lalitā* nature (a youthful hero expert at joking, devoid of anxiety, and controlled by the *prema* of His beloveds).

The creeper named *śyāma-latā* becomes free from bitterness before it produces fruits. Even before fully ripe, the fruits are soft, tasty, and tempting. Similarly, though not fully mature, Kṛṣṇa's body displayed a tantalizing charm. As a necklace acquires more attraction when strung with different jewels, similarly, the elegance of Kṛṣṇa's body was enhanced by the variety of radiant pastimes He performed. The serenity of a lake is destroyed when intoxicated elephants enter and playfully spray water from their trunks. Similarly, Kṛṣṇa's broad chest and wide shoulders emanated a sweet wantonness that enchanted and agitated the minds of all observers.

– *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū* (The Beginning of *Pūrva-rāga*)

KRṢṢNA: THE SUPREME ABSOLUTE TRUTH IN HUMAN FORM!

Sri Kṛṣṇa Kaiśora-vilāsa smarāṇa

The lotus face of Kṛṣṇa looked extremely beautiful framed by His dark blue locks of hair, and covered by a thick layer of dust from the feet of the cows. The slightly tilted turban on His head looked gorgeous with its artistic ornament of hanging red *aśoka* flowers. The restless movements of Kṛṣṇa's splendid *makara* earrings and the blue lotus flower resting on His ear further increased His elegance. The pollen falling from that flower mixed with the drops of Kṛṣṇa's perspiration to enhance the gentle radiance of His cheeks. As Kṛṣṇa moved slowly along the path, His beautiful ankle-bells jingled sweet melodies. The sweet, drawn-out tunes of His *murali* filled the ears and minds of everyone with delight.

– *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū* (Favoring the Wives of the Brāhmaṇas)



Kṛṣṇa entered the swing arena with His left arm resting on Rādhā's shoulder holding His flute. In His right hand Kṛṣṇa twirled a lotus flower while His bangles chimed happily. A pleasing peacock feather topped His reddish turban that tilted attractively to one side. Kṛṣṇa's elegant earrings and ear lotuses swung in the breeze created by the bees circling His head. Fine cloth kissed His limbs, lit by the jewels of His crown and bracelets. Kṛṣṇa shone attractively with His pearl necklaces tinged red from the rays of the *Kaustubha* jewel. Light delicate footsteps accented His graceful yet playful gait. Jeweled anklets and bells adorned His lotus feet.

Kṛṣṇa, His splendid lips shining, appeared somewhat drowsy from chewing *betel* nut. Yet His effulgence easily defeated the combined radiance of all the jewels adorning the ladies in heaven. Kṛṣṇa's effulgence took the shape of a jeweled mace to announce His entrance into the bower of jeweled trees. As Kṛṣṇa and His servants ascended the dais surrounding the swing, the birds called out, "Jaya! Jaya!"

– *Ānanda-vṛndāvana-campū* (The Swing Festival Pastimes)