

# Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī's "Lalita-mādhava" (Act 1, Scene 1)

**Paurṇamāsī:** Child Gārgī, listen: As we drink the nectar of the celestial Ganges of Rādhā's moonlit smile, merging into the Yamunā of Kṛṣṇa's sidelong glances at the Triveṇī of Their meeting, a flood of soothing happiness eases our suffering and pleases our hearts. Crossing over the seven worlds, we are now situated above them.

**Gārgī:** O noble lady, you personally arranged Rādhā's marriage with Abhimanyu. Why would She desire to meet Kṛṣṇa?

**Paurṇamāsī:** Daughter, this marriage is an illusion created by *māyā*, the illusory energy of the Lord. How could the *vaijayantī* garland of Śrī Rādhā, which was strung with Brahmā's ambrosia and Mount Vindhya's flowers of *tapasya*, be placed in the hands of anyone other than Kṛṣṇa?

**Gārgī:** What is this "ambrosia"?

**Paurṇamāsī:** It is Brahmā's speech "O Mount Vindhya, to fulfill your desire you will have two daughters that will award you a son-in-law who will defeat Lord Śiva and whose qualities will astonish the people of the world."

**Gārgī:** Why did Mount Vindhya wish to have a daughter and not a son?

**Paurṇamāsī:** He was inimical to the king of the Himalayas, the father of Gaurī, who was very proud of the opulence of his son-in-law, Lord Śiva.

**Gārgī:** He could not tolerate the glory of another mountain. Long ago, He tried to defeat Mount Meru. However, he could not rise up again after bowing down to offer respects to Agastya Muni. (Mount Vindhya grew taller and taller as a challenge to Mount Meru. Agastya Muni then went to Mount Vindhya. The mountain bowed down to offer his respects. Agastya then asked Mount Vindhya to remain in that position until his return. Agastya never returned, however, and so Vindhya could not raise his head. In this way, Mount Vindhya's pride was humbled.)

**Paurṇamāsī:** Yes. Those who are intelligent are often proud.

**Gārgī:** How did Rādhā come from Mount Vindhya to Gokula?

**Paurṇamāsī:** She was taken by Pūtanā, the witch who kidnapped children.

**Gārgī:** (with fear) Witches who kidnap children generally eat their victims. This girl was very fortunate to be saved.

**Paurṇamāsī:** O daughter, Kāmsa had ordered Pūtanā to kill all exceptional small boys and kidnap small girls.

**Gārgī:** Why did the king ask her to do this?

**Paurṇamāsī:** He became incited by the words of Devakī's daughter, who was actually a goddess.

**Gārgī:** What had she said?

**Paurṇamāsī:** She had said to Kāmsa: “The same person — who had severed your head with His *cakra* in your last life — whose lotus feet are worshiped by the demigods — who pleases His loving devotees by showering upon them a stream of ecstatic pastimes — who is the root from which the universe has sprouted - has now once again appeared as the moon was rising. Today or tomorrow, eight sublime *śaktis* will appear on the earth. Two sisters, who are like palaces filled with wonderful transcendental qualities, will also appear. When He defeats Śiva, Lord Kṛṣṇa, the ruler of kings, will accept the hand of both girls in marriage.”

**Gārgī:** What happened to the second sister?

**Paurṇamāsī:** When Vindhya's chief priest chanted a *mantra* for destroying demons, Pūtanā's heart became filled with fear. As she hastily flew over the kingdom of Vidarbha, she dropped the first of her victims into a river.

**Gārgī:** My father Garga Muni, is omniscient. Why then did he say that because of a benediction granted by Durvāsā Muni, Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī appeared from King Vṛṣabhānu's chest?

**Paurṇamāsī:** Being requested by Brahmā, Lord Hari's *yogamāyā* took two female embryos from the wombs of the wives of Candrabhānu and Vṛṣabhānu and placed them in the womb of Vindhya's wife.

**Gārgī:** (With astonishment) Did the two fathers understand that this had happened?

**Paurṇamāsī:** Yes, they understood. Why should Durvāsā Muni not inform them?

**Gārgī:** How do you know about this?

**Paurṇamāsī:** I learned this by the mercy of my spiritual master, Nārada Muni. By his mercy, I have become attached to Rādhā.

**Gārgī:** Is it true that when Pūtanā was killed, you took Rādhā from her lap?

**Paurṇamāsī:** I took not only Rādhā, but five other girls as well.

**Gārgī:** Who were they?

**Paurṇamāsī:** They were Rādhā's moon-faced friend, Lalitā — Candrāvalī's beautiful friend, Padmā — Bhadrā, who is very auspicious — Śaibya, and — the cheerful Śyāmā.

**Gārgī:** How was it that these girls became *gopīs*?

**Paurṇamāsī:** I secretly gave these five infant girls to five *gopīs* in various parts of Vṛndāvana. In a secluded place I gave the virtuous Rādhā to Yaśodā's nurse, Mukharā, saying, "My dear elderly lady, here is your son-in-law Vṛṣabhānu's daughter."

**Gārgī:** This must be how Rādhā's second close friend, Viśākhā, appeared in Gokula.

**Paurṇamāsī:** No. Not at all. Jaṭilā found Viśākhā floating in the Yamunā...