

10. Sri Krishna Parijaatham

Scene-1:

Suthradhara introduces the dance drama, the story of which is found in the Harivamsa Purana. Narada, considering the time suitable for arousing a quarrel between Satyabhama and Rukmini, proceeds to Dwaraka.

Scene-2:

At Dwaraka, Rukmini's garden: Krishna visits Rukmini. She expresses her devotion to him. Narada, knowing of this meeting, enters there when Krishna asks the reason for his visit. He presents him with the Parijata flower and requests him to give it to his best consort. Krishna chivalrously chooses to favor Rukmini, though he knows he will thereby incur the displeasure of Satyabhama. Narada greets Krishna's decision with approval.

Scene-3:

At Satyabhama's palace: Satyabhama is contemplating her own beauty with satisfaction and confident that she holds the highest place in Krishna's Asta Mahishis. She waits for his arrival. Narada enters and informs her that Rukmini received her favor, all of which was expected to bestow on Satyabhama. The disappointed Satyabhama at first vents her spite by attacking Rukmini's character. She reproaches Narada also for not advising Krishna. Satyabhama vows revenge. Narada satisfied at the success of his plan, leaves.

Krishna coming soon after is surprised at the stormy reception given by Satyabhama, who reveals her knowledge and tells him to find satisfaction with favored Rukmini. Krishna pacifies her with promises to

Scene-4:

The Parijatham tree planted for Satyabhama sheds its flowers in Rukmini's garden. These flowers Rukmini uses for her daily pooja, to Satyabhama's annoyance. Rukmini answers Satyabhama insolent abuses by reminding her of the true significance of pooja and that Krishna is the Lord of all and not of her own possession.

Narada enters with humorous comments on Krishna's predicament in being the object of many jealous affections, puts an end to the quarrel and instructs Rukmini and Satyabhama that Bhakti is the true and the only way to win Sri Krishna's Love.

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