

## A Strange Highway Robbery

*Source: Stories for Inspiration*

### Message from the Master:

**“If you can spend daily half an hour to one hour, whether you are children, students or adults in jobs or in retirement, sitting and thinking of your favourite God and visualizing his form you will attain perennial happiness and all your desires will be fulfilled in this life itself.”**



One night, Kalu, a thief entered the house of a rich merchant in Bangalore and sneaked into a room where a Godrej locker containing jewellery and cash were kept and the key was left hanging from the keyhole. He could see that in the big hall of the drawing room hundreds of people were seated and one Brahmin priest was giving discourses on Krishna Leela. The thief's attention was fully drawn to the discourse. The priest was describing the beauty of Brindavan and also of Krishna and Balaram, who were about seven years of age and were walking in the evening alone in the jungle of Brindavan enjoying the breeze and the scenery. Both of them were decked with ornaments of gold, diamonds and other precious stones like emerald etc. from head to foot. All of them would have been worth a few million dollars. Even today both could be seen walking in the jungle all alone. On hearing this, the thief's eyes glinted with greed. If only he could go to Brindavan and loot these two children, it would be sufficient for generations together to live in magnificent luxury. He could renounce his life of a burglar or thief once for all and settle down to enjoy his life. He abandoned his intention to steal anything from the house of the merchant. He went out and was lying in wait outside impatiently for the priest to come out so that he could get details of the location of the jungle in Brindavan. Soon enough when the priest came out and began to go towards his home, Kalu silently followed him. When they were in a lonely place, the thief ran and caught hold of the priest's hand and enquired in a threatening way "Do not be afraid of me, I shall do no harm to you. Please only tell me, whether what you told about the two chaps Krishna and Balaram daily walking in the jungle of Brindavan every evening is even now really true? If so, tell me where exactly this Brindavan is, how far from here and also the exact place in the jungle where one could meet these boys." The priest was

terrified. He confirmed that what all the said was true and the Leela of Krishna goes on always and is called NITYA LEELA.

“If you go on towards north of India, for more than 2000 kms approximately, you will reach the jungle of Brindavan. There will be an intoxicating scent of flowers in the entire jungle and the branches of all the trees will not grow upwards but bend downwards so that these small boys could pluck edible fruits from the branches without much ado. In Brindavan you will find in the middle a cluster of Kadamba trees and Krishna is fond of walking in that area. He will be sporting a peacock feather on his head and will be carrying a flute in his hand, studded with gems. I have never gone myself to Brindavan. But all these descriptions have been given in an authentic work called Srimad Bhagavatam whose author Vyasa was a great saint famous for his honesty.” The thief was impressed by the sincerity of the words of the priest. He cautioned the Brahmin while parting: “Thank you, holy man. I am straight away going to Brindavan. If what you say is true, I shall meet Krishna and Balaram and loot all their ornaments and jewelleries. I shall come back and deliver half the booty to you as you well deserve it. But in case I find that you have lied to me I shall certainly return, find you out wherever you are and kill you for certain.” The thief walked away and started on his journey by foot to Brindavan. Night and day he had no thoughts except of Brindavan and the two divine children. On many days he could not get food on the way but the very thought of flute in his hand. What a heart-filling sight! Krishna was looking straight at him and a smile played on his lips. Kalu was fascinated and was unable to take off his eyes. Krishna spoke: “Uncle Kalu, would you like to have all these ornaments? Take them.” So saying, both Krishna and Balaram took off all the ornaments and handed them over. Kalu was stunned – how could these children know his name! He thrust all the ornaments in a big bag he had brought with him. He looked at them and unknowingly tears welled up in his eyes. For one moment he thought of returning all the jewelry and seek the privilege of living permanently with these two children serving them. Krishna addressed him again: “Uncle, your bag has still a lot of space. Tomorrow if you wait at the same time, I shall be coming with more jewels which my mummy will be putting on me. We have a lot more in our house.” Kalu was spell-bound by the bewitching smile and words of Krishna. He could barely nod his head. The next day again Krishna was as good as his words and brought more jewels. Kalu’s bag was full. When he finished strapping the bag around his shoulders he found to his dismay that Krishna and Balaram had disappeared. Reluctantly Kalu walked back to his village. After months he directly went to the home of the priest and placed before him half the booty as promised earlier. He narrated all the incidents to the priest as they had happened. The priest was incredulous. Krishna lived thousands of years back. How can all this happen? He told Kalu – “I do not want any of these jewels. You keep them all yourself. But please do me one favour. Please lead me to the jungle where you met Krishna. You do not understand. I lied to you. Krishna was God Himself who took that form some three thousand or so years back. It was that God Himself who gave darshan to you. My only goal in this life is to see Him

once. How fortunate you are!” Kalu could not understand these words but took the Brahmin with him and again went to the same jungle where he had met the Divine brothers. They waited in the same spot for a week in hunger and thirst. Krishna did not appear. Undaunted Kalu kindled a large fire with the twigs and branches of the trees. He shouted “Krishna, I do not know what you are – God or human. If you do not appear before this Brahmin I am going to immolate myself in this fire.”

Suddenly, Krishna appeared before him decked with all ornaments. Kalu fell prostrate at his feet and begged for forgiveness. The priest was unable to see Krishna. He began to implore God – “Lord, am I such a sinner that you refuse to grant me the vision which you have bestowed on this thief.” Lord Krishna appeared before the eyes of the Brahmin also and told them – “you distribute all your property and money to the poor, come back to the place and spend your life in meditation and prayers. In due course you shall reach me.”

The thief had undergone all the austerities and sadhana which a devotee normally does and disregarding his body’s needs, was thinking of the Lord constantly. Even though his motive was to loot, as Kalu was one-pointedly thinking of the Lord he got the blessings of God. If only you can spend daily half an hour to one hour, whether you are children, students or adults in jobs or in retirement, sitting and thinking of your favourite God and visualising His form you will attain perennial happiness and all your desires will be fulfilled in this life itself.

**\*\*Hari Om\*\***

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