

“MA:THRU DE:VO:BHAVA” MOTHER YASO:DA & DA:MO:DARA

RETOLD BY SUMITRA POTHARAZU (SRI:MAD BHA:GAVATHAM 10.9 & 10.10)

In May, we celebrate Mother’s Day here in the US. We thank our mother, give her cards, maybe take her out for lunch or dinner and so on to show that we have not forgotten all that she has done for us. Is there any culture where a mother is not respected? The Ve:dic culture instructs us, “Treat the mother as you treat the Lord. Ma:thru de:vo:bhava!” Why?

There may be people who say that there is no Lord, but there are no people who say there is no mother. The fortunate people experience and appreciate a mother’s love.

Let us enjoy a story about Mother Yaso:da and Lord Krushna.

Once, our little Lord wanted to be fed milk and went to Mother Yaso:da who was churning butter. Seeing Him tug at her clothes, she understood that He wanted milk and picked Him up lovingly. She watched the blissfully smiling face of our little Lord as He was drinking milk.

In the meantime, something in the kitchen needed Mother Yaso:da’s attention immediately. She left the Lord and rushed into the kitchen. He was mighty upset at the interruption of His feed and . . . ran into the yard. When Mother Yaso:da came back, she saw that the

churning pot had crashed and all its contents spilled on the floor.

“Oh my! Hope he is not hurt!” She thought, but when she found Him in the backyard eating butter and gleefully throwing some of it to the monkeys around, she thought, “This little one is getting naughtier and naughtier by the day! I must do something about it?”

The Lord saw Mother Yaso:da and knowing, “Uh oh! I am in trouble,” He started running away from her. Mother Yaso:da chased Him and caught Him. He looked terrified at the punishment-soon-to-come.

“Did you break that pot just now? Did you spill all that?” The Lord nodded His head slowly and began to sob. She felt sorry for Him, yet she thought she had to discipline Him.

Why?

The neighboring go:pis were watching her to see if she would do anything to her darling son at all. Earlier they were complaining about how naughty He had been and she told them, “When I see that for myself, I will surely take care of it. Not before that. I know how to discipline a child!” What should she do now? She did not have the heart to punish Him.

Mother Yaso:da decided to simply tie Him up to something for sometime so that He would be in one place without getting into further mischief while she took care of the mess. She found a mortar nearby and brought some cord to tie Him to it.





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