Early one morning, Śrī Yaśodā, the queen of Vṛṣa, was busy arranging clothes and various ornaments in a box. At that time, Śrī Kṛṣṇa came and asked her, “Mother, what are you doing so early in the morning?”

“My dear son,” replied Yaśodā, “I am packing a box.”

“And what is it that you are so carefully putting in this box?” He asked.

“You don’t need to know that,” she told Him. “Go outside and play with Your dear friends.”

“But mother,” Śrī Kṛṣṇa insisted, “I really want to know. Please tell Me. I will not go out until you do so.” (1)

“My dear son,” explained Yaśodā, “in this box I am placing sandalwood, camphor, lotus-pollen, musk and kumkuma to apply to the limbs. I am also packing ornate belts, earrings, bracelets and unparalleled jewelled ornaments of lazuli, pearls, emeralds and other precious gems; and fine, valuable garments.” (2)

“Mother, is everything in this box for Me,” asked Śrī Kṛṣṇa, “or is it for My brother Balarāma?”

“Listen, my son, and I will tell You. There is another box of even more exquisite garments and precious ornaments for You. That box is much bigger than this one, and I have prepared a similar box for Balarāma as well.”

“But Mother, if you are not preparing this box for My elder brother or for Me, who is it for? Who else is the object of your love and affection?” (3)

“O son, O ornament of Vṛṣa,” said Śrī Yaśodā, “You are the protector of our lives. Providence has kindly bestowed You upon us as the result of some virtue of ours, or some austerities that we have performed. In the same way, here in Gokula lives a young girl who is our very life. She is like an incomparable camphor ointment that soothes our distressed and burning eyes. It is for Her that I am preparing this box by filling it with clothing and ornaments.” (4)

“Mother, who is this young girl? Whose daughter is She? Where
does She live? Why are you showering so much love and affection upon Her? Please tell Me everything.”

“Listen, my son, I have a friend named Kirtiḍā, and it was from her womb that this priceless and unequalled jewel of young girls manifested. This young girl’s father is Vṛsbhaṇu Mahārāja, the king of the cowherds, and She is truly the personified result of the austerities he has performed. Her effulgence illuminates even the sun (bhānu) in the hottest summer month of Jēṣṭha (which according to the Vedic calendar comes in the astrological sign of Taurus, or the bull, vṛṣa). This girl thus manifests Her father’s fame everywhere. (5)

“Dear child, Lord Brahmā has created numerous elevated feminine qualities in this world, including extreme beauty, sweetness in nature, devotion to elders, shyness, simplicity and humility. Usually, a person becomes great upon attaining such noble qualities; but these qualities have themselves attained greatness by taking shelter of this young girl. This is the amazing truth, and it is why I have a natural affection for Her. Her name is Rādhā.”
When Śrī Yaṣodā glorified Śrī Rādhā’s qualities and then spoke Her name, Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s immeasurable delight caused the hairs of His body to stand on end, but He managed to conceal these symptoms of ecstasy with His cloth. (6)

Śrī Yaṣodā continued: “This young bride is married to Abhimanyu. At the moment She is in Her husband’s house, but Abhimanyu has come here. He is just outside in the assembly hall, seeking advice about household affairs from Śrī Nandarāya, the king of the pasturing lands. When he enters the inner chambers to greet me, I will say affectionately, ‘Abhimanyu, take this box home and present it to Rādhā.’” (7)

At that moment, the maidservant Lavangalatā hurriedly entered and announced to Vrajeśvarī Śrī Yaṣodā: “O Queen of the pasture lands, the two goldsmiths you summoned, Rāgaṇa and Tāgaṇa, have arrived.” (8)

Śrī Vrajeśvarī was happy to hear this and told Dhaniṣṭhā, “I am going outside to arrange for earrings, crowns, bracelets and other ornaments to be made for Kṛṣṇa. I will not be long. You must keep a close watch over this box until I return.” (9)

After Vrajeśvarī Śrī Yaṣodā had gone to talk to the goldsmiths, Subala and some of Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s other nearest and dearest friends came in. Śrī Kṛṣṇa was overjoyed to see them. After some discussion,
He and His friends took the box to a secluded place. There they opened it, took out the jewels, decorations and clothes, and handed them all to Dhanisthā. Then Śrī Kṛṣṇa climbed into the box and, with the help of His friends, closed the lid. (10)

Before long, Śrī Vrajeśvaré returned, and Abhimanyu came in and offered his respects to her. She asked about his health and wellbeing, and then said, “Abhimanyu, I have prepared this box, full of jewelled ornaments, for your wife. (11)

“This box is full of many enchanting articles, such as valuable jewels, golden necklaces, lovely clothes and musk. You must take it home, and personally present it to Śrī Rādhikā in a private place. I do not trust anyone to do this except you. (12)

“You should also give Her this message from me: ‘O Madakñisukhadā (You who give happiness to my eyes), O Kirtidā-kirtidā (You who magnify the fame of Your mother Kirtidā)! O Rādhā, I am sending You this most effulgent box, which contains ornamentation [Śrī Śyāmasundara] that is very dear to You. This ornamentation befits Your body. May You always be thus decorated [in other words, immersed in ujjvala-rasa]. May You attain great fortune and live forever.” (13)

“O Queen of Vraja, I will carry out your order without question,” replied Abhimanyu. He immediately lifted the box on to his head, and full of bliss, set off home. Mounted upon Abhimanyu’s head, Śrī Kṛṣṇa drowned in an ocean of mischievous playfulness. He laughed softly and sweetly to Himself as He was carried off to meet His beloved Śrī Rādhikā – Abhimanyu’s own wife. (14)

The gopa Abhimanyu thought, “Today I am blessed and successful. From the weight of this box, I can tell it must be filled with extremely rare jewels. I will use them to buy thousands of cows, and then I will become as wealthy as Govardhana Malla. Our home will become the very residence of Lakṣmī, the supreme Goddess of Fortune.” (15)

Thinking in this way, Abhimanyu started his journey from Nandagrāma, the abode of Śrī Nanda Mahārāja, the king of the pasturing grounds. He walked home in ecstasy. His whole body was filled with happiness, and tears flowed from his eyes due to intense bliss.
Although he was carrying such a heavy load upon his head, he felt no more fatigue than if he had lifted it for but an instant. Who for a moment would feel the burden of carrying an object that is brimming with such entire delight? (16)

As soon as Abhimanyu arrived home, he told his mother, Jatilā, “Mother, today I must have left home at an auspicious moment. Just see! By some good fortune I have received this box of gold, jewels and other valuables. (17)

“Out of her incomparable kindness, Śrī Vrajeśvarī has personally sent this gift, solely to decorate your daughter-in-law. She also composed a verse and told me, ‘Please listen to this verse, and then recite it to Śrī Rādhā.’ (18)

“’O You who give pleasure to my eyes! O You who increase the fame of Your mother Kṛtidā! O Rādhā, I have sent You this box with this most radiant ornament. You will cherish this ornament, which is ideally suited for Your body. May it always decorate You. May You attain great fortune and live forever.’” (19)

Hearing these blessings, Jatilā became most pleased and thought, “By good fortune, we have attained great auspiciousness today. Our daughter-in-law will be exceedingly delighted with Abhimanyu when She receives this gift.” (20)

Jatilā smiled somewhat, and said aloud, “O son, neither your wife, nor your sister, nor I can lift this heavy box. (21)

“You will have to take it to Vṛṣabhānu-kumārī’s bedroom yourself. She can then open it straight away and behold these most dear ornaments and decorations.” (22)

Abhimanyu delivered the box to Śrī Rādhā’s bedroom and then left. Śrī Rādhā’s girlfriends began to feel incomparable joy. Śrī Rādhā, the embodiment of purity and intelligence, inquired in confidence from Lalitā, “My friend, why is it that today My left breast, left arm, left eye and left thigh are all trembling with delight? Considering the time and place, such auspicious signs would seem unlikely. Please explain this to Me.”
Lalitā answered, “Śrī Rādhā, it seems to me that an ornament made of the most precious jewels [in other words, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, who dresses in ornaments made of jewels] is in this box, which after all, was sent by Śrī Vrajeśvarī herself. My dear friend, Your left side and all Your limbs tremble as an auspicious sign that You will attain this ornament, the ultimate limit of all good fortune.” (23–24)

Śrī Rādhā replied, “Oh, Lalitā, merely by My seeing this box, an indescribably mischievous playfulness is welling up and overflowing within Me. Open it quickly, and let us see the treasure of jewelled ornaments inside.” (25)

Eager to see the secret contents of the box, Śrī Rādhā’s sakhi gathered around. Śrī Rādhā removed all Her ornaments, and then quickly opened the box. (26)

As soon as Śrī Rādhā opened the lid, Her friends burst into a fit of laughter and clapped their hands. “Aaah! What is this?” they cried. At that same moment, Śrī Rādhikā’s companion known as shyness awoke and hundreds of waves of bliss rippled over Her limbs. The crocodile-like Cupid seized Rādhikā’s unornamented body, and She became perplexed out of embarrassment. Astonishingly, Kalāṇḍī Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the abode of all arts, had a moment earlier sprung out of the box and then simultaneously kissed the face of every young girl. (27–28)

Lalitā said to Śrī Rādhā, “Sakhi, this ‘decoration and clothing’ is most glorious. Your husband, who delivered it, is glorious. The house into which this box has come to perform pastimes is glorious. Goṣṭha-maheśvarī Śrī Yaśodā, who sent it with so much love and affection, is glorious. And her message of ‘O Rādhā, may You always be adorned with this decoration sent by me,’ is also glorious.” (29)

Lalitā continued, “O sakhi, Goṣṭheśvarī Śrī Yaśodā affectionately told You, ‘May You be beautifully adorned with this gift.’ Moreover, Your husband and mother-in-law have also approved of it. Gāndharvikā, You should therefore act in full obedience to the order of these three superiors.” When Śrī Rādhā heard Lalitā’s words, She was overwhelmed by shyness. (30)

Śrī Rādhā replied, “My friend, Śrī Vrajeśvarī must certainly have put a collection of jewelled ornaments for Me in this box. But a
cunning thief has stolen them and hidden them somewhere, and then He has crawled into the box Himself. Quickly go and tell My mother-in-law what has happened.” (31)

Lalitā said to Śrī Kṛṣṇa, “O You who desire to meet Śrī Rādhā. O You who used Abhimanyu as Your carrier. By riding on Abhimanyu’s head with the desire to meet his own wife, Rādhā, You have revealed Your eagerness to rid the earth of all chaste women. Give back all the jewelled ornaments quickly, otherwise I will call the noble Jāṅilā.” (32)

“Listen, Lalitā,” replied Śrī Kṛṣṇa, “this friend of yours, Śrī Rādhā, is cunning and skilled in getting Her own way. I got into this box merely out of curiosity, and then She sent Her husband to bring Me here by force. Now She is concealing this truth from all of you.” (33)

Śrī Kṛṣṇa then turned to Śrī Rādhikā and said, “O Rādhā, I removed everything from the box and gave it to Dhaniñśhā so that she could affectionately send it to You. Then I climbed into the box only to savour its fragrance and to make My own body as aromatic. But just then, Your husband came unexpectedly and brought the box here with Me inside!” (34)

Then Kṛṣṇa said to the young girls, “Sakhis, please judge this case and give your verdict. If Śrī Rādhikā is at fault, I will punish Her. However, if it is I who am at fault, then I will spend three distressing nights here, bound in the fierce noose of your snake-like arms.” (35)

We offer our obeisances to that eternally youthful couple of Vraja, Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, who are constantly absorbed in playful pastimes. Through Their majestic influence, the sakhiṣ have completely fulfilled the desire of their cakorā bird-like eyes; Cupid has made his arrows fully successful; the devotees have made their meditation completely fruitful; rasa has made enjoyment complete; the poets have made their astonishing verses successful; and the fame and glory of this earthly Vṛndāvana has been broadcast throughout the fourteen worlds. (36)