

The demons killed by Krishna attained liberation by His mercy. There were many that came to harm Him at the order of Kamsa. All of them met the same fate at Krishna's hands. Following are a few that appeared soon after Krishna was born.

Putana, the demoneess whom Krishna accepted as His mother

After consulting with his demoniac ministers, Kamsa instructed a witch named Putana. Putana killed many babies before she came to Gokula. All the cowherd men had gone to Mathura to pay tax. Dressing herself like a beautiful woman, Putana entered the house of mother Yashoda. Because of her exquisite beauty, no one checked her movement. Putana picked up baby Krishna and laid Him in her lap. Mother Yashoda and Rohini were both present but they did not forbid Putana since she was so beautifully dressed and she showed motherly affection towards Krishna. Krishna sucked the poisonous milk from Putana and at the same time sucked out her life. As she died screaming, Putana assumed her real feature of a great demon. When the gopis saw little Krishna fearlessly playing on Putana's lap, they quickly picked Him up. The cowherd men on their return were wonderstruck to see the terrible demon Putana dead. Everyone tried to protect Krishna from future evil spirits, not understanding that Krishna had already protected Himself.

Sakatasura, the cart demon

At the age of three months Krishna rolled over and crawled out of the house. To commemorate this event Mother Yashoda observed a special ceremony. Mother Yashoda and other gopis smeared oil on Krishna's body to celebrate the auspicious occasion of His leaving home for the first time to crawl about on His hands and knees. Afterwards, Mother Yashoda put Krishna to rest on a soft mattress in an ornately decorated cradle, which she placed under a handcart. Mother Yashoda then went to join the festivities and to honor her guests. After the killing of Putana, Kamsa had known with certainty that Sri Nandanandana was the deadly Sri Hari. So on that day he had dispatched a powerful demon to Gokula for the purpose of killing him. Remaining unseen in the sky, the asura considered that while everyone was absorbed in enjoying the festival, the baby could easily be crushed to death if enough pressure were placed upon the large cart as the child lay in the cradle underneath. As soon as the demon pressed upon the cart, Sri Krishna awoke and began to cry for his mother's milk, but because of the loud merrymaking of the festival, the sound of his crying failed to reach his mother's ears. Continuing to cry, he threw his tender hands and feet upward and began kicking. Because of his inconceivable power, by only the slight touch of the tips of his delicate feet the heavy cart was tossed upside down a short distance away and Sakatasura was killed. Seeing this sudden calamity, Nanda, Yasomati and the assembled gopas and gopis became extremely anxious about Sri Nandanandana's welfare, so they arranged for the brahmanas, well-versed in the Vedas, to protect the child with mantras that mitigate the influence of evil spirits and other malevolent beings.

Trnavarta, the whirlwind demon

One day, shortly after this ceremony, when mother Yashoda was patting her baby on her lap, the baby felt too heavy, and being unable to carry Him, she unwillingly placed Him on the ground. After a while, she became engaged in household affairs. At that time, one of the servants of Kamsa, known as Trnavarta, as instructed by Kamsa, appeared there in the shape of a whirlwind. He picked the child up on his shoulders and raised a great dust storm all over Vrndavana. Because of this, everyone's eyes became covered within a few moments, and the whole area of Vrndavana became densely dark so that no one could see himself or anyone else. During this great catastrophe, mother Yashoda could not see her baby, who was taken away by the whirlwind, and she began to cry. When mother Yashoda was crying, all the

cowherd women immediately came and began to look for the baby, but they were disappointed and could not find Him. The Trnavarta demon who took baby Krishna on his shoulder went high in the sky, but the baby assumed such a weight that suddenly he could not go any further, and he had to stop his whirlwind activities. Baby Krishna made Himself heavy and began to weigh down the demon. The Lord caught hold of his neck. Trnavarta felt the baby to be as heavy as a big mountain, and he tried to get out of His clutches, but he was unable to do so, and his eyes popped out from their sockets. Crying very fiercely, he fell down to the ground of Vrndavana and died. The demon fell exactly like Tripurasura, who was pierced by the arrow of Lord Siva. He hit the stone ground, and his limbs were smashed. His body became visible to all the inhabitants of Vrndavana. When the *gopis* saw the demon killed and child Krishna very happily playing on his body, they immediately picked Krishna up with great affection. The cowherd men and women became very happy to get back their beloved child Krishna.