Little Krishna's Bath-Time Tears

(Yashumati Jabahi Kaho)



Inspired by this kirtan

Before We Begin



Shri Vallabh

This story is inspired by one kirtan from pushtikirtan.com. These kirtans express the divine experiences of Pushtimargiya poets. The pictures are based on their descriptions. This little book is for younger children who cannot yet read or understand the kirtans, so they may experience a little of their beauty and divinity.

This is story is an adaptation inspired by the kirtans. We do not claim that it is an authentic account. Please forgive any mistakes.



Yashoda said it was time for little Krishna's bath. At once, he began to cry. Down he went, rolling about in tears. The very mention of a bath had brought her little boy to this!



Yashoda set the oil and ubtan before him. Ubtan was a paste for washing his skin. Then she smoothed his little topknot. Her hand tended his hair while her tearful little Krishna stayed close before her.



How dear he was to her, even with all those tears! Yashoda's love filled her words. She gave herself to her darling Mohan with all her heart. Why, she wondered, was he crying so much over this?



Quietly, Yashoda moved the bathing things away. The oil went behind her, and the ubtan too. She hid them there, out of sight. Before her was only her little boy, with his tears and his unwillingness to have a bath.



Again and again, Mother tried to persuade him. She pleaded with her little Kanhai, but he would not agree. The bathing things were hidden, and still he would not listen. Yashoda kept turning her loving attention toward him.



Little Krishna held to his own way. Even the gods and wise sages could not fathom all the wonder of his play. Here was that same Krishna, so small before his mother, and still so wonderfully hard to understand.

Original Kirtan and English Meaning

यशुमति जबही कहो

Original English translation prepared for this book.
Not the website's English wording.

यशुमति जबही कह्यो न्हवावनरोय गयेहरि लोटतरी ॥

As soon as Yashoda spoke of bathing him, Hari cried and rolled about.

तेलउबटनोंले आगेंधर लालहीचोटीपोततरी ॥१॥

She brought oil and ubtan, set them before him, and smoothed her darling's little topknot.

मैंबलजाऊ इनमोहनकी कितरोवत बिन काजे ॥

I give myself in love to this Mohan! Why does he cry so much for no cause?

पाछे धरराख्योचुरायके उबटनोतेलसमाजे ॥२॥

Quietly she hid the ubtan, oil, and bathing things behind her.

महरि बहुत बिनती कर राखतमानत नहीं कन्हाई ॥

Mother pleaded with him again and again, but Kanhai would not agree.

सूरस्याम अतिहीबिरुझानें सुरमुनि अंतनपाई ॥३॥

Sur says: Shyam is so contrary in his play that even gods and sages cannot fathom him.

Source: PushtiKirtan.com · Yashumati Jabahi Kaho