Wake Up Little Gopal

(Jagiye Gopallal Janani Baljayee)

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.



Little Gopal lay in His beautiful bed. His mother, Yashoda, called Him to wake. He was her dear child, the joy of her heart. With all a mother's love, she offered herself to Him.



Morning had come, and the darkness of night was gone. The cowherd boys were calling too. Their voices called to the same dear friend: Mohan, Kanhaiya, little Gopal. It was time for Him to rise.



Above them, the moon was growing pale. The sun had appeared, bringing joy to the lotuses. Night was giving way to day. Still Yashoda called her little one, her own dear source of joy.



His friends were playing their flutes. The cows were waiting; they would not be let out without Him. The boys, the flutes and the waiting cows were all part of Gopal's morning. His companions were ready, and His mother was calling.



Yashoda called her dear Lal to leave His beautiful bed.
Then Gopal moved the covering away from His face.
Now His mother could see Him. Her little one had
given her darshan, the sight of His beloved face.



Gopal asked for curd and different kinds of tasty sweets. The morning call had brought them to this simple moment: a child asking His mother for something to eat. Dear Gopal, whom everyone had been calling, was ready for His meal.



Ram and Shyam ate together. Shyam was little Gopal, and Ram was His brother. The two were treasures of all that is good and blessed. Now the morning held this sight: the brothers together, sharing their meal.



A little food remained on their platter after they had eaten. Mandas received what the brothers had left: a blessed gift from their meal. The morning that began with a mother's loving call had brought this gift of Gopal and Ram.

Original Kirtan and English Meaning

A new line-by-line English translation

जागिये गोपाललाल जननी बलजाई ॥

Wake, little Gopal; Your mother offers herself to You in love.

उठो तात प्रात भयो रजनीको तिमिर गयो टेरत सब ग्वालबाल मोहनाकन्हाई ॥१॥

Rise, dear child. Morning has come, and night's darkness has passed. All the cowherd boys are calling, "Mohan! Kanhaiya!"

उठो मेरे आनंदकंद गगनचंद मंदभयो प्रकट्यो अंशुमान भानु-कमलने सुखदाई ॥

Rise, source of my joy. The moon in the sky has faded, and the radiant sun has appeared, gladdening the lotuses.

Read the source kirtan on pushtikirtan.com

Original Kirtan and English Meaning

A new line-by-line English translation · continued

सखा सब पूरत वेणु तुम विना न छूटे धेनु उठो लाल तजो सेज सुंदर वरराई ॥२॥

All Your friends are playing their flutes. The cows will not be let out without You. Rise, dear Lal, and leave Your beautiful bed.

मुखते पट दूरकियो यशोदाको दरसदियो ओर दधि मांगलियो विविध रस मिठाई ॥

He drew the cloth away from His face and let Yashoda behold Him. Then He asked for curd and many kinds of tasty sweets.

जेवत दोऊ रामश्याम सकल मंगल गुणनिधान थारमें कछू जूठ रही मानदास पाई ॥३॥

Ram and Shyam, treasures of every blessed quality, ate together. A little of their food remained on the platter, and Mandas received it.

Read the source kirtan on pushtikirtan.com