

Shri Rams Childhood Pastimes (Shri Ram)

From the Shri Ram's Childhood Pastimes collection



Before We Begin



Shri Vallabh

This story is inspired by the kirtans in Shri Ram Ki Bal Lila 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 story is an adaptation inspired by the kirtans. We do not claim that it is an authentic account. Please forgive any mistakes.

In Mother's Arms



Mother Kaushalya sits upon a lovely bed with baby Ram in her lap. She sings of His little childhood ways and gently plays with Him. Her heart is full of love. As she holds her beautiful child, joy fills her through and through.



Sometimes she lays Him down to give Him milk.
Sometimes she gathers Him close against her heart.
Again and again, her eyes return to His face, lovely as
the moon. She looks and looks, drinking in His beauty,
while her little Ram rests in her loving arms.

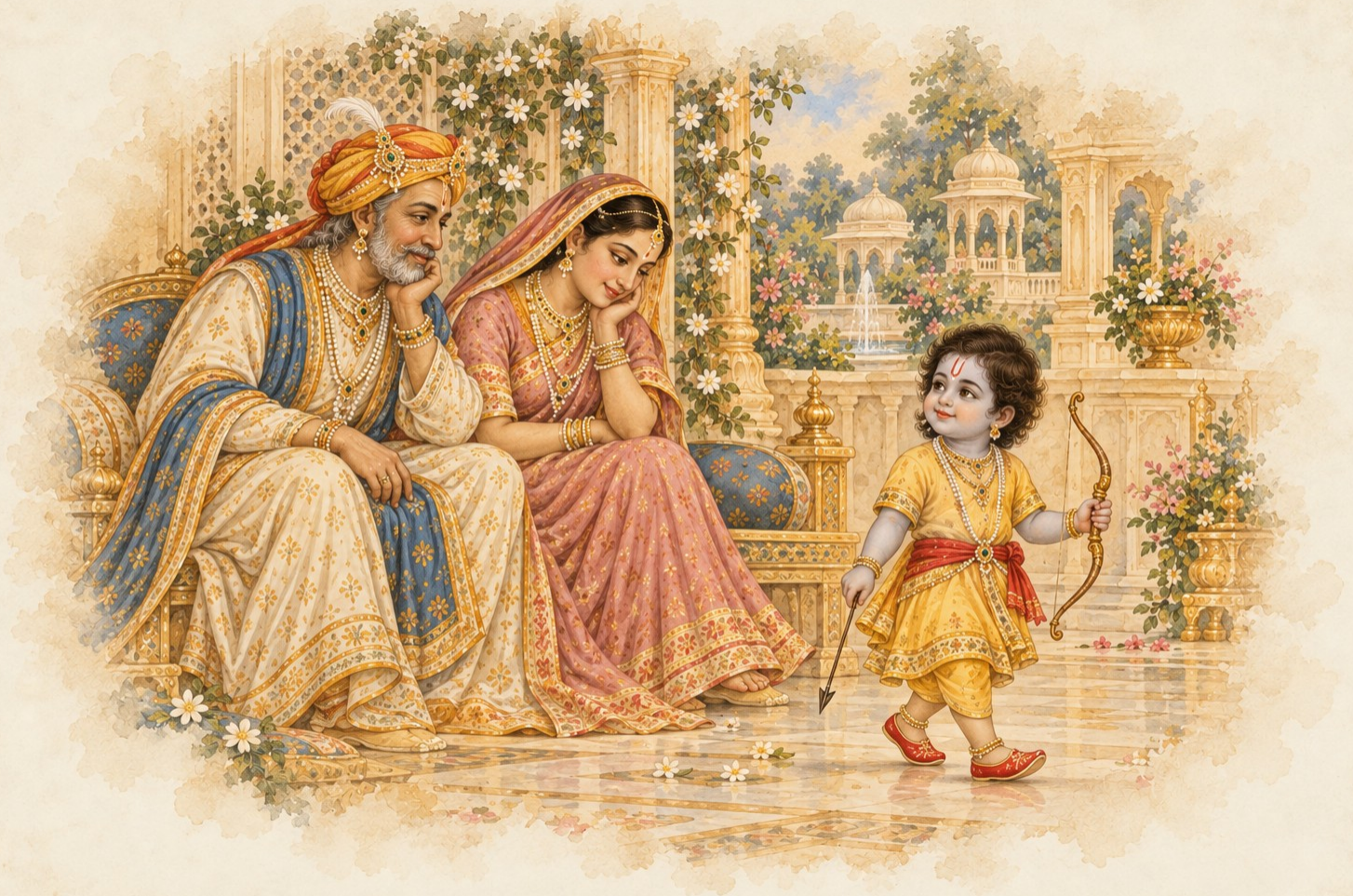


Kaushalya takes Ram upon her lap and plays with Him. Looking at His lovely face, she smiles and draws Him into an embrace. His little yellow tunic shines. A pretty cap rests on His head, and a small dot marks His forehead. Bracelets adorn His little hands.



Now Kaushalya teaches Ram to walk. His yellow tunic shines as He takes His little steps. Anklets ring at His feet, and bracelets sound at His hands. His mother is there with Him, teaching Him, watching Him. Each small step is another lovely sight for her to see.

The Golden Courtyard



In the golden courtyard, Ram wanders about at play.
Little red shoes are on His feet. A small bow and arrow
look beautiful in His hands. Dasharath and Kaushalya
watch Him as He plays before them. Their loving eyes
follow their child through the courtyard.



Ram has three brothers: Bharat, Shatrughna, and Lakshman. The four sons bring joy to everyone. Together, they are like four lovely swans upon a lake. What happiness there is in these children! Here, before Dasharath and Kaushalya, their beloved Ram plays within the shelter of his parents' loving gaze.

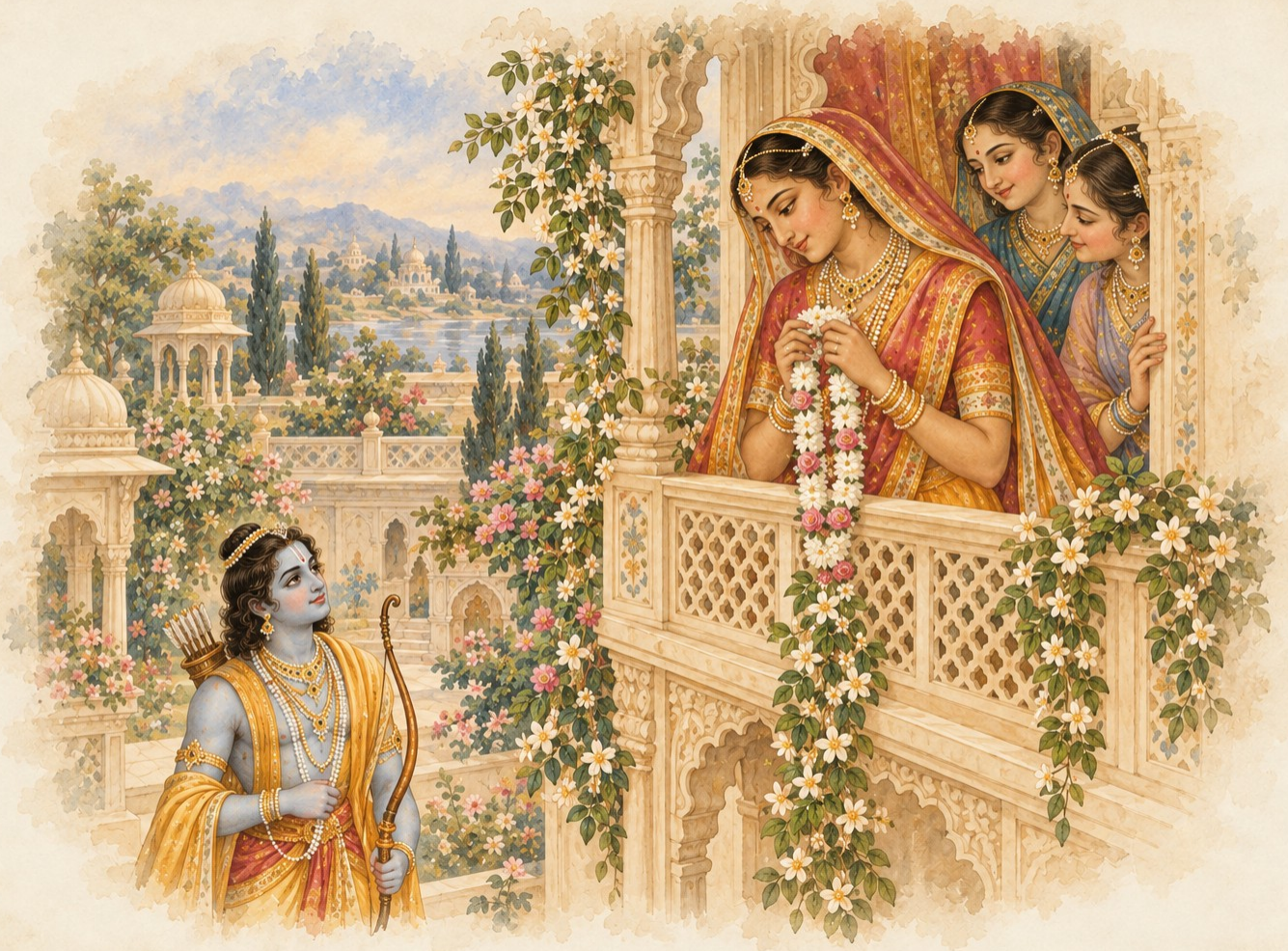


Dasharath and Kaushalya gaze at Ram's beautiful face, and their hearts are content. His eyes are shaped like lotus petals. Jeweled earrings hang beside His cheeks, and little curls frame His face. A lovely tilak marks His forehead. Pearls and gems shine around His neck as He holds His bow and arrows.

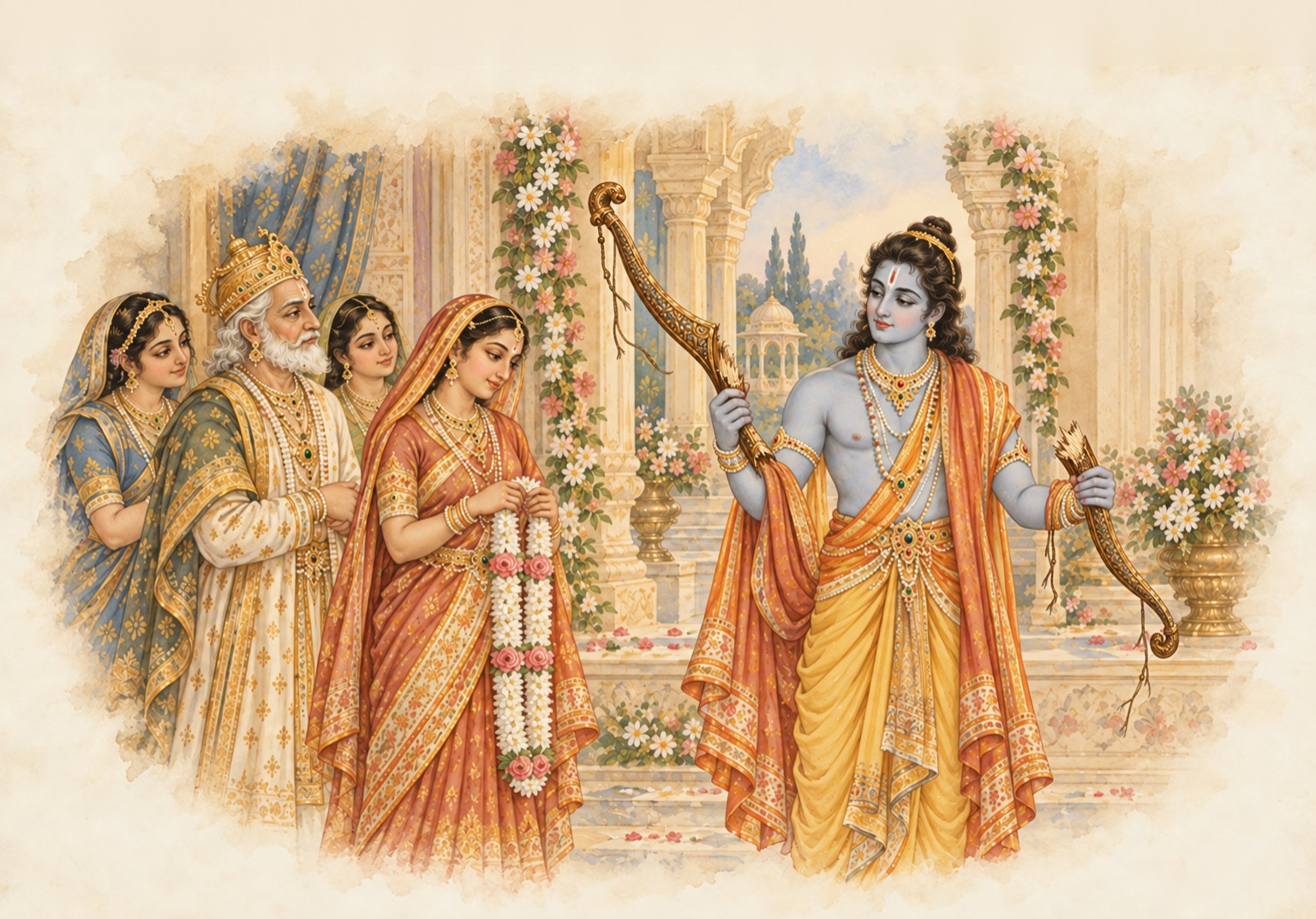


Vishwamitra stands before Ram and gives Him his blessing. Other sages, people, and heavenly beings offer their blessings too. Before them is the beautiful young Lord of Ayodhya, with bow and arrows in His hands. His parents gaze upon Him with contentment, taking joy in the sight of their child.

A Garland and a Great Bow



In another scene, Ram is older. Sita, King Janak's daughter, looks out through a shining palace window. Her friends are beside her, and she holds a garland of flowers. Her eyes rest on Ram. So lovely is He that she stands very still, like a golden figure, gazing at Him.



Sita sees how tender Ram is, like a lotus. She asks her father to set aside the promise about Shiva's bow. Ram understands her heart. He breaks the great bow with ease, as though it were a little bamboo bow in a child's hands. Sita's beloved Ram is both gentle and strong.

Kirtans Used

Shri Ram Ki Bal Lila · Shri Ram's Childhood Pastimes

Read the complete collection at pushtikirtan.com

Page numbers below refer to the printed book pages.

सुभग सेज शोभित

Subhag Sej Shobhit

Poet: Tulsidas. Story pages: 3–4.

Read this kirtan at pushtikirtan.com

कोंसल्या रघुनाथकों ले

Komsalya Raghunathakom Le

Poet: Tulsidas. Story pages: 5–6.

Read this kirtan at pushtikirtan.com

करतल सोहत बान

Karatal Sohat Ban

Poet: Surdas. Story pages: 7–8.

Read this kirtan at pushtikirtan.com

Kirtans Used · continued

रामकृष्ण ऊठ कहीयें

Ramakrishna Uth Kahiyem

Poet not stated on the source page. Story pages: 8.

Read this kirtan at pushtikirtan.com

राम मुख देखीयत

Ram Mukh Dekhiyat

Poet: Paramanand. Story pages: 9–10.

Read this kirtan at pushtikirtan.com

फूलनकी माला हाथ

Phulanaki Mala Hath

Poet: Nandadas. Story pages: 11–12.

Read this kirtan at pushtikirtan.com

The childhood scenes and the later scene with Sita are presented as separate episodes. English prose is an original adaptation; the linked sources provide the full kirtans.