

Krishna Eats Earth (Mrityika Bhakshan Leela)

From the Shri Krishna Mrityika Bhakshan collection



Before We Begin



Shri Vallabh

This story is inspired by the kirtans in Shri Krishna Mrityika Bhakshan 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.



Little Krishna's cowherd friends stood before his mother, Yashoda. They had something to tell her about her dear child. The boys said that Krishna had eaten earth. There they stood, his own companions, bringing their report to the mother who loved him so much.



Yashoda turned to her little boy. “Mohan, why did you eat earth?” she asked. Mohan was her dear Krishna, and the children standing there were his friends. They all said the same thing. Now her question was for him: why had he eaten earth?



“Spit out the earth, beloved little Gopal,” Yashoda told him. She held a small stick in her hand. Again and again she was troubled by what he had done. But her clever little child did not do as she said. His mother’s words did not make him obey.



Krishna denied what the boys had said. He told his mother that they had made up the accusation. He had seen no such thing! His companions had brought their report, but her little Mohan would not agree. Before Yashoda stood a child with a very different answer.



Then Krishna opened his mouth wide to show her. His mother looked inside. She had been asking about a little earth, but what he showed her was a wonder. There, in her own little boy's mouth, Yashoda beheld something far greater than she could have expected.



She saw the whole earth. The earth was there within the mouth of her own little child! Yashoda gazed, absorbed in the sight. Her little Mohan had opened his mouth to give her proof, and the whole wide earth was what he let her see.



The vision was vast: within him were the three worlds. Such greatness, within her small child! Even Brahma and the other heavenly beings were filled with wonder at Gopal's divine play. Yashoda looked into his mouth, where a mother's small question had opened upon something beyond measuring.



Yashoda was bewildered. Wonder and fear stirred in her heart as she looked. After a long while, she closed her eyes. The sight had left her weary and without words. What could she say about such a wonder, when her own child had shown it to her?



Yashoda drew her dear child to her heart. The little one whose mouth had held the whole earth was held close in his mother's arms. She had gazed at a wonder too great to understand. Now she embraced her beloved Krishna, her own precious little boy.



Holding her darling close, Yashoda made a loving gesture of protection with salt and mustard seeds. She wished to keep the harmful glance away from him. Her child had shown her the whole earth, yet she cared for him as her little one, gathered against her heart.

Kirtans Used

Collection: Shri Krishna Mrityika Bhakshan
(Krishna Eats Earth)

[Open the source collection](#)

1. Mohan Tem Mati

Poet: Surdas. Story pages: 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/mohan-tem-mati-467>

2. Ugalau Pyare Bal

Poet: Surdas. Story pages: 5, 7, 10.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/ugalau-pyare-bal-468>

3. Dekhau Gopalajuki Lila

Story pages: 9.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/dekhau-gopalajuki-lila-469>

4. Tem Mati Kyon

Poet: Surdas. Story pages: 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/tem-mati-kyon-470>