

Krishna defeats the demoness - Putna Vadh Leela

Kids Story



From the Shri Krishna Defeats Putana collection

Before We Begin



This story is inspired by the kirtans in Shri Krishna Defeats Putana 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.

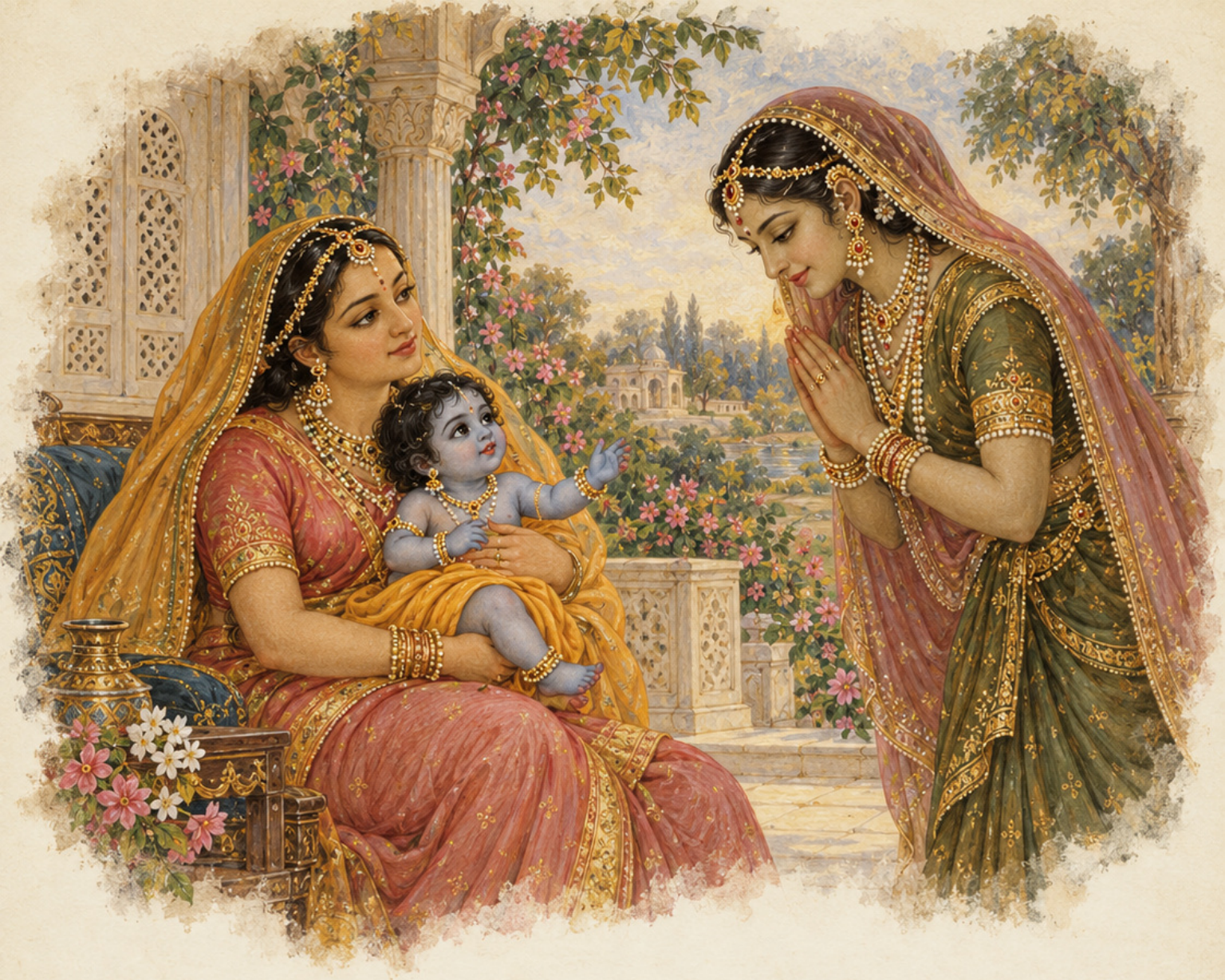
This is a fictional story adaptation inspired by the kirtans. We do not claim that it is an authentic account. Please forgive any mistakes.



In Vraj, Yashoda sat with her little son in her arms. He was Krishna, whom the poets also call Shyam and Kanhai. To Yashoda, he was her own dear baby. The kirtan begins with this tender sight: a mother sitting close to the child she loves.



A woman named Putana came to the place where Yashoda sat. King Kansa had sent her. She had taken a beautiful form and dressed herself with great care. Those who saw her found her pleasing, but her lovely appearance hid the harm she had come to do.



Yashoda looked at the visitor's face. She wondered whose family this woman belonged to and where she had come from. Putana looked so charming that everyone was drawn to her. Yet the baby in Yashoda's arms knew more about the visitor than the people around him did.



Krishna recognized Putana at once. The little son of Nanda knew who she was, beneath the beautiful form she wore. She had come from a family of demons. To the people she looked like a lovely visitor, but her disguise could not hide her from the baby in Yashoda's arms.



Putana greeted Yashoda respectfully, bowing at her feet. She said she had come to see Yashoda's son. Her words sounded like the words of a kindly visitor. But she had come with a hidden purpose, and Krishna already knew the truth that her greeting did not reveal.



Putana took Krishna into her own lap. The poet pauses to tell us something wonderful about this tiny child: he is the Lord of the three worlds. As she held him, he smiled within himself. In her lap was a little baby, and also the Lord whom the kirtan praises.



Putana kissed Krishna's face and held him close against her neck. Her gestures looked tender. Yet the milk she offered him carried poison, for she meant to hurt him. The kirtan holds these two things together: the softness of her embrace and the danger hidden beneath it.



The poison could not overcome Krishna. As he drank, he drew away Putana's life, and she fell, her body grown enormous. The people of Vraj hurried to the place in alarm. There they found little Kanhai alive and safe, still resting against her. Their fear turned to great joy.



Joy spread from house to house in Vraj. The women clapped their hands and offered happy congratulations. The baby had been found safe! The poet sings of the good fortune of Nanda and Yashoda, Krishna's father and mother. Their dear Shyam had come safely through the danger.



Another kirtan closes this encounter by looking at Krishna's grace. Though Putana had come to harm him, he granted her the blessed state of a mother and sent her to the abode of happiness. The poet calls him an ocean of grace. With that thought, our telling comes gently to rest.

Kirtans Used

Collection: Shri Krishna Defeats Putana
(Shri Krishna Putana Vadh)

[Open the original kirtan collection](#)

Pratham Kans Putana Pathai

First Kansa Sent Putana

Poetic signature: Surshyam (closing signature)

Story pages 1-9 · [Read this kirtan](#)

Rup Mohini Dhari Braj

Taking an Enchanting Form, She Came to Vraj

Poetic signature: Suraj (closing signature)

Story pages 2 and 10 · [Read this kirtan](#)

Dekhau Yah Viparit Nai

Look at This Strange Reversal

Poetic signature: Surshyam (closing signature)

Story pages 9 · [Read this kirtan](#)

This original English adaptation draws on selected verses from three of the collection's five kirtans. The closing illustration is a devotional reflection on grace. Names and identifying first lines are given in Roman script.