

Krishnas Childhood Pastimes Part 1 (Baal Leela)

Inspired by selected kirtans



Before We Begin



Shri Vallabh

This story is inspired by a selection of kirtans 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.

A Mother's Wishes



Yashoda held so many wishes in her heart for her little Mohan. She longed to see him crawl on his knees, then place his two small feet upon the ground. How lovely it would be to watch those first steps! To his mother, each little thing he would learn was a joy to treasure.



She longed to see two tiny milk teeth in his smile and hear his first little words. One day he would call to Nanda Baba, his father, and to Maiya, his mother. She imagined him holding the edge of her sari, asking her for something, and lifting little bites of food to his own mouth.

Run-jhun in the Courtyard



In the courtyard, little Shyam took his wavering steps. Shyam was another loving name for Krishna, Yashoda's son. His feet moved unsteadily, and the anklets around them rang, run-jhun, run-jhun. Jewels shone upon him as music rose around him. Yashoda watched his play, her heart filling with delight at the sight of her little boy.



Yashoda sang to him in her sweet voice and clapped her hands. Little Shyam listened to his mother's song. Then he began to sing too. He saw her hands meeting, again and again, and brought his own hands together. Mother and son sang and clapped in the courtyard, sharing the lovely little game.



Now Yashoda made her little son dance. His anklets rang, and the bells at his waist joined in. His tiny heels glowed rosy red. Curls gathered around his head, and little ornaments rested upon his forehead. The ornament on his chest shone like a new moon against a dark raincloud. How Yashoda delighted in him!

Such a Little Boy, Such Wonder



Yet this little boy had done things that filled people with wonder. They marvelled to Yashoda at her son: he had held a mountain in one hand for seven days. The child whose small feet stepped through her courtyard was also the mighty Lord. His strength was wonderful, and his little form was so dear.



He had made the waters of the Kalindi river free from poison. The cowherd boys who had lost their lives had been given life again. So many wonders belonged to Yashoda's child. Those who saw what he had done could only marvel. How could they find enough words for the greatness of her little son?



And still, he was the little one his mother cared for. He had drunk up a forest fire, yet he could spill his milk while drinking it. He had held up the great mountain, yet a little arm could ache. Yashoda's child was full of such wonders: so mighty, and so tender in his mother's care.



He could be a timid little boy too. Beside a parrot's cage, he put out a finger, then quickly drew it back and ran away. This was the same Shyam whose strength had overcome the great bird Bakasura. Wonderful strength and little childhood fears both belonged to the beloved boy whom his mother knew.



Without a lamp, Shyam would not step through the doorway. Yet he had brought the calves and cowherd boys safely out of danger. And when his father asked to see him, he shyly showed his tender little form. Mighty Lord and beloved little son, he filled hearts with love. The joy of Shyam stayed in the heart.

Kirtans Used

Handpicked kirtans

Aangan Syam Nachavahim

Shyam dances in the courtyard

Poet: Surdas

Story pages (PDF numbering): 6, 7, 12

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/aangan-syam-nachavahim-481>

Yashomati Man Abhilash

The wishes in Yashoda's heart

Poet: Surdas

Story pages (PDF numbering): 3, 4

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/yashomati-man-abhilash-482>

Rani Tere Lalasom

O Queen, your wondrous child

Poet: Parmanand Das

Story pages (PDF numbering): 8, 9

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/rani-tere-lalasom-483>

Kirtans Used

Handpicked kirtans · continued

Balibali Charitra Gokul

The wondrous deeds of Gokul's Lord

Poet: Surdas

Story pages (PDF numbering): 10, 11, 12

[https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/
balibali-charitra-gokul-484](https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/balibali-charitra-gokul-484)

Run Jhun Bajat

The ringing of little anklets

Poet: Surdas

Story pages (PDF numbering): 5

[https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/
run-jhun-bajat-485](https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/run-jhun-bajat-485)

Titles are given in the source site's Roman transliteration. The story is an original English adaptation of selected passages; the poems contain further episodes. Yashoda's wishes remain wishes, and separate divine episodes are presented as separate moments.