

Krishnas Childhood Pastimes Part 2 (Baal Leela)

Inspired by selected kirtans



Before We Begin



Shri Vallabh

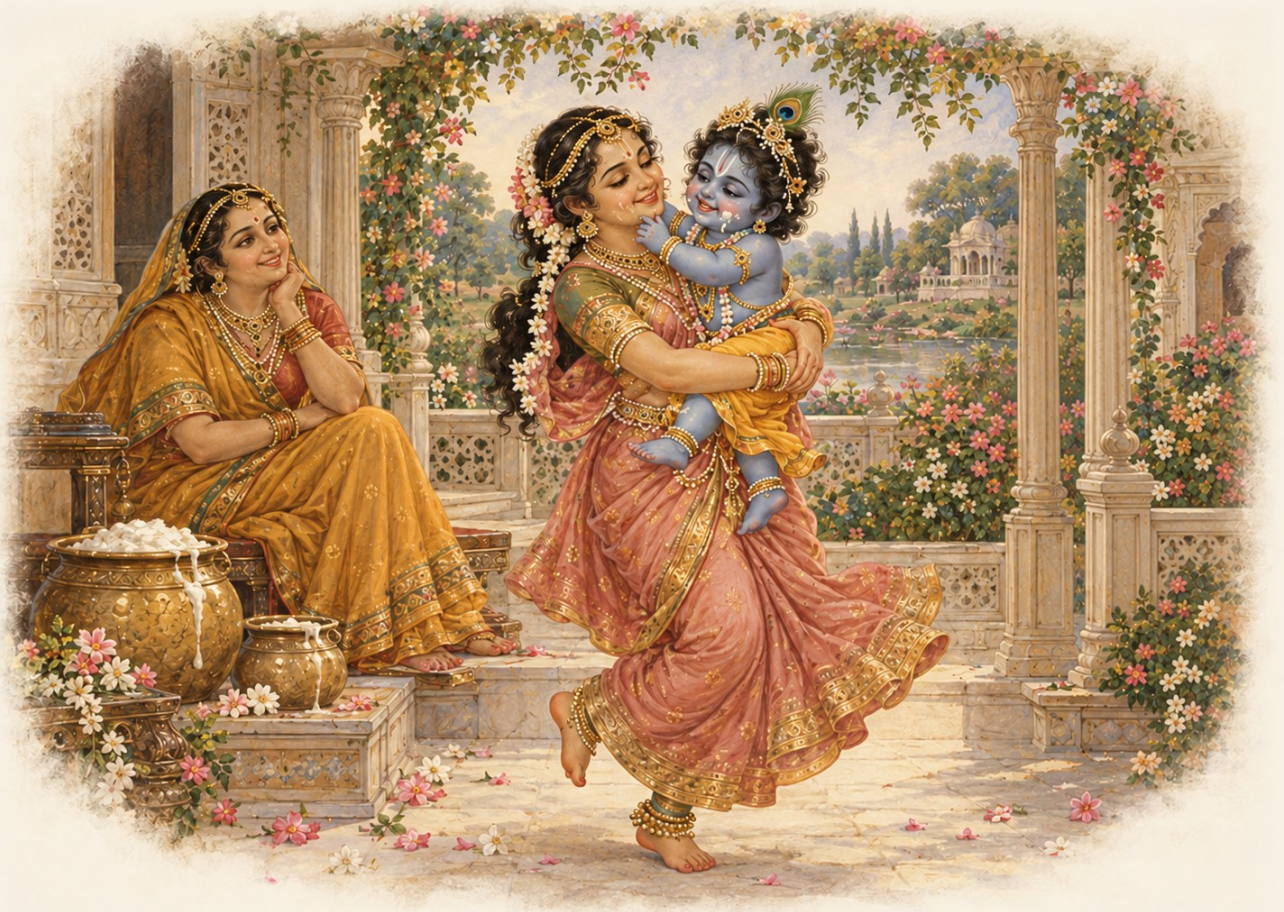
This story is inspired by a selection of kirtans from pushtikirtan.com. These kirtans express the divine experiences of Pushtimargiya poets. The pictures are based on their descriptions. This little book is for younger children who cannot yet read or understand the kirtans, so they may experience a little 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.

So Much Love



Two tiny teeth show in Krishna's little mouth. His dear face is so lovely that the one who gazes at Him feels ready to give Him everything. There is a wish to place a small black dot upon His brow, a tender sign of care for this beloved child.



A gopi holds little Govind in her arms and dances with Him. Yashoda watches, her face bright with happiness. Drops of curd shine on His dark skin and lovely face. His curling hair gathers around His cheeks, while the joy of seeing Him fills His mother's heart.



Little Mohan moves about on His knees. His body is small, His movements lively, and a soft smile rests upon His face. Those who look at Him feel their hearts fill with joy. From the curls around His face to His little moving knees, He is dear to them.

Little Steps



Yashoda teaches Krishna to walk. He eagerly holds her hand, and His little feet wobble on the ground. She calls Balaram so that the two brothers may play in the courtyard. Gazing at her Kanhaiya, she prays for His long life and surrounds Him with a mother's loving care.



At another playful moment, Hari sings softly to Himself. His tiny feet move in a dance, and He delights in His own little song. Yashoda watches these dear childhood ways again and again. There is happiness in His singing, happiness in His dancing, and happiness in His mother's heart.

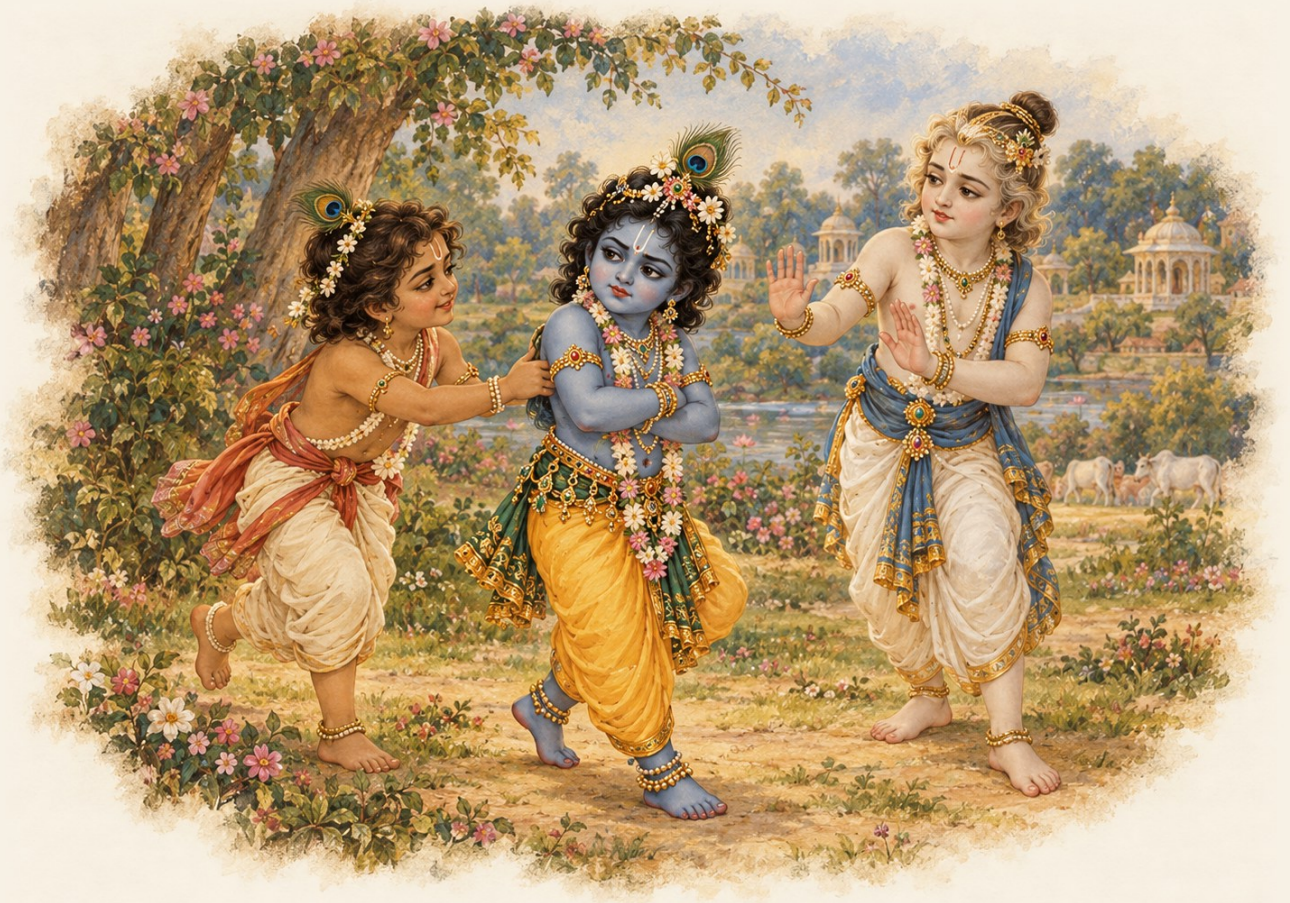


Krishna raises His arms and calls to the cows. Some are dark, and some are white. Sometimes He calls for Baba Nanda, His father; sometimes He comes into the house. Yashoda sees His little ways, and her delight keeps growing as she watches her beloved son.

With His Friends



In His games with the cowherd boys, Shyam has dear companions: Subal, Balaram, and Shridama. There are many kinds of play. The boys clap their hands and run, racing one another. Shyam joins His friends in their lively games, with little feet that are ready to run.



Balaram worries that Shyam's feet may get hurt and cautions Him about running. But Shyam feels strong. He knows how to run, and Shridama is a match for Him at play. When Shridama reaches to tag Him, Shyam protests: He was standing still on purpose! For a moment, He feels cross with His friend.

A Little Butter



There are quieter little moments at home, too. Hari takes a small bit of butter in His own hand and puts a little into His mouth. Yashoda watches Him with delight. His little hand, His little mouth, and this simple taste of butter are all dear to her.



Sometimes Krishna sees His own reflection in a pillar. He shows it the butter in His hand. There is His little face, and there is the butter, reflected before Him. Yashoda looks on with growing joy. Day after day, the childhood ways of her beloved Shyam are a delight to behold.

Kirtans Used

Handpicked kirtans • pushtikirtan.com

Page references below use the story numbers 1–10.

हों वारी तेरे

Hom Vari Tere

Poet: Surdas • Story pages: 1

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/hom-vari-tere-486>

गोषी नाचति गोद

Goshi Nachati God

Poet: Das Govind • Story pages: 2–3

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/goshi-nachati-god-487>

सिखवत चलन यशोदा

Sikhavat Chalan Yashoda

Poet: Surdas • Story pages: 4

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/sikhavat-chalan-yashoda-488>

Kirtans Used

हरि अपने आगे

Hari Apane Aage

Poet: Surdas • Story pages: 5–6, 9–10

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/hari-apane-aage-489>

खेलत श्याम ग्वालन

Khelat Shyam Gvalan

Poet: Surdas • Story pages: 7–8

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/khelat-shyam-gvalan-490>

The English story is an original adaptation of the selected verses. Separate childhood moments are kept distinct. The final two scenes return to Hari's butter play and Yashoda's joy, as described in Hari Apane Aage.