

Krishnas Childhood Pastimes Part 3 (Baal Leela)

Inspired by selected kirtans



Before We Begin



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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.



In Nanda's courtyard, two little brothers play together. Krishna is dark, and Balaram is fair. Blue and yellow cloths brighten the pair, and jewels shine in the beautiful courtyard floor. Yashoda and Rohini are close beside their little sons, watching them with all a mother's love.



The mothers snap their fingers, and the little boys dance. Their anklets tinkle; their bracelets and tiny waist bells join the sound. The women of Vraj watch, their hearts drawn to the children. There is so much joy in those small dancing figures that the women forget to feel shy.



Little Krishna wanders about the lovely courtyard. His baby words are still soft and lisping, and how dear they are! A precious garland and ornaments rest at His neck. A golden tilak marks His forehead, and dark curls hang around His face, like little bees around a flower.



And there is butter! Some is in Krishna's hands, and some has spread across His face. He eats a little, but a little stays on His cheeks. With His curls, His bright tilak, and those buttery cheeks, Nanda's dear child is more wonderful than words can tell.

A Calf at Play



There are other lively moments in Krishna's play. He catches a calf by its tail and pulls it toward Himself. But sometimes the calf runs, taking little Krishna along toward the women of Vraj. The beautiful child has caught their eyes, and their hearts fill with love and delight.



One woman watches Krishna. Another reaches to take hold of Him. Another leaves her home laughing, unable to stay away from His play. Each shows her love in her own way. The joy of His childhood play draws them together, full of wonder at their dear little Krishna.

Beneath the Yellow Cloth



Along the path, Krishna has His own mischievous ways. He insists on eating butter, and then draws His yellow cloth up over His head. Beneath its edge, He smiles. His dark beauty is so lovely that even the forests, leafy groves, and rivers seem enchanted by Him.



A woman comes to Yashoda with a complaint about Him, but she feels shy even as she tells it. Before His mother, mischievous Krishna becomes so modest and small. Yashoda looks at His face. How can she believe all these tales about the little boy standing before her?

The Jewel of Vraj



Yet this dear little child is also Mohan, the precious jewel of Vraj. Even when danger comes, His power is beyond measure. Putana falls before Him. The child who is so dear to Yashoda overcomes the one who would harm Him. Small as He is, Mohan cannot be overcome.



Trinavarta carries Him high into the sky, but even there Mohan defeats him. Those who come to cause harm cannot master this child. Yashoda is urged to care tenderly for her precious son. He is her Shyam, her dark little Krishna, and the very life of those who love Him.

Kirtans Used

Handpicked kirtans

Dekhau Mai Ya

Poet: Surdas

Story pages 7–8 (PDF pages 9–10)

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/dekhau-mai-ya-491>

Mohan Brajakerau Ratan

Poet: Parmananddas

Story pages 9–10 (PDF pages 11–12)

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/mohan-brajakerau-ratan-492>

Manimay Aangan Nand

Poet: Parmananddas

Story pages 1–2 (PDF pages 3–4)

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/manimay-aangan-nand-493>

Kirtans Used

Handpicked kirtans · continued

Khelat Madan Sundar

Story pages 5–6 (PDF pages 7–8)

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/khelat-madan-sundar-494>

Bal Vinod Aanganamenki

Poet: Surdas

Story pages 3–4 (PDF pages 5–6)

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/bal-vinod-aanganamenki-495>

The titles above use checked transliteration from the individual source pages. All five selected kirtans inform this original English adaptation. The episodes are kept distinct where their setting or event changes.