

Krishnas Childhood Pastimes Part 4 (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.

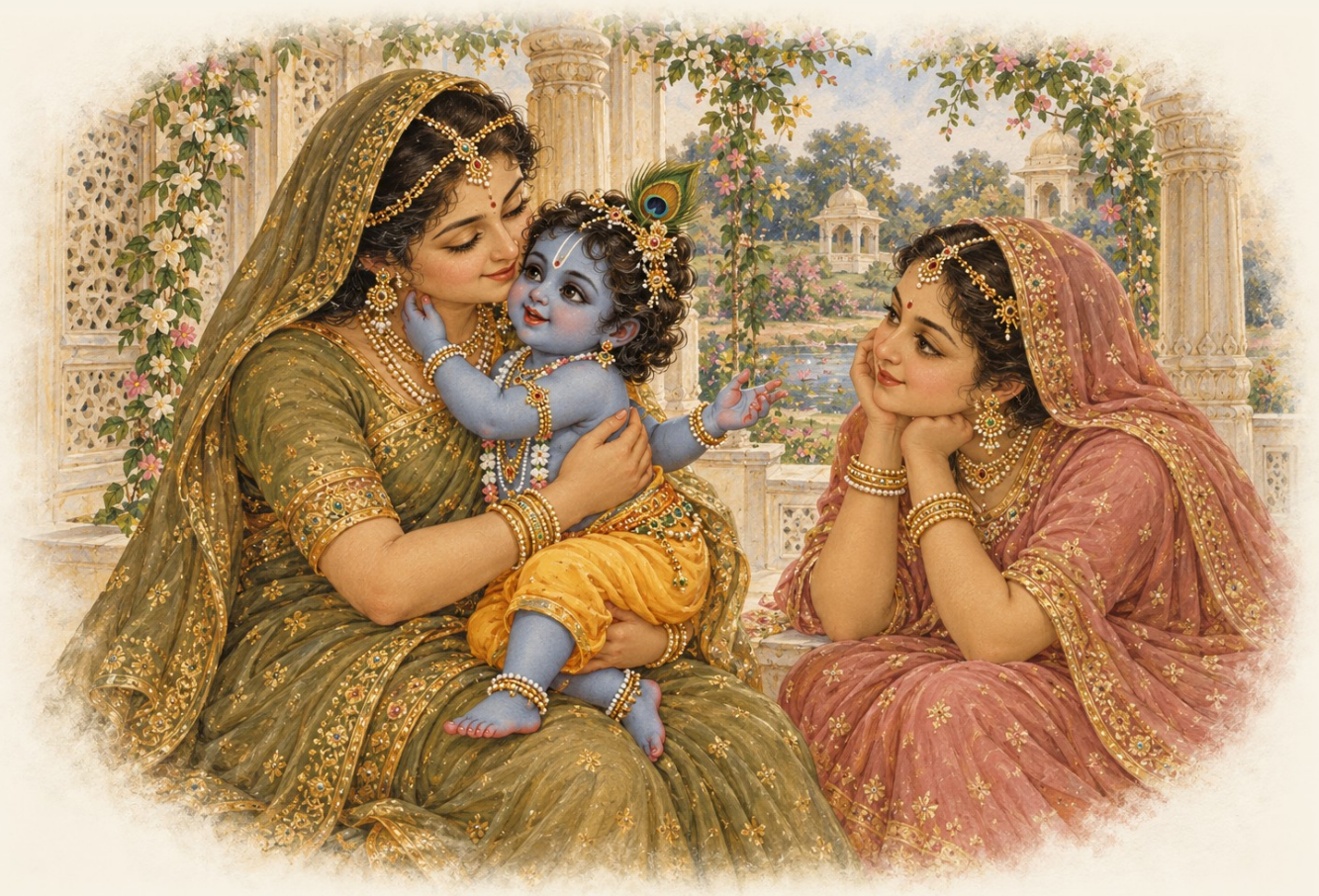
Little Bells and Little Words



Little Krishna and his brother moved on their knees. Loose curls framed their faces, and tilaks shone on their foreheads. Their eyes were dark with kajal. Yashoda watched her two little boys, and the sight of them filled her heart with joy.



As the brothers moved, their ornaments made sweet little sounds. There were anklets at their feet and bells around their waists, ornaments at their ears and garlands upon their chests. Yashoda looked at them with wonder. How blessed she felt to be their mother!



Krishna had little words of his own, too. In Gokul, the women of Vraj listened to his baby talk again and again. They could not make out what he was saying, but they loved to hear him. They held him close to their hearts, full of delight.



Laughing and laughing, Krishna touched their cheeks.
The women caressed him and kissed his dear little face.
His playful ways held their hearts so completely that they
did not want to leave him, even for a moment. Little
Krishna played happily among them, surrounded by their
love.

The Boy in the Mirror



A mirror brought another small wonder. Gopal, little Krishna, looked into it and saw a boy who looked just like him. He asked Maiya who this other little son of hers could be. He told her to feed that boy in her lap; he would not eat today.



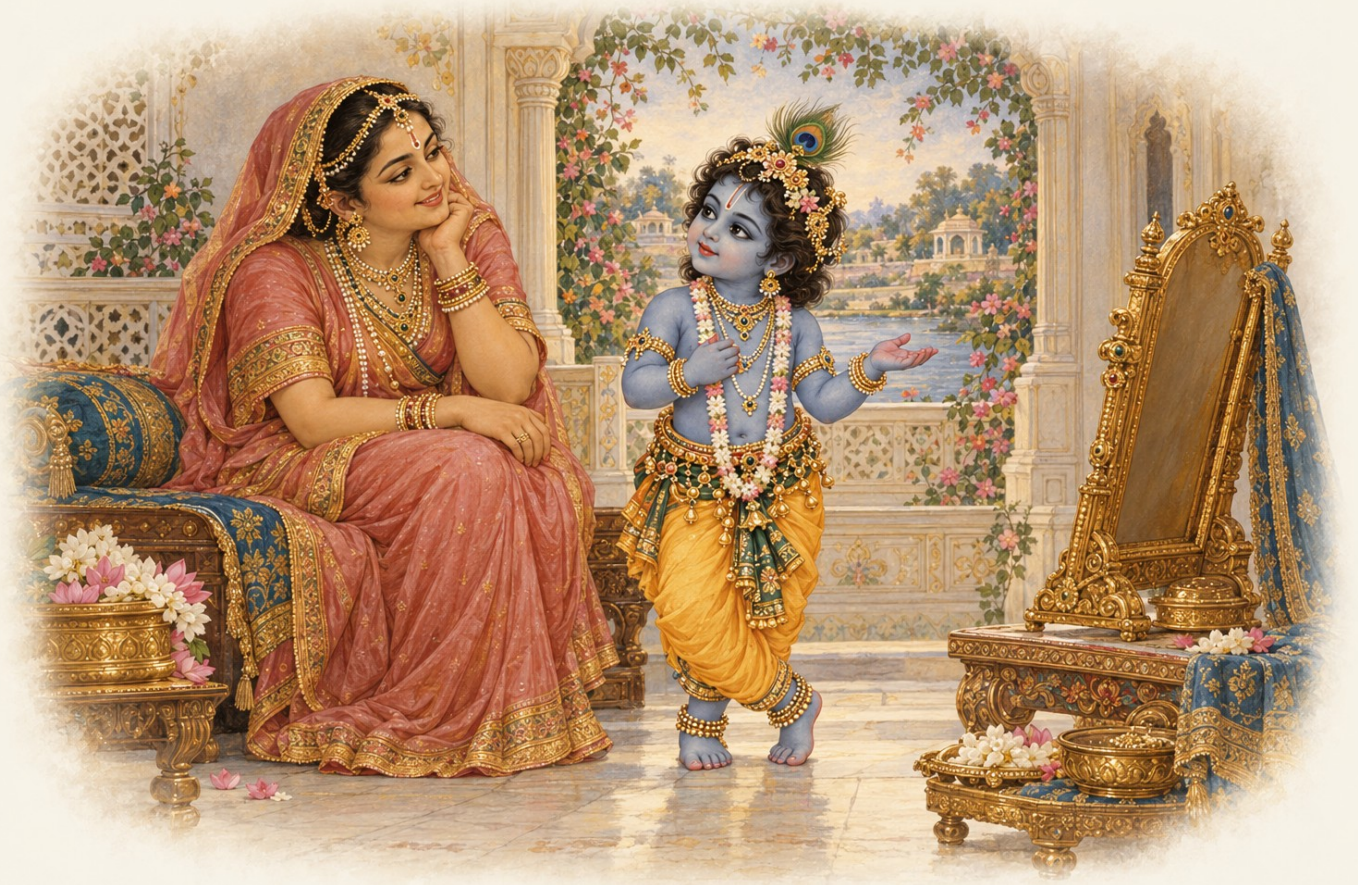
He would take his things and sit in Baba's lap, he said. He spoke of playing in Vraj and looking after his own cows. Maiya held the mirror against her heart. Who else was her son? she asked him. He alone was her own dear child.



The face in the reflection could be a playmate, too. Gopal held a laddu toward the other boy's mouth and called him to play. But the boy did not come. Gopal grew cross. Again and again, he called to the little brother he could see but could not catch.



He took off his necklace and tried to put it around the other boy's neck. He spoke sweetly to him and tried to teach him his little words. Then he held out his ornaments in his hands. Still the boy in the reflection would not come along to play.



What could he do? The little boy would not listen, and Gopal wanted him to come and play. He asked for him to be taken by the hand and brought along. Yashoda heard her son's words. His dear little ways made the joy in her heart grow and grow.

Maiya's Blessing



Yashoda took her lotus-eyed child into her lap and gazed at his face. She placed the dust of his little feet upon her head. With mustard seeds and salt, she offered her loving protection, brushing him with her sari's end. Again and again, she blessed her dear child: may he be protected; may he live long.

Kirtans Used

Handpicked kirtans · pushtikirtan.com

Titles are given in checked transliteration. Page numbers below refer to the printed pages of this book.

Alabal Bolat Bani

Story pages: 5, 6.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/alabal-bolat-bani-496>

Dekhat Darpan Kahat

Poet / signature: Rasik Pritam. Story pages: 7, 8.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/dekhat-darpan-kahat-497>

Dekhi Pratibimb Gopal

Poet / signature: Rasik Pritam. Story pages: 9, 10, 11.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/dekhi-pratibimb-gopal-498>

Kirtans Used

Handpicked kirtans · pushtikirtan.com

Dou Bhaiya Ghuturuvan

Story pages: 3, 4.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/dou-bhaiya-ghuturuvan-499>

Yah Tan Kamal

Poet / signature: Parmananddas. Story pages: 12.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/yah-tan-kamal-500>