

Krishnas Childhood Pastimes Part 5 (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.

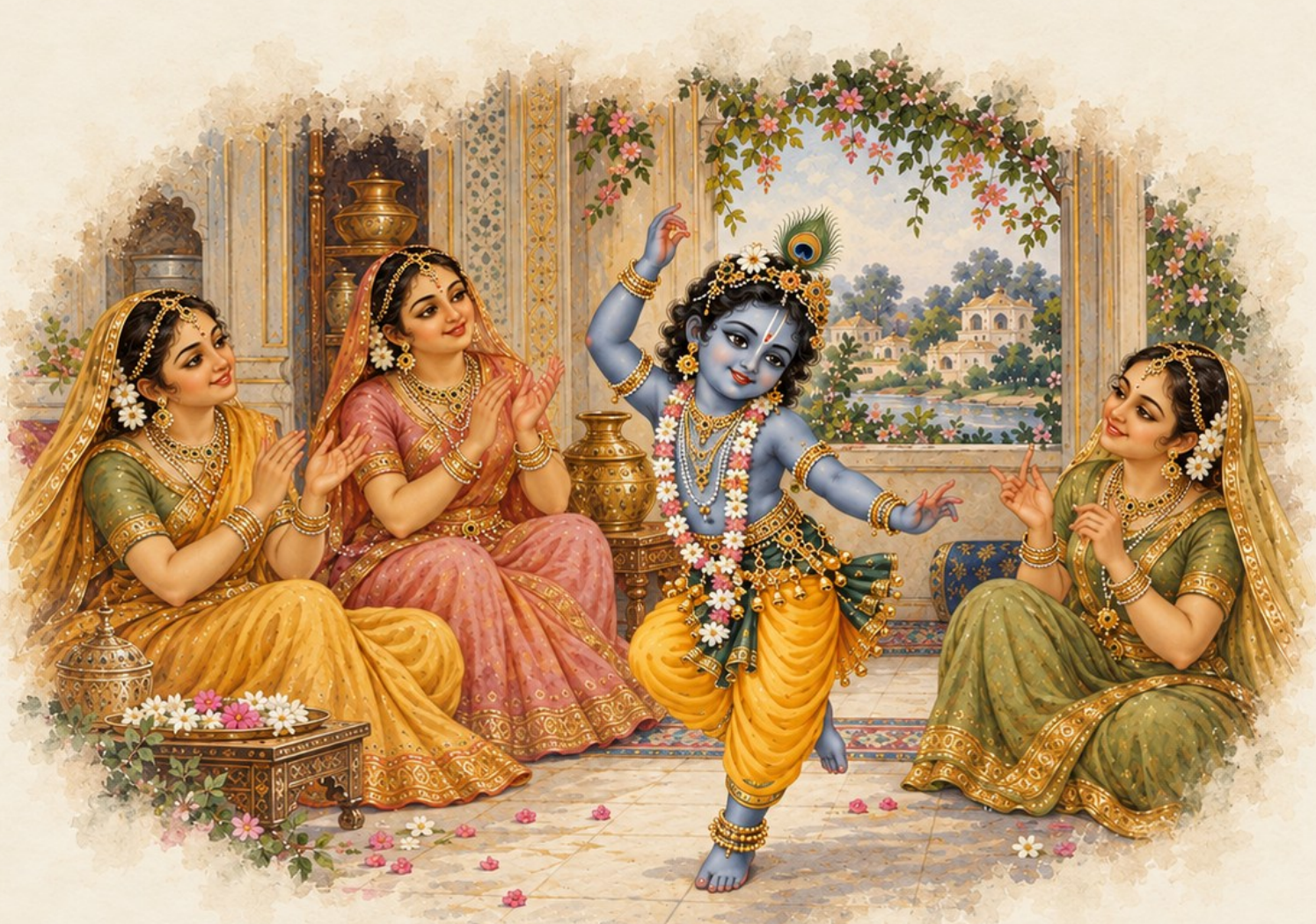
Little Feet in Gokul



In Gokul, little Krishna ran about the courtyard with Bal, his brother. His skin was dark as a rain cloud. Mother Yashoda watched her little boy at play, her heart full of love. She sang of him with joy. How dear Gopal was to his mother!



Yashoda took Krishna into her lap and kissed his face. To her, he was her own dear son, a little boy to hold and play with. Even the great gods and sages could not measure his greatness. Yet here he was, happily being a cowherd child in his mother's lap.



That same little Gopal delighted the women of Gokul. In every home he visited, loving arms gathered him up. They laughed and called him their dear child. They snapped their fingers and clapped their hands, and Gopal danced. His little dance brought joy to everyone watching him.

The Hidden Curd-Pot



There was mischief in Gopal's play, too. While a woman went to fetch milk, clever Kanh hid the pot of curd, the thick milk food kept in the house. She was vexed with her little darling. She had gone for the milk, and he had hidden the pot!



And the curd was scattered through the house. What could she do with such a little boy? Gopal had called his friends to join him. He invited the boys to drink. Nanda's little son was giving the orders, with his companions there beside him and curd all around.



The woman ran to Krishna and lifted him into her arms. She looked and looked at his face, taking in her dear little Mohan. And Mohan smiled. The same child who had stirred up such mischief brought sweet comfort to the hearts of the women of Vraj.

Joy in Every Home



Across Vraj, the women had so much to do. They milked the cows, churned milk, and ground grain. They cared for their families and made their homes clean and lovely. Their hands were busy, with hardly a moment to spare. Yet Krishna stayed in their thoughts through it all.



They sang of Hari and his wonderful childhood play. Day and night, his dear ways filled their lives with happiness. Lamps shone in home after home. Bracelets and anklets sounded as the women moved. In all that busy village life, there was joy in remembering the lotus-eyed child.

A Mother's Love



But Yashoda's love held worry, too. Kansa wished harm, and she wondered where she could keep her Gopal safe. He had already been protected from Shakata, Putana, and Trinavarta. The sage Garga's words could not be made untrue. Still, a mother could be afraid for her little child.



Krishna was the eternal Lord, whose life and greatness have no end. Yet Yashoda loved him as her little boy. All his greatness did not take away her mother's care. Such was her love for Gopal: so full, so tender, and so deep that she worried for him still.

Kirtans Used

Handpicked kirtans

Baladasha Gopalaki

Poet / verse signature: Parmanand

Story pages: 3

PDF pages: 5

[pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/
baladasha-gopalaki-501](http://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/baladasha-gopalaki-501)

Bal Vinod Gopal

Poet / verse signature: Parmanand

Story pages: 1, 2, 10

PDF pages: 3, 4, 12

[pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/
bal-vinod-gopal-502](http://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/bal-vinod-gopal-502)

Hari Lila Gavat

Poet / verse signature: Parmanand

Story pages: 7, 8

PDF pages: 9, 10

[pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/
hari-lila-gavat-503](http://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/hari-lila-gavat-503)

Kirtans Used

Handpicked kirtans · continued

Haum Bhorī Meri

Poet / verse signature: Krishna Jivan Lachhiram

Story pages: 4, 5, 6

PDF pages: 6, 7, 8

[pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/
haum-bhori-meri-504](http://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/haum-bhori-meri-504)

Nahin Gokul Bas

Poet / verse signature: Parmanand

Story pages: 9, 10

PDF pages: 11, 12

[pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/
nahin-gokul-bas-505](http://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/nahin-gokul-bas-505)

The story is an original English adaptation. The linked pages provide the original verses, English meanings, and transliterations. Page references above identify the numbered story pages and their positions in this PDF.