

Krishna's RupChaturdashi Pastimes

From the Rup Chaturdashi Abhyang collection



Before We Begin



Shri Vallabh

This story is inspired by the kirtans in Rup Chaturdashi Abhyang 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.



It was RupChaturdashi in Vraj, the day before Diwali. Yashoda was getting her little Krishna ready for His festival bath. She had fragrant saffron paste and fresh clothes for Him. Her hands were busy with His care, and her heart was full of joy.



But little Krishna was moving about with bath paste on His arms and legs! His brother Balram had been bathed, and now it was His turn. Mother looked at His lotus-like eyes with love. The warm water was ready in a golden vessel, made comfortable for her little one.



Yashoda offered Krishna lovely toys as she settled down to bathe Him. She gently comforted her little one, asking Him not to cry. Fragrant oil and soft bath paste covered His limbs. On His forehead she placed a sacred tilak, with grains of rice resting upon it.



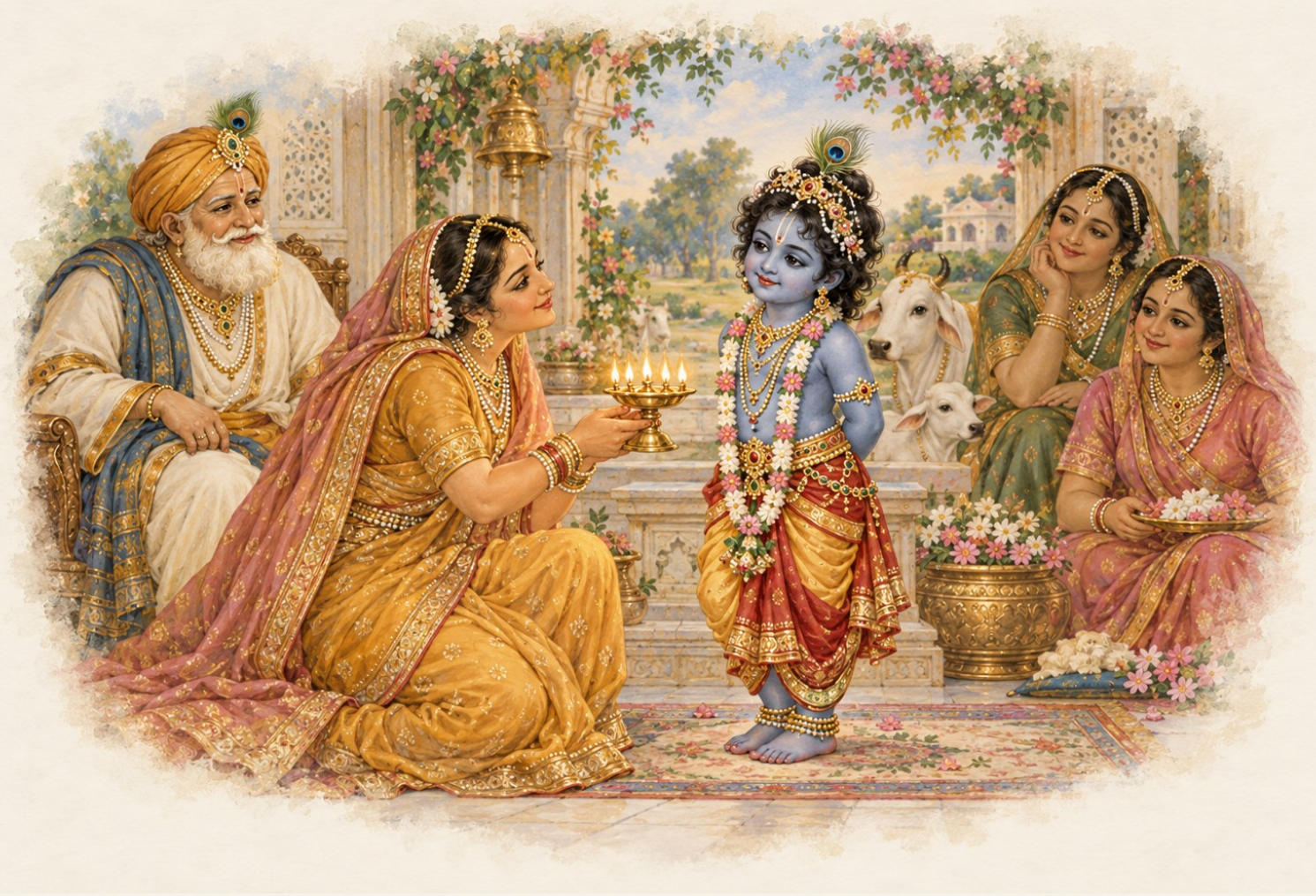
Saffron and musk were mixed into the bath water. Yashoda bathed Krishna with loving hands, pouring the water over His head. Balram, too, had his fragrant festival bath. Around the boys was the happiness of Vraj, where this special day was being celebrated with so much love.



Yashoda spread saffron upon Krishna and rinsed Him with warm water. Then she brought a towel and wrapped it around Him. With His body covered, she seated her little Lala for His adornment. Her loving care continued from His bath to the beautiful clothes and ornaments she would put on Him.



She dressed Krishna in red clothes woven with golden thread. Beautiful ornaments completed His festival dress. Yashoda also adorned Balaram, looking at the two brothers again and again with delight. Everything she placed upon them was chosen with love, and she could hardly contain her happiness.



Yashoda kissed Krishna's face and circled the arati light before Him. His lovely cheeks shone. Nanda Baba and the people of Vraj shared the celebration, gazing at their beloved Krishna. Mother's gestures were full of tender care as she lovingly wished every harm away from her precious child.



There were dishes and sweets for Krishna to enjoy. He was offered the foods that pleased Him, while the people around Him poured out their love. The brothers were beautifully dressed for the festival. Across Vraj, the joy of Chhoti Diwali, the little Diwali celebration, was shared by all.



Now the two brothers went out, and Mother made her loving gesture of protection. Krishna took dry fruits with Him to adorn the cows. The people of Vraj smiled as they looked at Him. Baba went with Him to feed the cows, and His friends joined Him too.



With His friends beside Him, Krishna fed the cows in their shed. The children and cowherds of Vraj rejoiced. Songs celebrating the cows were sung from home to home, and festive happiness filled Vraj. Dear Nanda's son shone among them all, bringing still more joy to every heart.

Kirtans Used

Rup Chaturdashi Abhyang

The Rup Chaturdashi Festival Bath

View the source collection at pushtikirtan.com

Nhat Balkunvar Kunvar

Supports PDF pages 6, 9, 10.

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/nhat-balkunvar-kunvar-1351

Aaj Nhao Mere

Poet: Krishnadas

Supports PDF pages 3, 10, 11, 12.

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/aaj-nhao-mere-1352

Nhat Baldau Kunvar

Supports PDF pages 6, 8, 11, 12.

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/nhat-baldau-kunvar-1353

Kirtans Used

Individual sources, continued

Balnhaye Taisen Lalan

Poet: Mandas

Supports PDF pages 4, 6, 10, 11.

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/balnhaye-taisen-lalan-1354

Nhavavat Sutkon Nandrani

Supports PDF pages 3, 8, 11.

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/nhavavat-sutkon-nandrani-1355

Laltum Aachhe Lehukhilona

Poet: Dwarikesh

Supports PDF pages 5, 7, 8, 9.

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/laltum-aachhe-lehukhilona-1356

Titles use the source site's checked transliterations. Poet names are included only where identifiable in the verses. This book uses an original English adaptation; the full kirtans are available through the links above.