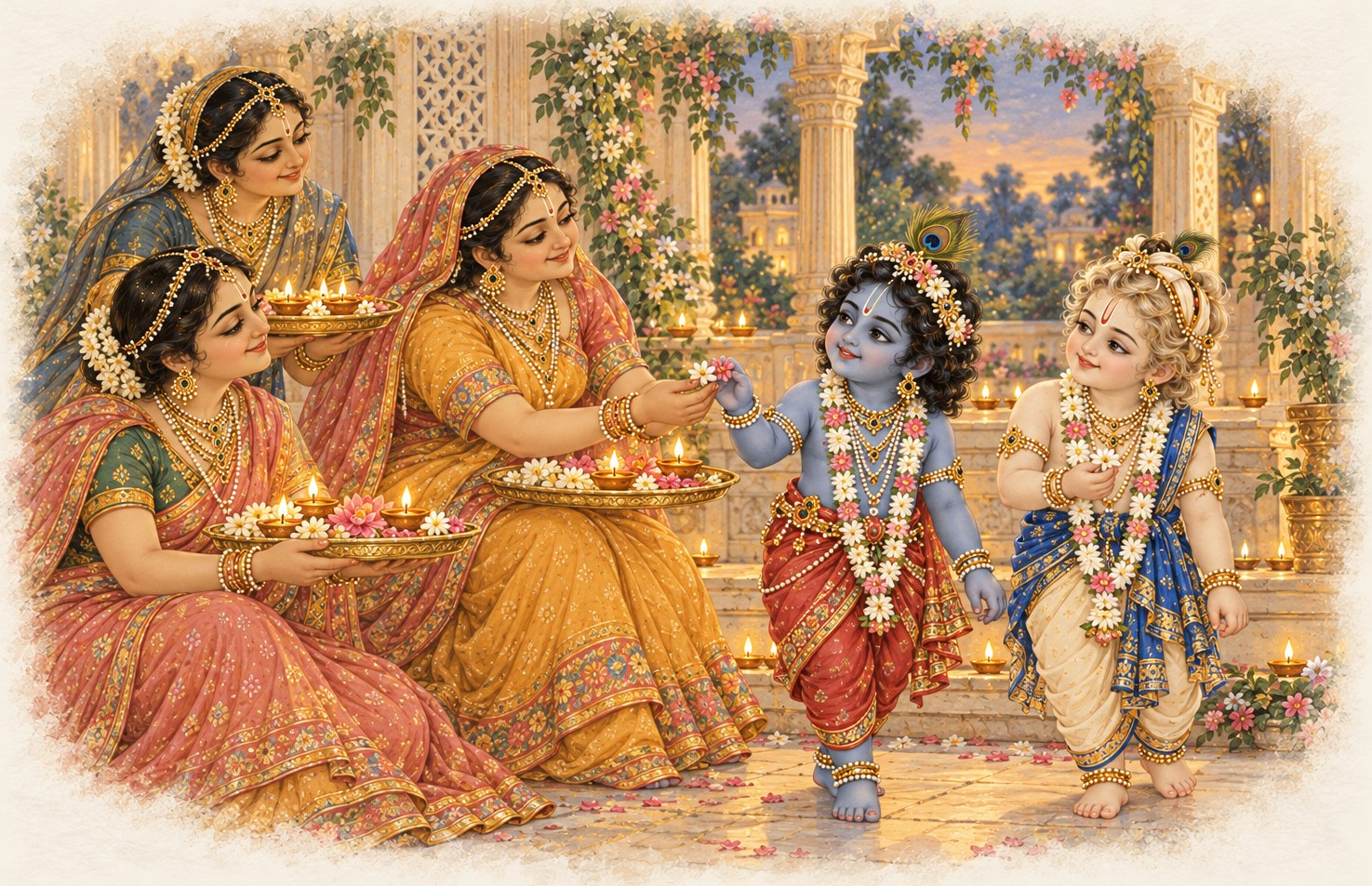


Krishna's Diwali Pastimes

From the Diwali collection



Before We Begin

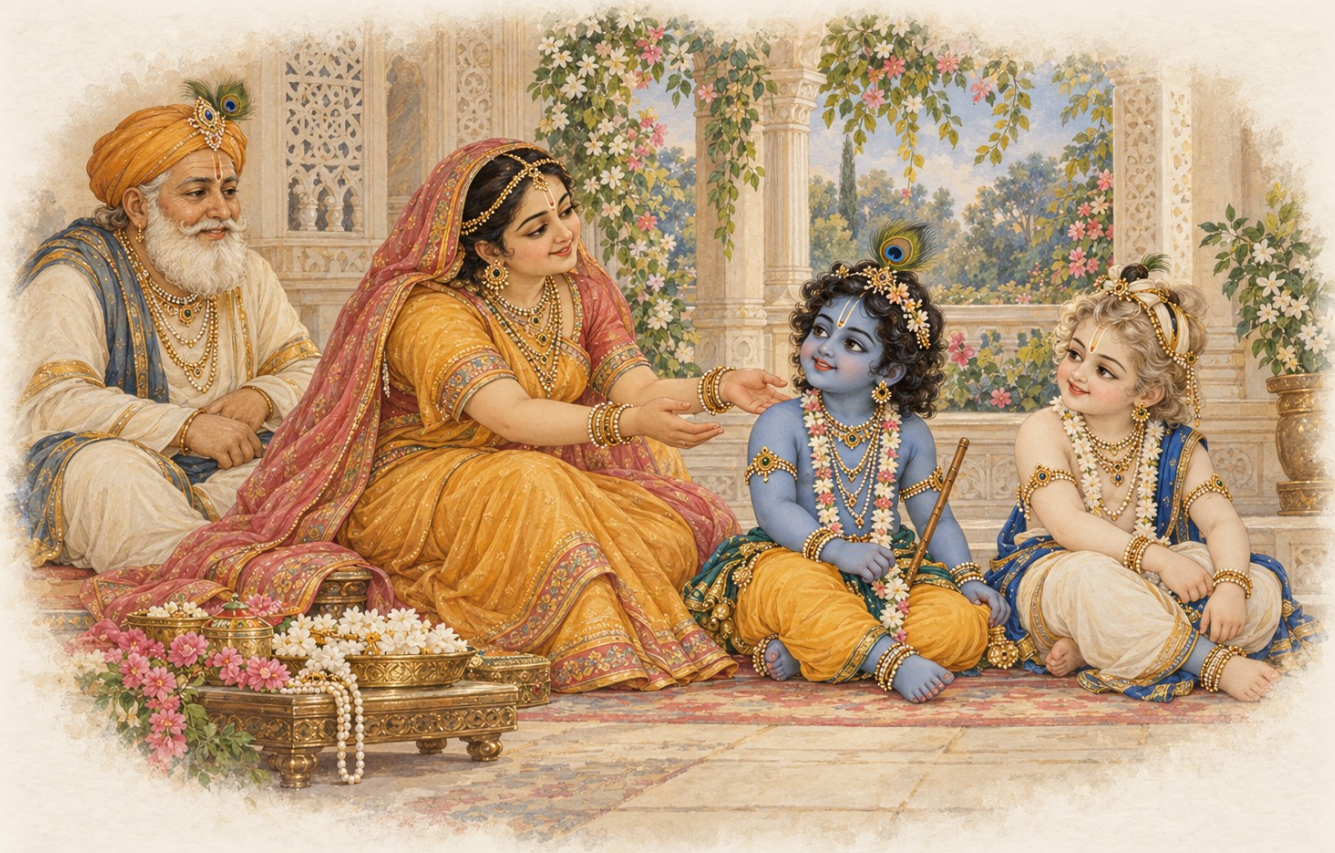


Shri Vallabh

This story is inspired by the kirtans in Diwali 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.

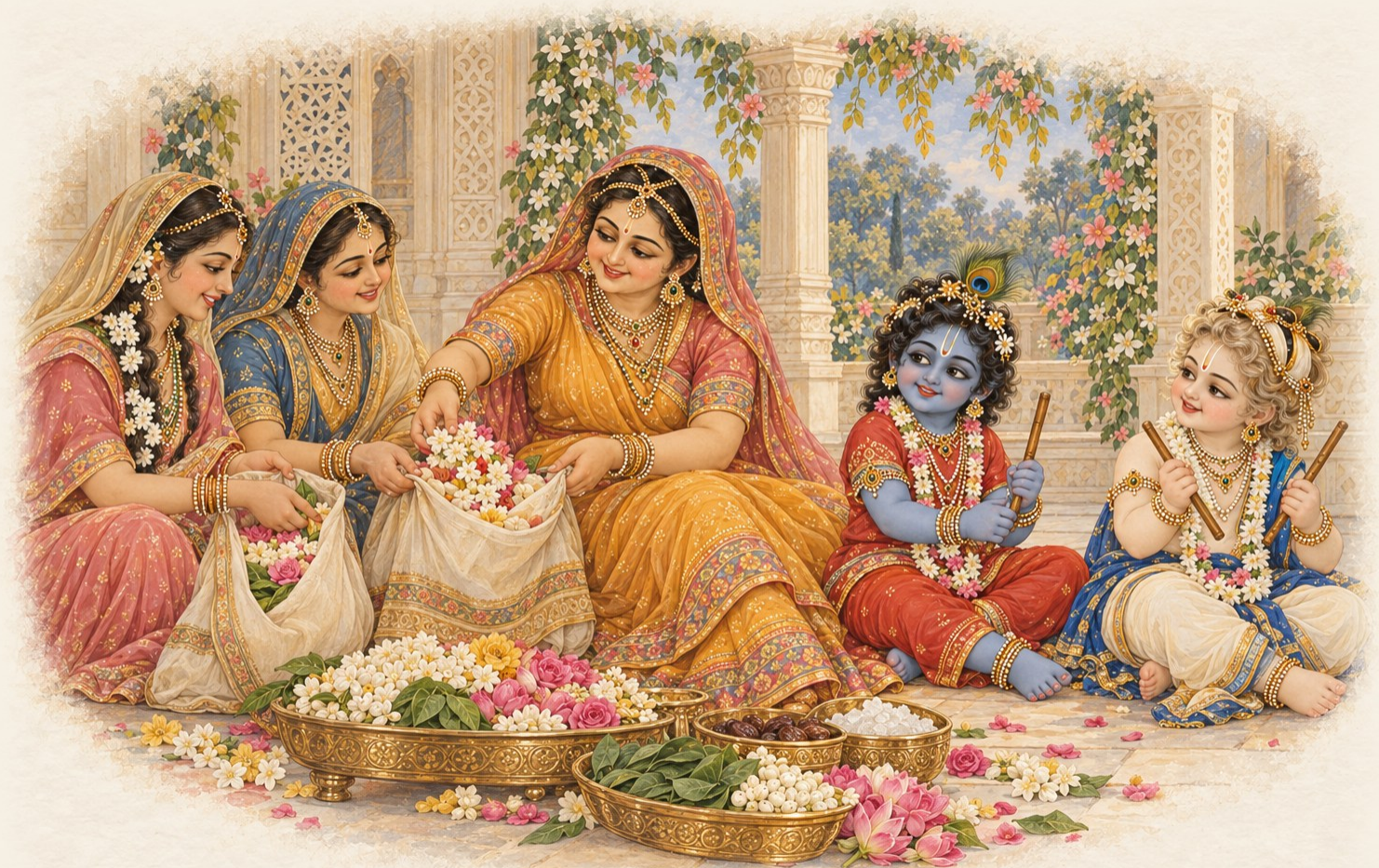
A Festival at Home



Diwali has come to Nanda's home, and Yashoda is getting her little ones ready. Krishna and His brother Balaram have been playing. Now their mother calls them to leave their games for a little while and sit beside her. In homes all around Vraj, children are being dressed for the festival.



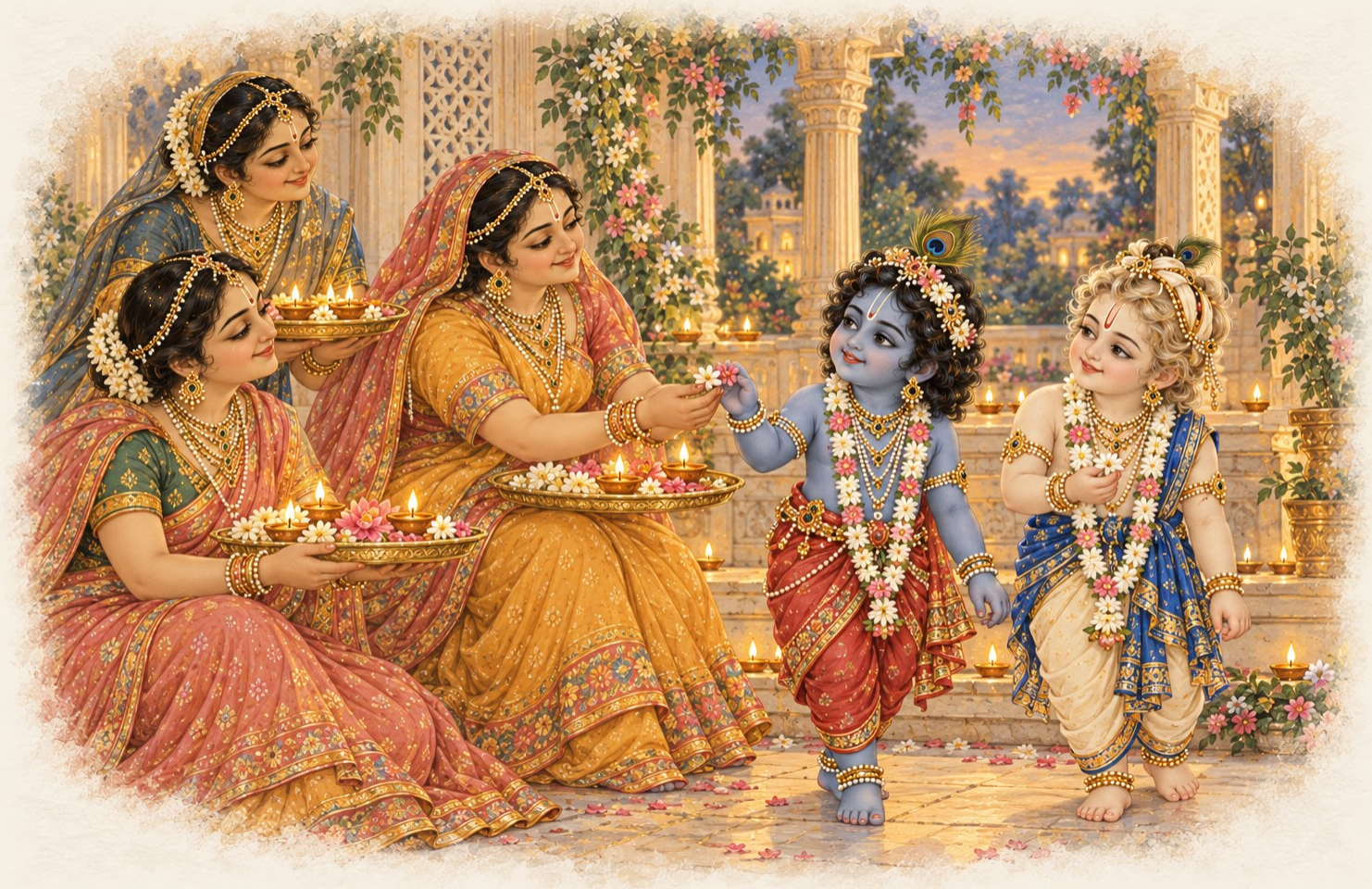
Yashoda has so much loving care to give. She wishes to bathe Krishna, arrange His hair, and line His eyes with kajal. Red trousers and a little red tunic are ready for Him. There are ornaments, a lovely head adornment, and His flute. She will place a small musk mark upon His forehead, too.



In her courtyard, Yashoda wants both boys to play where she can look upon their dear faces. Her love reaches out to the women of Vraj as well. She has betel leaves, flowers, dried fruits, and sugar crystals to fill their bags. It is a day for giving, and her heart is full of love for Krishna.

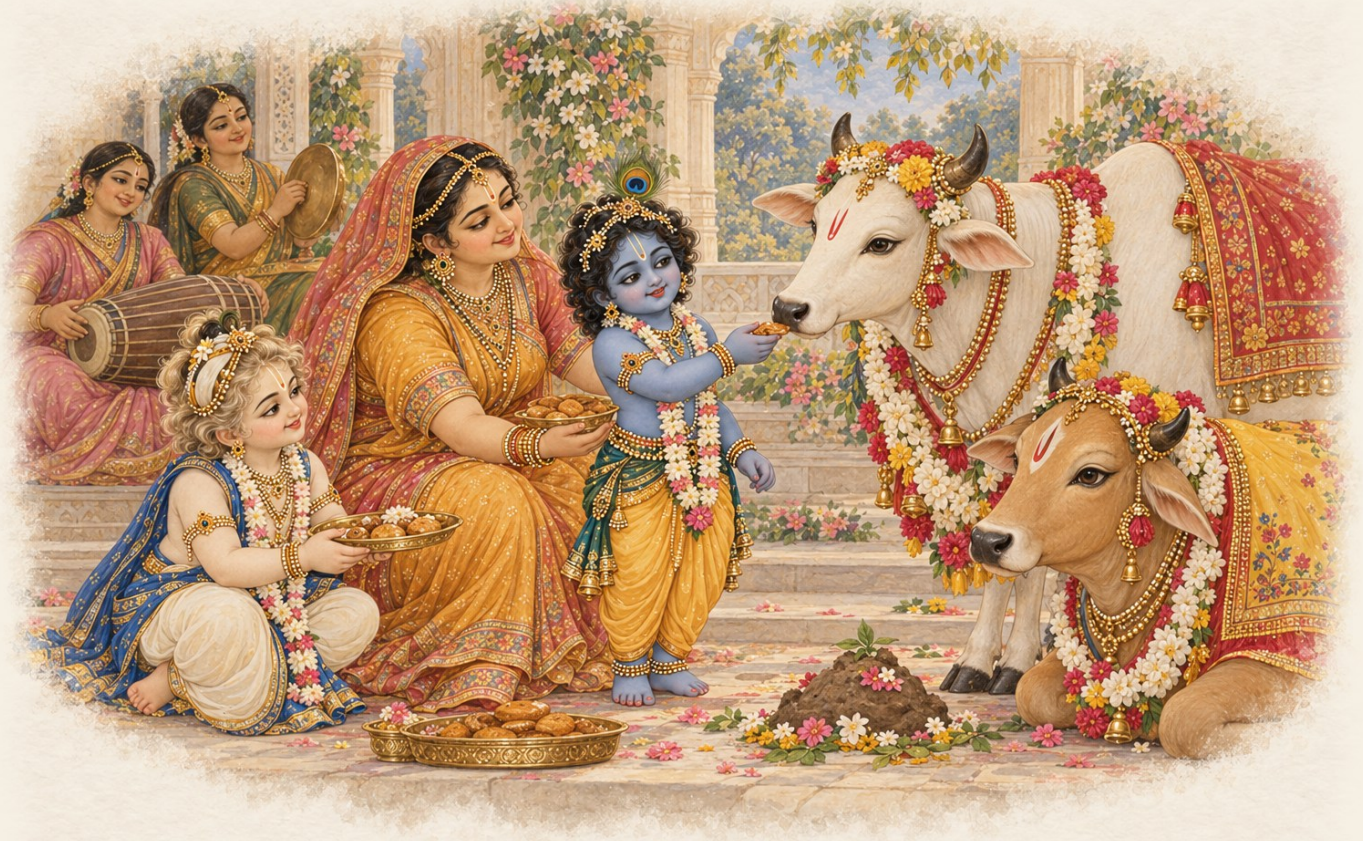


The women gather with happy songs. At the doorway and in the courtyard, they make beautiful patterns on the ground. Golden platters are filled with honey, dried fruits, sweets, and special festival food. Krishna is dressed in His ornaments. The songs, the gifts, and the careful decorations all belong to this joyful celebration.



More women come to Nanda's home carrying golden trays. Lamps glow beside them as they sing. The children wear their festival finery, with bright red marks upon their foreheads. Everyone has such beauty to look upon. The women smile and keep gazing, for the joy before them is more than words can tell.

The Cows of Vraj



The cows have a place in the festival, too. The women of Vraj worship them and prepare sweet offerings. Cows are adorned in red and yellow, while drums and metal plates sound. In the homes are sacred figures made from cow dung. With little children beside them, the women sing and bow before the lotus-eyed Lord.



Krishna calls to His cows again and again. Dhumari! Dhauri! The calves are let out of their enclosure, and they come running at His call. His yellow cloth is tucked neatly, and a garland rests upon His chest. With a little herding stick in His hand and anklets upon His feet, He is lovely to behold.



Subal and Shridama call out with Him. The cowherd boys run beside Krishna, laughing and clapping their hands. His cows frolic, and the people of Vraj are delighted. Nanda and Yashoda look on with overflowing joy. Their dear Lala is among His friends and cows, and happiness fills the hearts of all who watch.

Jov at Govardhan



At Govardhan, Krishna is worshipping the sacred hill. Cymbals ring, drums resound, and conches join the celebration. The flute has its sweet music, too. The women arrive in fresh festival clothes, with red tilaks upon their foreheads. Around Gopal they gather, their golden beauty surrounding Him like a jewel set about an emerald.



The cowherd boys move about in joy, calling Dhumari and Dhauri. Krishna feeds His own cows. Red and yellow adornments brighten the celebration around Him. There is music, there are friends, and there are cows to care for. Among them stands Mohan, the beloved One, sharing in the happiness of the festival.



Turmeric, milk, curd, and sacred grains of rice are sprinkled in celebration. Blessings are offered, and everyone bows at Krishna's feet. Their wish is full of love: may their dear Lord of Govardhan reign over Gokul through all the ages. The joy of worship gathers around Him, with music and loving hearts on every side.



And the blessing of Diwali is a loving wish for its joy to return, year after year. May Nanda and Yashoda find happiness in their dear little boys. May the hearts of the people of Vraj be fulfilled. With worship for the cows and love for the Lord, may the happiness of this festival come again and again.

Kirtans Used

दीवारी

Diwali collection • Sources and story pages

<https://pushtikirtan.com/occasion/051-diwali>

आज दिवारी बडो

Aaj Divari Bado

Story pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (PDF pages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/aaj-divari-bado-1357>

आज दिवारी मंगल

Aaj Divari Mangal • Poet: Paramananddas

Story page 4 (PDF page 6)

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/aaj-divari-mangal-1358>

घरी एक छांडो

Ghari Ek Chhando • Poet: Paramananddas

Story pages 1, 7 (PDF pages 3, 9)

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/ghari-ek-chhando-1359>

बड़ो पर्व त्यौहार

Bado Parv Tyauhar

Story page 5 (PDF page 7)

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/bado-parv-tyauhar-1360>

Kirtans Used

Diwali collection • Continued

यह दीवारी वरस

Yah Divari Varas

Story pages 1, 12 (PDF pages 3, 14)

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/yah-divari-varas-1361>

गुरके गुंजा पूआ

Gurke Gunja Pua • Poet: Haridas

Story pages 6, 10 (PDF pages 8, 12)

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/gurke-gunja-pua-1362>

मदन गोपाल गोवर्धन

Madan Gopal Govardhan • Poet: Kumbhandas

Story pages 6, 9, 10, 11 (PDF pages 8, 11, 12, 13)

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/madan-gopal-govardhan-1363>

टेरटेर बोलत नंदनंदन

Tarter Bolat Nandanandan

Story pages 7, 8 (PDF pages 9, 10)

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/tertar-bolat-nandnandan-1364>