

Krishna Celebrates the Festival of Lamps (Deepmalika)

From the Deepmalika (Festival of Lamps) collection



Before We Begin



Shri Vallabh

This story is inspired by the kirtans in Deepmalika 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.



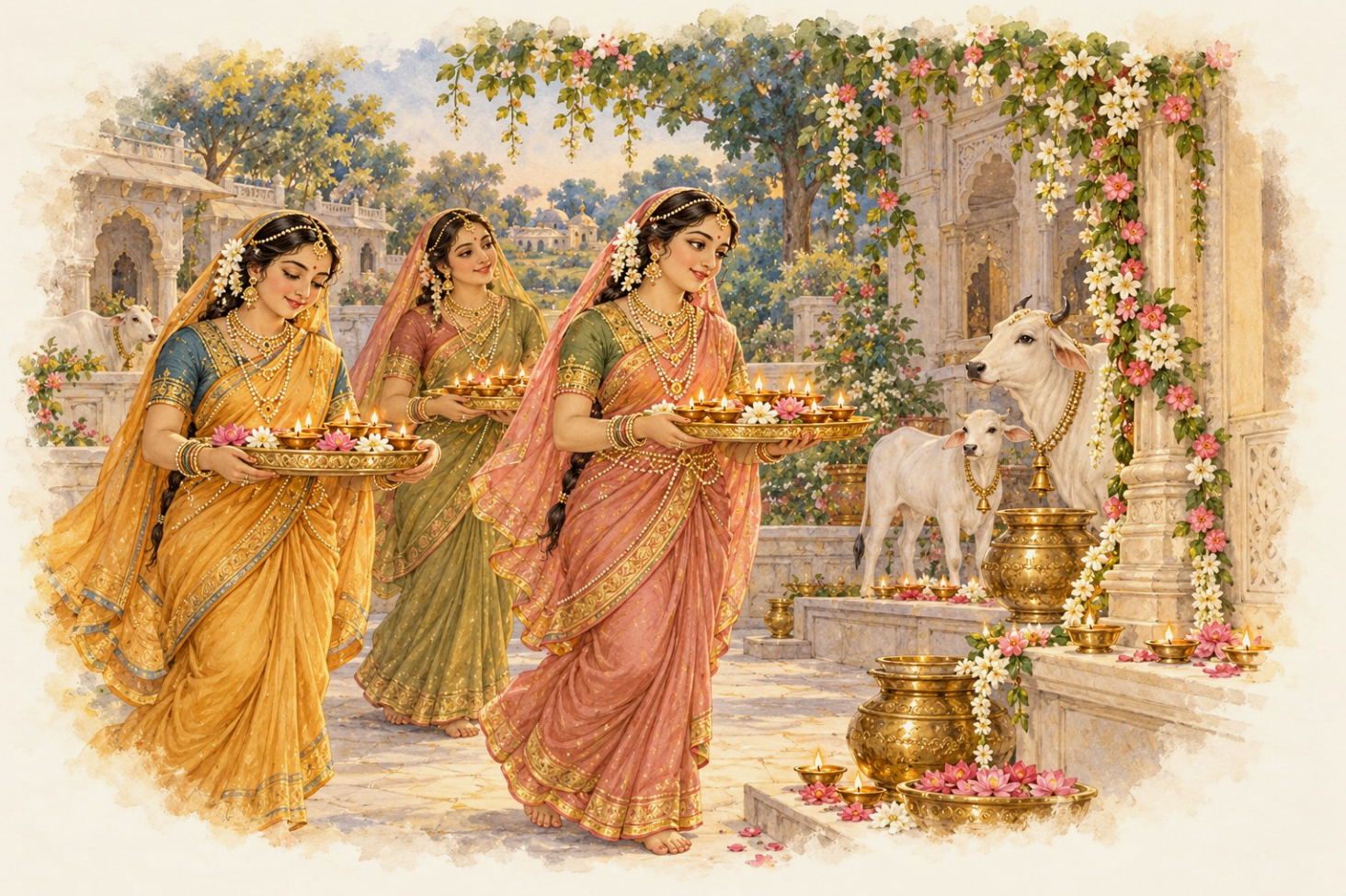
It was the night of the new moon, and Gokul was celebrating Deepmalika, the festival of lamps. In home after home, the women sang happy festival songs. At home, Mother Yashoda called to Krishna. She invited Him to wear sandalwood paste, flowers, fine clothes, and a necklace set with shining jewels.



But Krishna had something dear to Him to do as well. He smiled at His mother: He was going to adorn Dhauri, the cow. The cows were precious to Him, by day and by night. The festival was for them, too, with the cows and bulls dressed in beautiful decorations.



Yashoda asked her beloved child to take His father's permission and fill their home with lamps. Nanda had arranged rows and rows of them. Each little lamp was filled with ghee, a golden butter oil, and sweet fragrances. Together, their lights made the dark night beautiful, like moonlight shining through clouds.



To that bright home came the women of Vraj. In their hands they carried golden trays for the celebration. One shining tray after another gleamed as they gathered at Nanda's house. Their songs of blessing filled the festival, and the lovely lamps shone all around them.



Inside, the decorations were wonderful to see. Pearls made lovely patterns on the ground, with diamonds and coral sparkling among them. All Gokul seemed dressed in jewels. The women sang beside the beautiful designs, and the sight of Krishna filled their hearts with joy, as flowers open into bloom.



Beside the shimmering lamps stood Radha, beautifully dressed for the festival. The young women of Vraj were with Her. A golden tray rested in Her hands, and Krishna was close beside Her. Around Them, the lamps glittered and the jewels shone. How lovely They were together in that gentle light.



Now Krishna smiled and clapped His hands in rhythm. Again and again, His hands met, and the women laughed with Him. The festival was full of His happy play. Near Radha and Her companions, He kept the rhythm going, while joy grew and grew in Nanda's home.



Flowers showered from above as the heavenly beings offered them with their hands. Below, Nanda's home was full of delight. The shining lamps made the dark night seem as bright as countless suns and moons. All around Krishna and Radha, the festival glowed with light, flowers, and joy.

Joy at Govardhan



At Shri Govardhan, too, the people of Vraj gathered for Deepmalika. They had made many different dishes together, and they came eagerly to offer their worship. Everyone had come to see the celebration. The gathering brought the people of Vraj together, with their dishes and their loving offerings.



Nanda and Upananda called the people together and gave them garments to wear. The celebration held gifts as well as offerings, and the people of Vraj shared in its happiness. Their beloved Krishna, Giridhar, brought joy to every heart. At Govardhan, the gathering was filled with that sweet contentment.

Kirtans Used

Deepmalika · Festival of Lamps

View the Deepmalika collection at pushtikirtan.com

References below give story page numbers (1–10). Story pages appear on PDF pages 3–12. Titles and first lines are transliterated from the original Braj Bhasha.

Aaj Kuhuki Ratra

aaj kuhoonkee raatr maadho deepamaalikaa mangalachaar

Poet: Paramananddas

Story pages: 1 · PDF pages: 3

Read the original kirtan and English meaning

Aaj Amavas Deepmalika

aaj amaavas deepamaalikaa baree parvanee he Gopaal

Poet: Paramananddas

Story pages: 1, 2, 3 · PDF pages: 3, 4, 5

Read the original kirtan and English meaning

Dekho In Deepanki

dekho in deepanakee sundaraaee

Poet: Kumbhandas

Story pages: 3 · PDF pages: 5

Read the original kirtan and English meaning

Kirtans Used (continued)

Deepmalika Karan Aai

deepamaalikaa karan aaee vrajabadhu manaharani

Poet: Aaskaran

Story pages: 4, 5 · PDF pages: 6, 7

Read the original kirtan and English meaning

Aajdipat Divya Deepmalika

aajadipat divy deepamaalikaa

Poet: Surdas

Story pages: 5, 6, 7, 8 · PDF pages: 7, 8, 9, 10

Read the original kirtan and English meaning

Shrigovarddhan Deepmalika Sab

Shreegovarddhan deepamaalikaa sab dekhanakon aaye

Poet: Kumbhandas

Story pages: 9, 10 · PDF pages: 11, 12

Read the original kirtan and English meaning

An original English adaptation for young children. The story uses six kirtans from the verified seven-kirtan collection. The separate mirrored-palace episode is outside this book's festival narrative.