

Krishna Becomes a Shopkeeper (Hatari)

From the Aarti at the Little Shop collection



Before We Begin



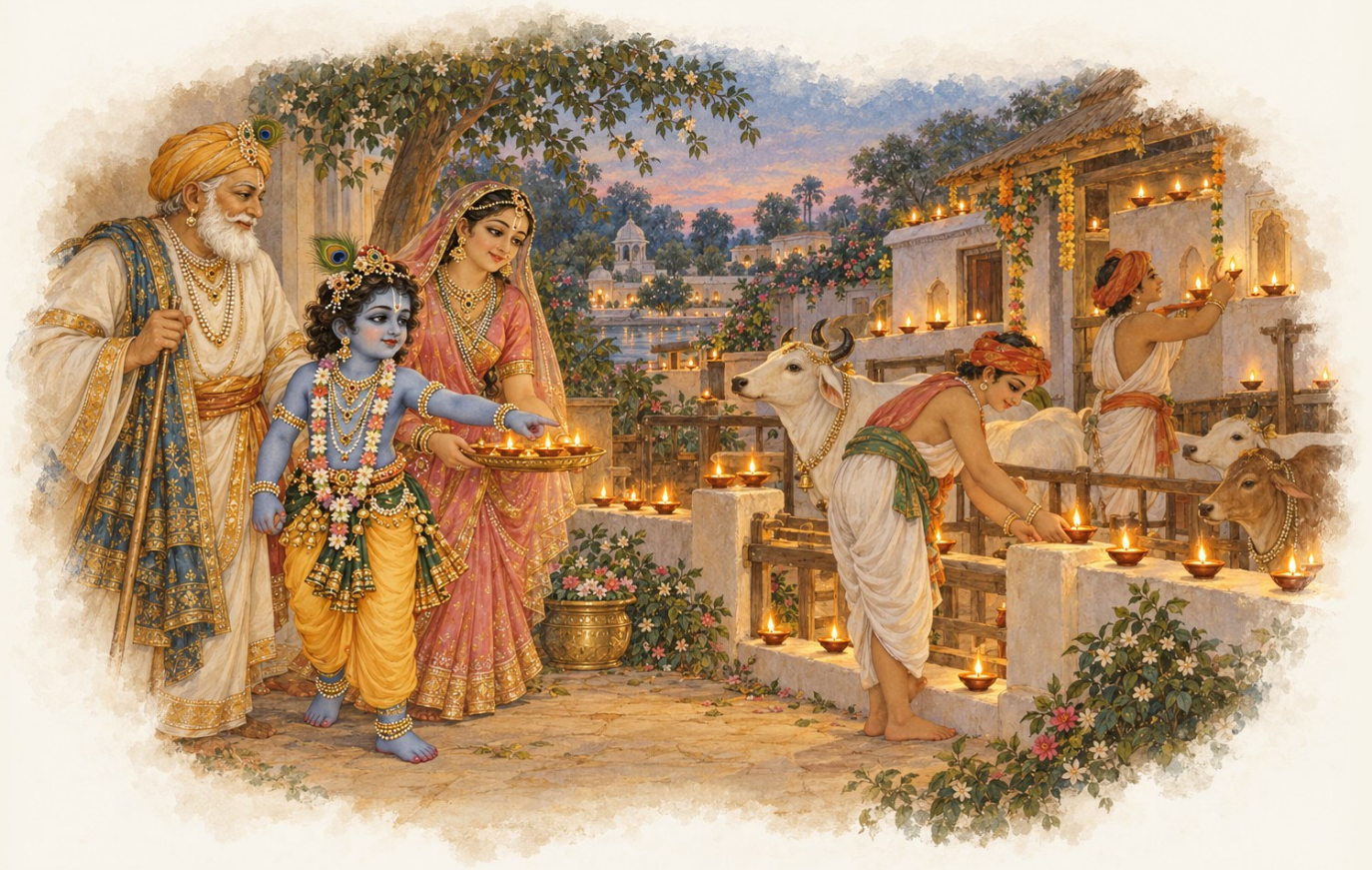
Shri Vallabh

This story is inspired by the kirtans in Hatari Men Aarti (Aarti at the Little Shop) 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.

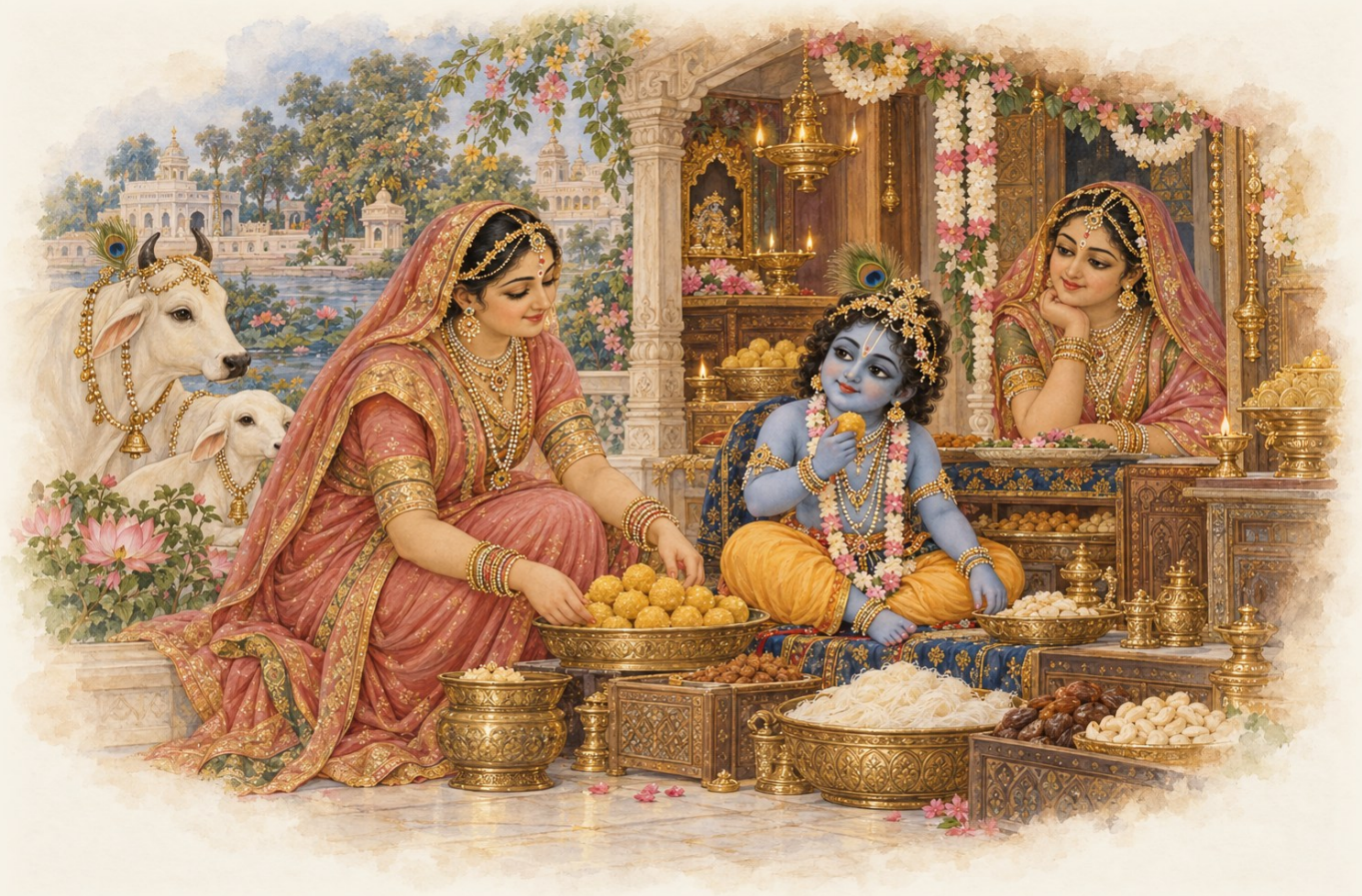
This story is an adaptation inspired by the kirtans. We do not claim that it is an authentic account. Please forgive any mistakes.



It was Diwali in Vraj, the great festival of lamps. Nanda Baba held Krishna and Balarama in his lap while the lamps were offered. Around them, the women of Vraj sang songs of blessing. Krishna was surrounded by his family and the joyful voices of the celebration.



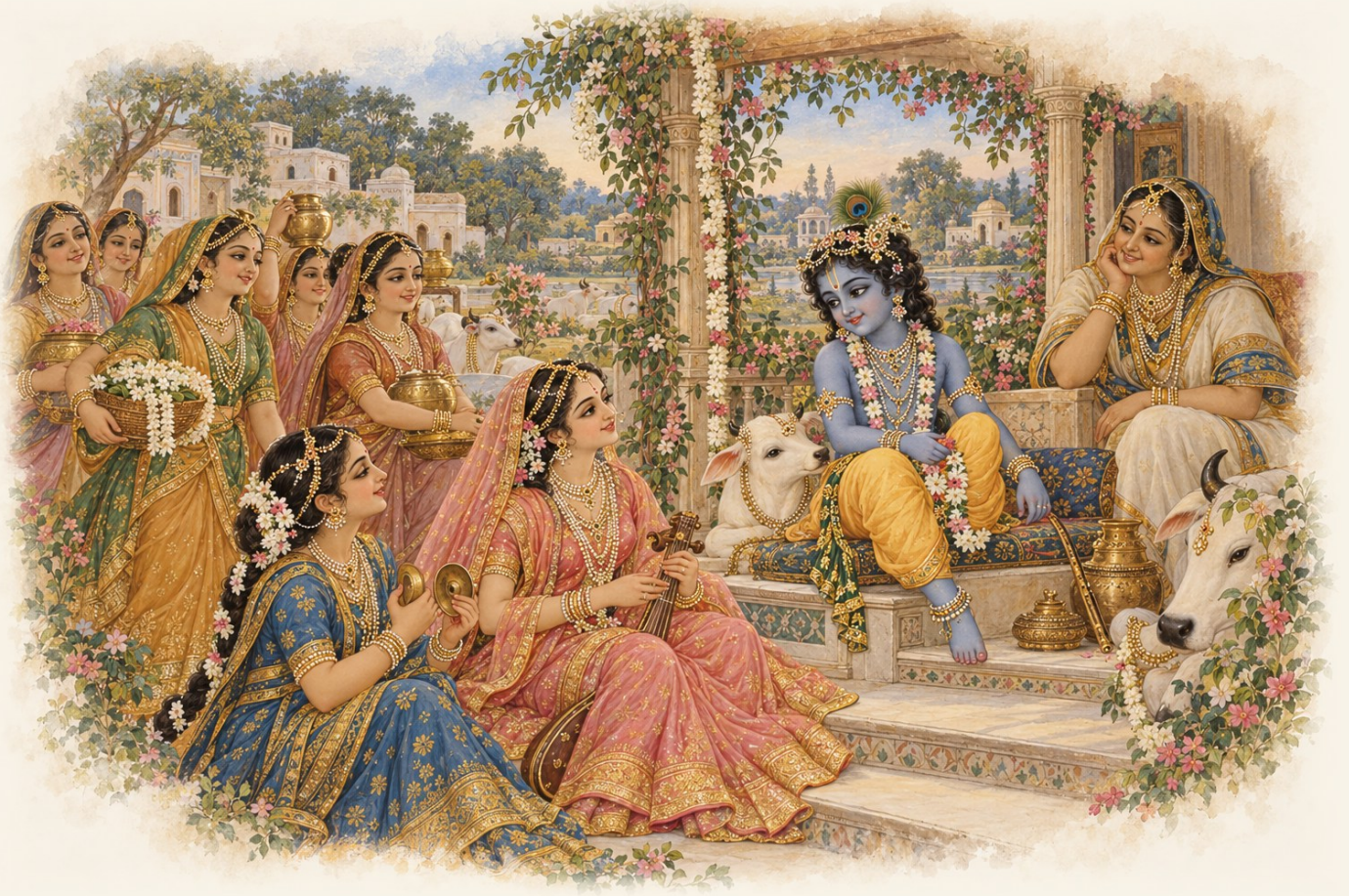
The lamps shone on the houses, and the cowherds carried more to the places where the cattle stayed. Krishna drew Baba's attention to their brightness. The lights looked like golden garlands! All around, the people of Vraj celebrated, preparing the foods they loved to offer for Diwali.



At home, Mother Yashoda filled a little shop called a hatari. There were dried fruits, festive dishes, and plenty of sweets. She had arranged the lamps with her own hands, too. Platters held round laddus and delicate pheni. The little shop was ready, and Krishna took his place there.



What a beautiful shop it was! Jewels and pearls decorated the hatari, and baskets and little bowls were filled with festive food. Krishna sat there in all his finery. Beside him was Radha, beautifully dressed too, while double rows of lamps made the whole celebration shine.



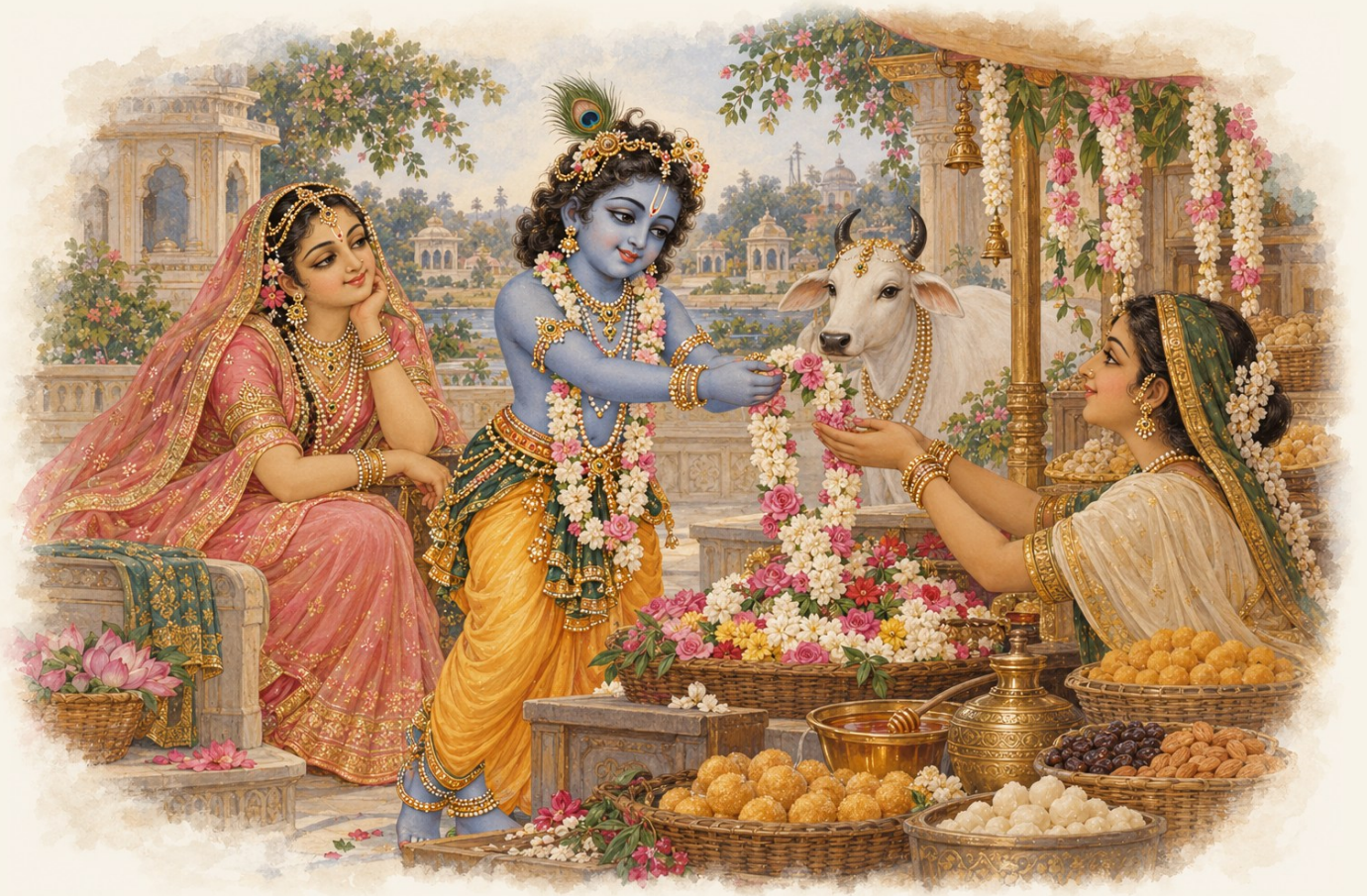
From house after house, the women of Vraj came to the shop. Radha and Lalita sang songs of blessing. Friends called one another to the market where Krishna was selling his lovely wares. Yashoda watched the gathering with delight as the smiling visitors came near her beloved boy.



Soon the gathering was full of dancing and play. Everyone was happy to be near Krishna. Chandravali smiled at the little shopkeeper and asked what bargain he would give them. With so many delicious things before them, the visitors had come ready to enjoy this cheerful game of trading.



They wanted their portions weighed fully and fairly. There was to be no quarrelling with this little shopkeeper, and they would not take everything for free! Yashoda watched their playful bargaining with growing joy. She made loving offerings over Krishna, delighted by the happy company gathered around his shop.



Krishna gave generously. He shared the festive foods, flowers, and fragrant offerings with everyone. Yashoda had set out honey, dried fruits, and sweets; there were flower garlands to give as well. Each visitor received something that pleased her heart, and the little shopkeeper held their hearts in love.



The songs of blessing rose again. The women took Krishna into their laps with affection, and offered aarti—the waving of lights in love. Mother and Baba watched with overflowing joy. The people of Vraj gave their blessings to their dear Krishna, wishing him a long, long life.



At the hatari, Krishna had shared so much with the people of Vraj. Now he bade the visitors farewell. The gathering turned toward another game: chaupar, played on a board. With Radha beside him, the beloved little shopkeeper's celebration continued in the company of those who loved him.

Kirtans Used

Hatari Men Aarti · Aarti at the Little Shop

View the collection at pushtikirtan.com

Page references below give story page numbers, followed by PDF page numbers. Titles use the source's checked Roman transliterations.

Deep Daan De Hatri Bethe

Verse signature: Rasik Prabhu.

Story pages 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 (PDF 5, 7, 8, 9, 10).

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/deep-daan-de-hatri-bethe-1412

Deepdan Vrajraj Det

Verse signature: Shri Vitthal Giridhari.

Story pages 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 (PDF 3, 4, 5, 7, 11).

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/deepdan-vrajraj-det-1413

Deepdande Hatari Baithe

Verse signature: Shri Vitthal Giridharnalal.

Story pages 4, 5, 9 (PDF 6, 7, 11).

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/deepdande-hatari-baithe-1414

Kirtans Used — continued

Hatari Baithe Shrigopal

Verse signature: Govind.

Story pages 4, 5, 8, 10 (PDF 6, 7, 10, 12).

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/hatari-baithe-shrigopal-1419

Hatari Baithe Sobhit

Verse signature: Dwarikesh.

Story pages 4, 8, 9, 10 (PDF 6, 10, 11, 12).

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/hatari-baithe-sobhit-1430