

Krishna Performs Govardhan Puja

From the Govardhan Puja collection



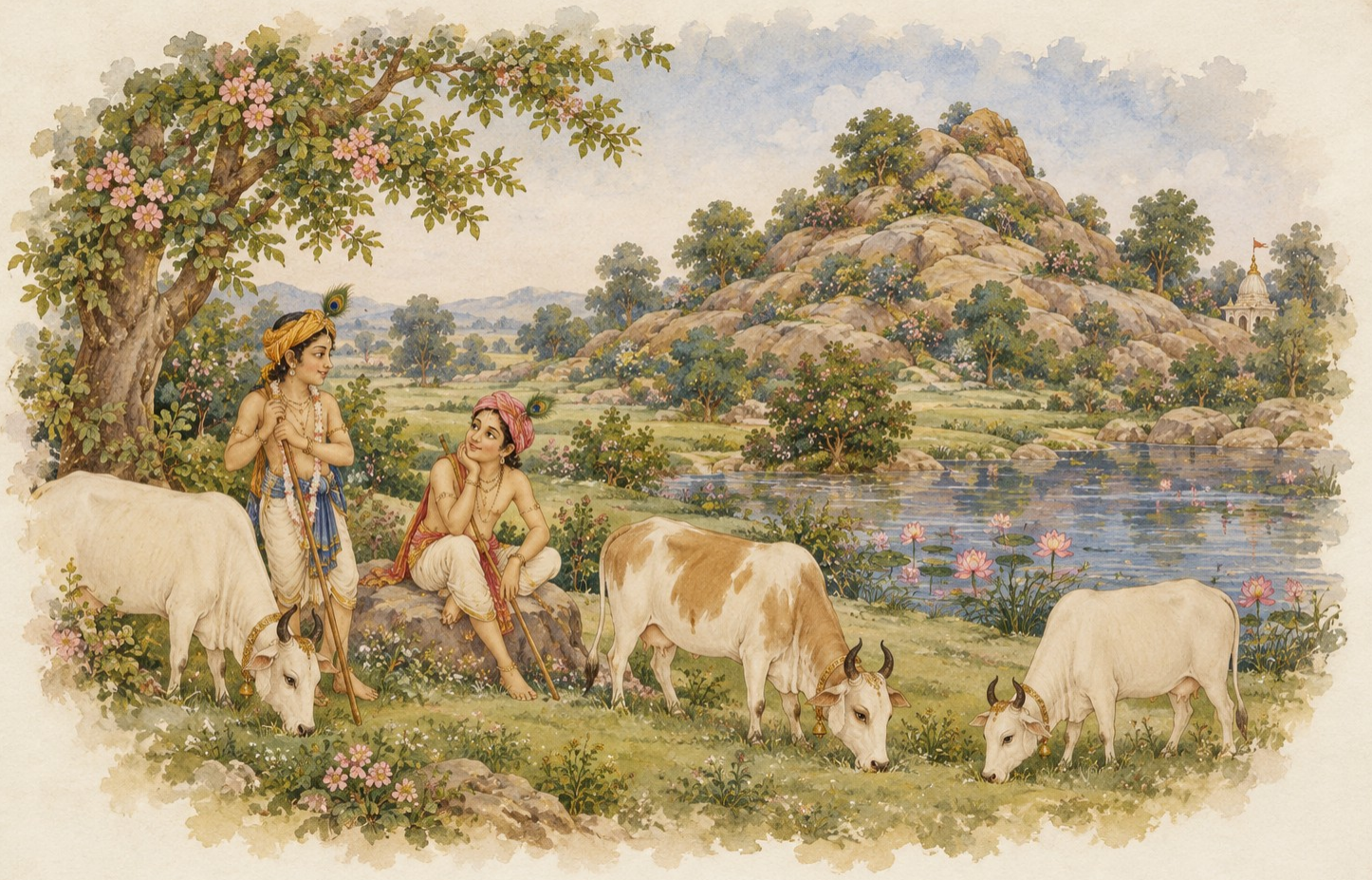
Before We Begin



Shri Vallabh

This story is inspired by the kirtans in Govardhan Puja 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.



In Vraj, the cows had good grass to eat and beautiful water to drink. They grazed until they were full. All around Govardhan Hill, the people of Vraj lived happily with their herds. For them, Govardhan was their beloved Lord, and his festival was a wonderful celebration.



Krishna called the people together to make offerings to the hill. They gathered honey, dried fruits, sweets, and many kinds of food. There was rice, rich ghee, and kheer, a sweet rice pudding. The dishes held so many different tastes. Everyone was coming together to do as their dear Krishna wished.



The women of Vraj prepared many lovely things to offer. They filled their trays right to the brim. Dressed in beautiful clothes and ornaments, and wearing sweet fragrance, they carried the food with them. Their voices rose together in song as they went to worship Govardhan with Gopal, their beloved Krishna.



Gopal walked with a gentle, stately step. He gave the elders the place of honour in front as they went to worship the hill. Children gathered all around him. With Krishna among them, the children looked as lovely as a ring of little bees around a lotus flower. Together they made a beautiful procession.



Music travelled with them. Many instruments sounded together, and the flute joined their melodies. The cowherd boys carried flags and banners, parasols and soft ceremonial fans. Their happy calls mingled with the music. With songs, rhythms, and children on every side, the people of Vraj went to offer their worship.



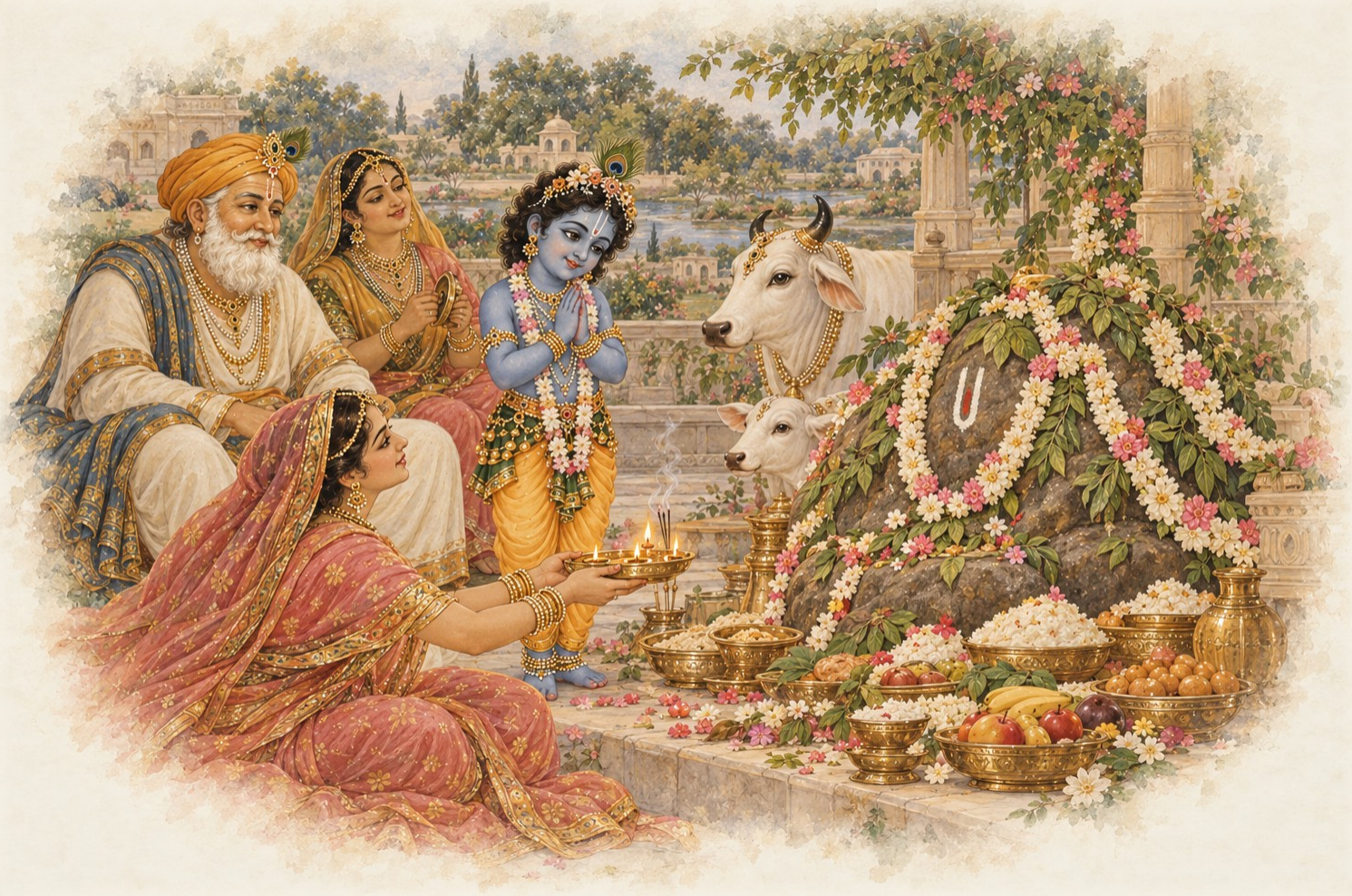
At the worship of Govardhan, water from Manasi Ganga was offered first. Then came milk from the Dhauri cow, followed by another washing. Krishna had come with the elders, and the people bathed Giriraj with care. Giriraj was another loving name for Govardhan, the hill they honoured as their Lord.



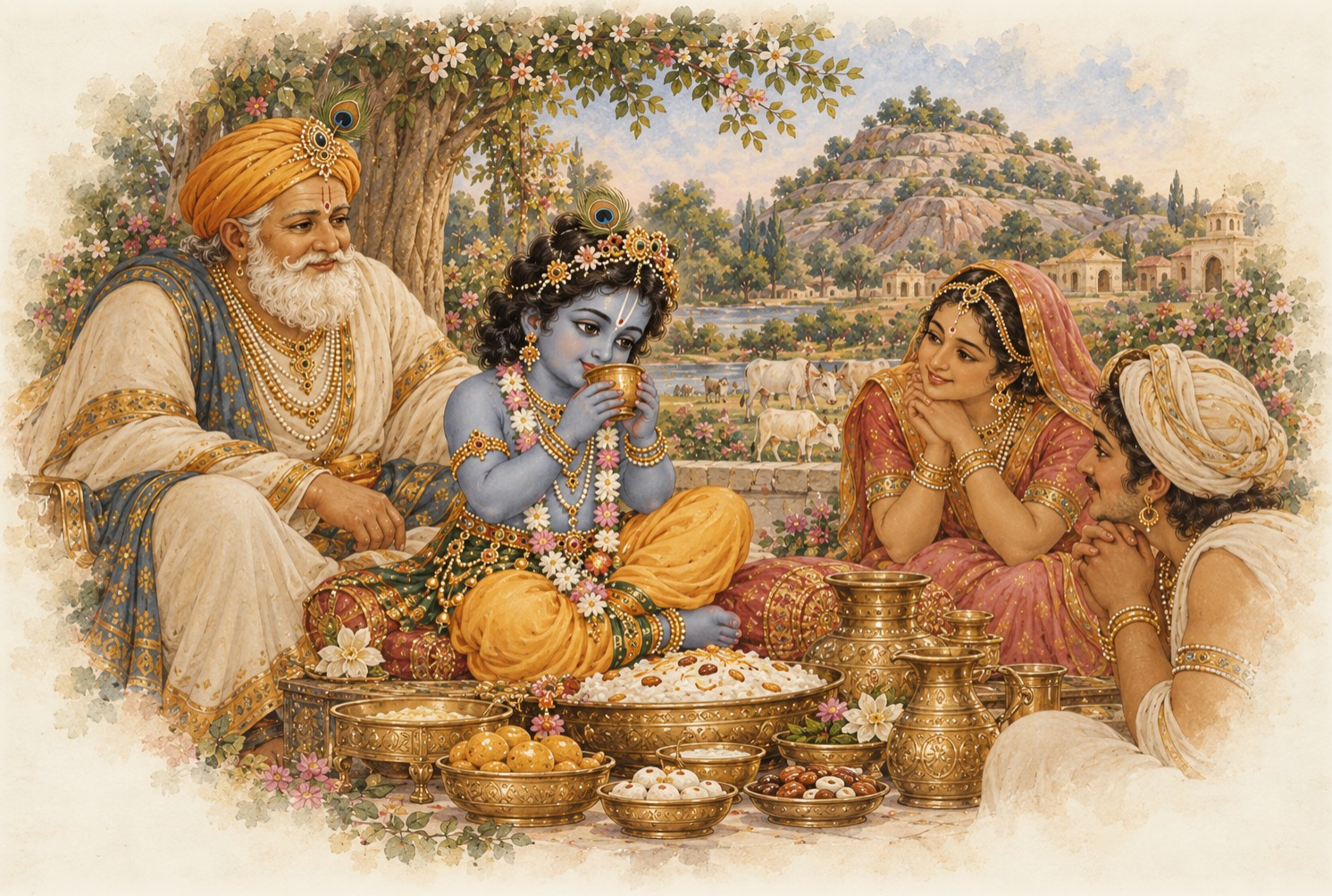
Nanda, Krishna's father, sat before Govardhan in worship. He offered sandalwood and fragrant paste. Govardhan was adorned with fine garments and ornaments, while the priests recited sacred words from the Vedas. The people brought their offerings in abundance. All of Vraj had gathered with Nanda for this joyful worship.



More and more food was placed before Govardhan. There were rice dishes, sweets, dried fruits, and bowls of kheer. The offerings spread over the hill in such abundance that its beauty was beyond telling. This was Annakut, the festival of a mountain of food, lovingly offered to the Lord of Vraj.



Fragrant paste, incense, and lamps were offered with the food. The women of Vraj gathered to sing songs of blessing. A lamp was waved in worship, its flame part of the arati offered to Govardhan. Voices and music filled the celebration as the people honoured their beloved Lord together.



The people beheld the wonder of their Lord accepting the food they had offered. Their dear Mohan, Krishna, partook of the feast. After the food, he drank water. Honey, sweets, and dishes of many tastes had been brought with love; now the offerings were received by the very Lord they had gathered to worship.



The cowherds were called forward and given vessels filled with gifts. They received affectionate pats on their backs, and festive turbans were tied upon their heads. The worship held this tenderness too: honour for the elders, songs from the women, and loving care for the cowherds who shared in Govardhan's celebration.



Govardhan was their beloved king, and beneath his shelter the people of Vraj found happiness. May Giridhar, their dear Krishna, reign in Vraj age after age, bringing joy to every heart. Cows, cowherds, and families shared the happiness of Vraj. How wonderful was this festival of Govardhan, with its abundant offerings!

Kirtans Used

गोवर्धन पूजा

Govardhan Puja collection

Open the source collection

हमारो कान्ह कहे

Hamaro Kanh Kahe

Poet: Aaskaran

Story on book pages 4, 12.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/hamaro-kanh-kahe-1528>

गोवर्द्धन पूजन चलेरी

Govarddhan Pujan Chaleri

Poet: Kumbhandas

Story on book pages 5, 6, 7.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/govarddhan-pujan-chaleri-1543>

बडडेनकों आगेंदे गिरिधर

Baddenkon Agende Giridhar

Poet: Chaturbhuj

Story on book pages 6, 8, 11, 13, 14.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/baddenkon-agende-giridhar-1544>

Kirtans Used · continued

Original kirtans and English meanings: pushtikirtan.com.

Page references below use the printed book page numbers.

गोवर्धन पूजत हैं

Govardhan Pujat Hen

Poet: not separately identified on the source page

Story on book pages 9, 10, 11, 12.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/govardhan-pujat-hen-1555>

हमारो देव गोवर्धन

Hamaro Dev Govardhan

Poet: Paramanand

Story on book pages 3, 4, 10, 14.

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/hamaro-dev-govardhan-1562>

An original English adaptation for young listeners.

The story follows the festival scenes and devotional descriptions of these five kirtans.