

Krishna's Bhai Duj Pastimes

From the Bhai Duj collection



Before We Begin



Shri Vallabh

This story is inspired by the kirtans in Bhai Duj 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 Yashomati's Lap



Bhai Duj is here, and Yashomati has a tray ready for her dear Krishna. She sits with the tray before her and gives Him a tilak, a sacred mark upon His forehead. Her little Mohan is welcome in her lap. There He can eat and celebrate, held close by His mother.



Nanda and Upananda see Krishna, and the cowherds come eagerly to give Him their love. They gather close and fondly caress Him. The women look at His lovely face, bright and beautiful like the moon. Their eyes rest upon Him with delight; looking at little Krishna brings them such happiness.



Mother Rohini is filled with joy. All around, the women of Gokul sing songs of blessing for the celebration. Many voices join in the happy songs, while little Krishna is surrounded by love. Yashomati's tray, the fond faces, and the singing women make a beautiful Bhai Duj to hold in the heart.

At Subhadra's Home



For Bhai Duj, Krishna and Balaram are made ready for the celebration with their sister, Subhadra. The two brothers are bathed with ubtan, a paste used before bathing, and dressed for the occasion. Balaram wears a beautiful red garment. Fine cloth and ornaments complete the preparations for this happy family celebration.



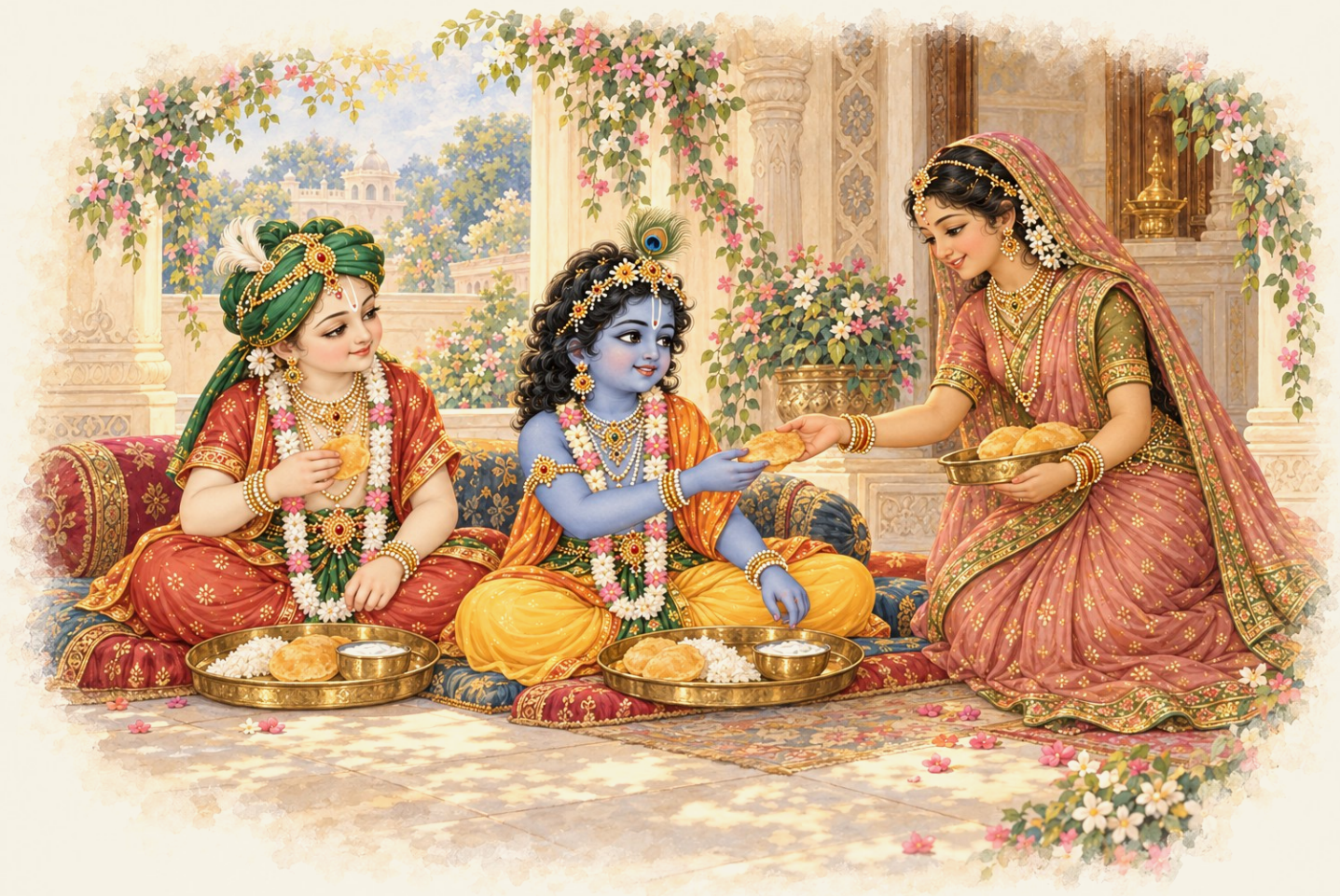
On the second day after Diwali, the brothers come to Subhadra's home. Krishna and Balaram look lovely as they walk, dressed in their festival clothes and ornaments. Their sister's home is the place of their Bhai Duj celebration. There is a meal they will enjoy, and a welcome full of love.



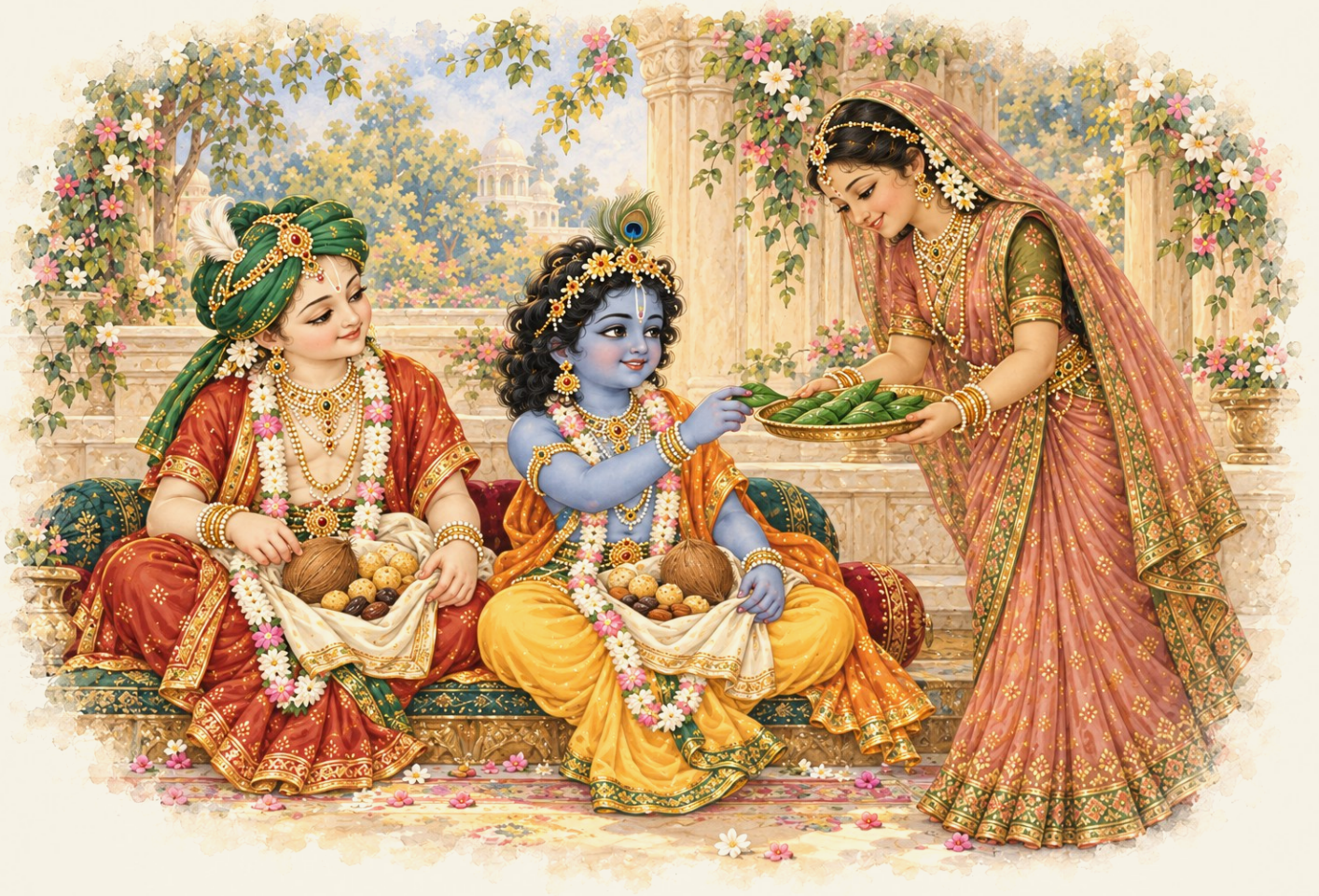
Subhadra holds a golden tray for her two brothers. She gives Balaram and Krishna a tilak, placing the sacred mark upon their foreheads. She offers grains of rice with the tilak too. Looking at the brothers brings her great joy. This is her loving welcome to Bal and Shri Gopal on Bhai Duj.



With the tray before her, Subhadra performs arati for her brothers. She offers the light of a lamp with love. Pearl necklaces are offered too, in a gesture of devotion. Her joy grows as she honours Krishna and Balaram. Dear Mohan, so full of love, is there with His brother and sister.



The trays are filled with puri, curd, and rice, with preparations brought from Mother Rohini. Krishna and Balaram eat with delight. When something pleases them, they ask for it, enjoying the food with love. Their faces are happy as they share the meal at their sister's home on this festive day.



Subhadra fills both brothers' laps with coconuts, sweets, and dried fruits. After the meal, they rinse their mouths, and she smilingly offers folded paan leaves. She bows her head before them and gives her blessing for long life. Her welcome is full of happiness, from the golden tray to these last loving gifts.

A Feast to Share



Dear Gopal is invited to a feast, and His cowherd companions are welcome too. There are many dishes for Him to enjoy, with sweets and all six tastes. The invitation is generous: the whole company may come, and the food is to be shared among everyone. There is a place in this welcome for all.



What a feast is set before Gopal! There is fresh ghee, crisp papad, soft khichri, and sweet kheer. There is khoya, a thick milk sweet, with sugar too. Some of the savoury bites are dry, and some are soaked; some are sour, and some are salty. Many different dishes are offered for Him to enjoy.



The food is shared among Gopal and His companions. The whole company can enjoy the many dishes brought for the feast. After the meal, dear Mohan drinks panna, a refreshing drink. The generous welcome has become a meal for everyone, with Gopal among His cowherd friends and plenty of food to share.

Kirtans Used

Bhai Duj • भाई दूज

Collection: Bhai Duj

<https://pushtikirtan.com/occasion/067-bhai-duj>

Page references below use the printed book page numbers.

आज दूज भैयाकी

Aaj Duj Bhaiyaki

Poet: Aaskaran | Book pages: 8–9

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/aaj-duj-bhaiyaki-1679>

द्वेज दीवारीको बलमोहन

Dvej Divarikon Balmohan

Poet: Ramdas | Book pages: 7–8, 10–11

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/dvej-divarikon-balmohan-1680>

यशोमति थारसाजके

Yashomati Tharasajaken

Poet: Praveen | Book pages: 3–5

<https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/yashomati-tharasajaken-1681>

Kirtans Used

Bhai Duj collection • continued

भाईदूज जानके मोहन

Bhaidooj Janaken Mohan

Poet: Dwarikesh | Book pages: 6, 9–11

[https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/
bhaidooj-janaken-mohan-1682](https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/bhaidooj-janaken-mohan-1682)

लाडलै गोपाल आज

Ladile Gopal Aaj

Poet: Aaskaran | Book pages: 12–14

[https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/
ladile-gopal-aaj-1685](https://pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/ladile-gopal-aaj-1685)

The English story is a new adaptation. The separate pastimes are kept distinct; all five kirtans in the supplied collection are included.