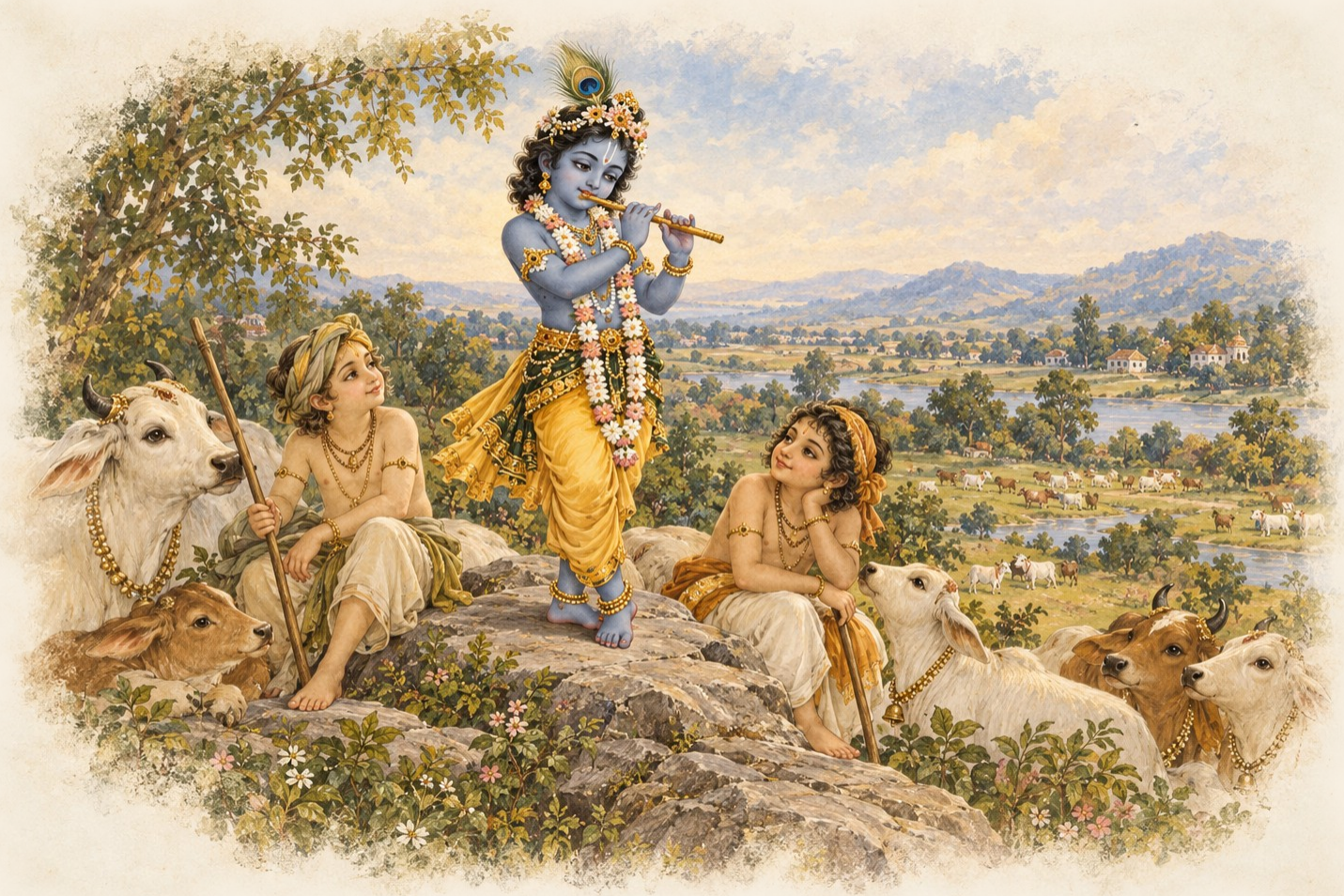


Krishna's Gopashtami Pastimes

From the Gopashtami collection



Before We Begin



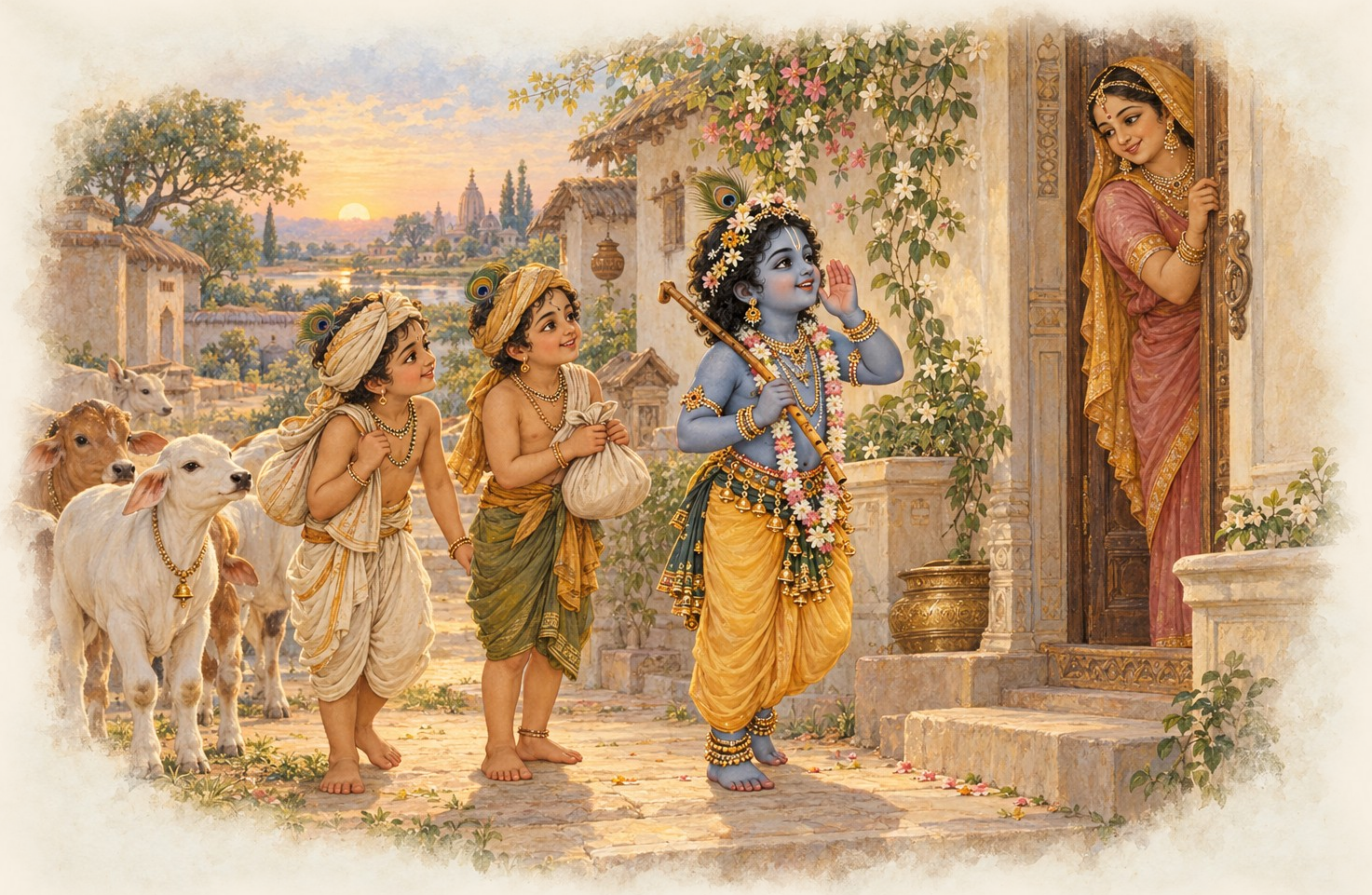
Shri Vallabh

This story is inspired by the kirtans in Gopashtami 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.



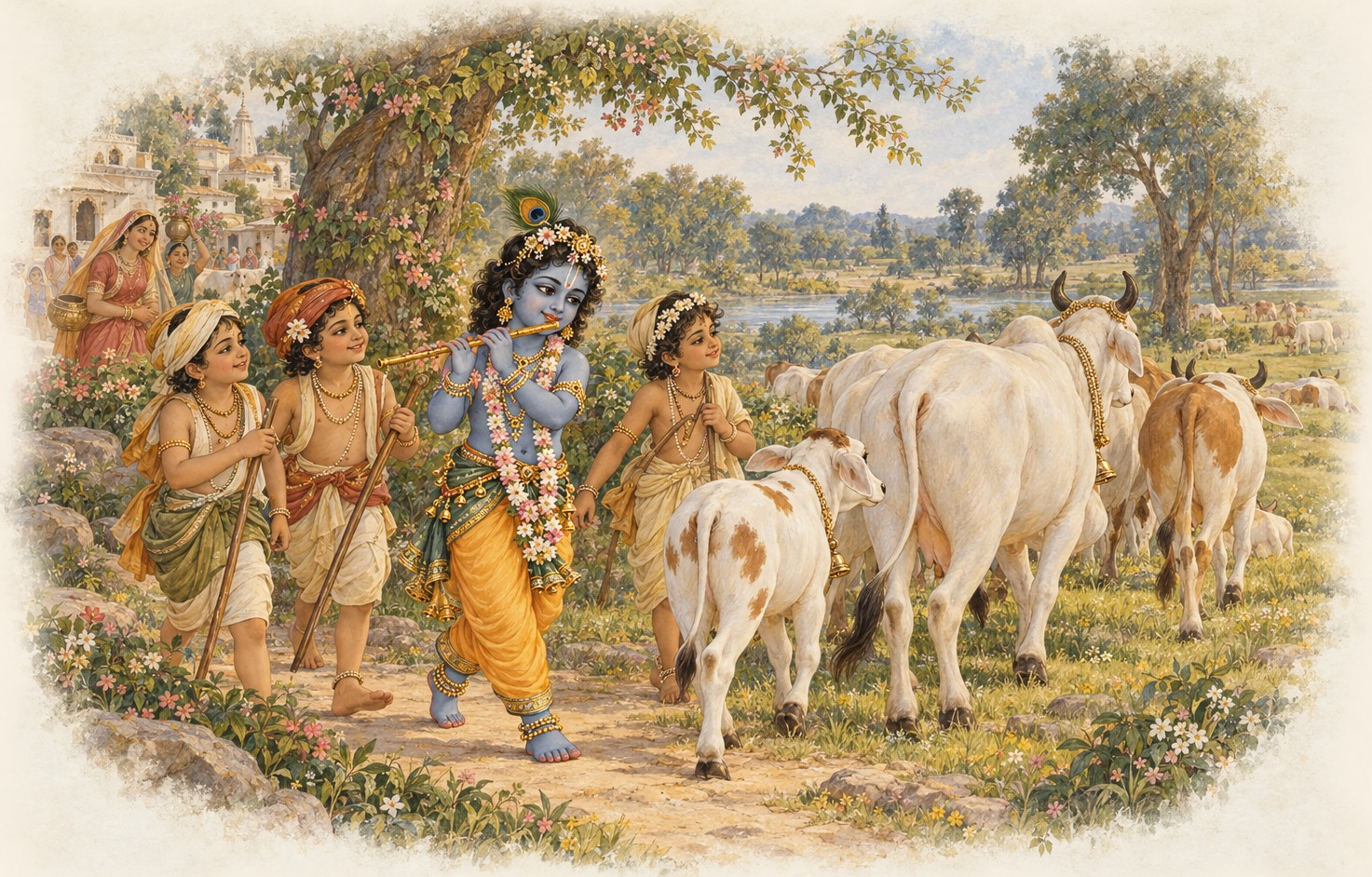
Krishna wanted to take the cows out to graze. He asked for Bal, His brother, and the cowherd boys to go with Him. With them beside Him, He would have no fear of wandering through the forests. Yashoda was delighted. She lovingly bathed her little boy and dressed Him in shining yellow cloth.



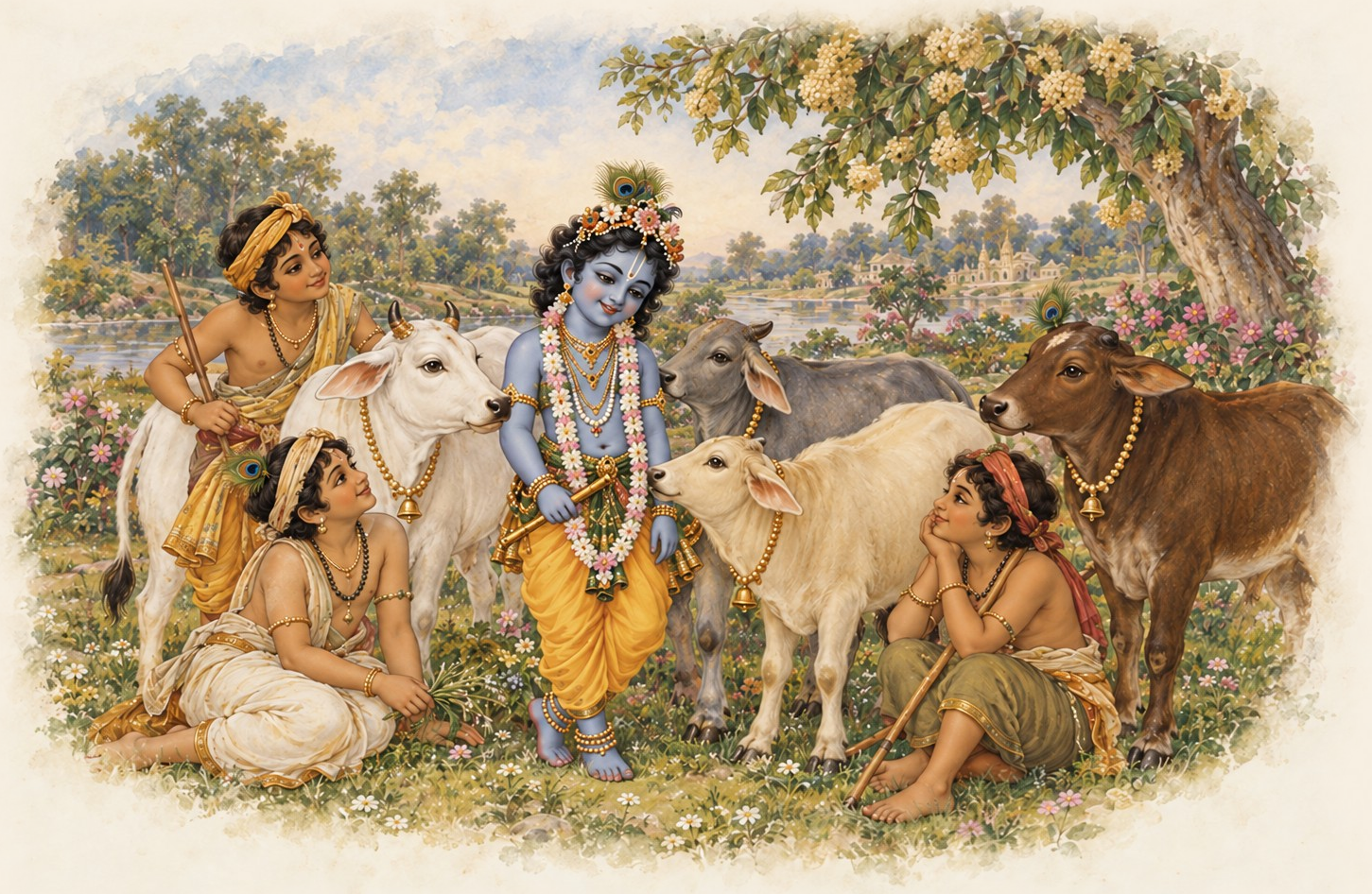
With His flute in His hand and His herding stick resting on His shoulder, Krishna went from doorway to doorway. Dawn had come, and He called His friends to wake up and let the calves loose. He reminded each boy to bring a meal from home, with foods made with ghee, a kind of butter.



The people of Vraj gathered to sing songs of blessing. They decorated the courtyard with pearls for the happy occasion. Krishna wore a peacock-feather crown, a garland of forest flowers, and earrings beside His cheeks. His friends brought their packed meals. For the first time, He was setting out to graze the cows.



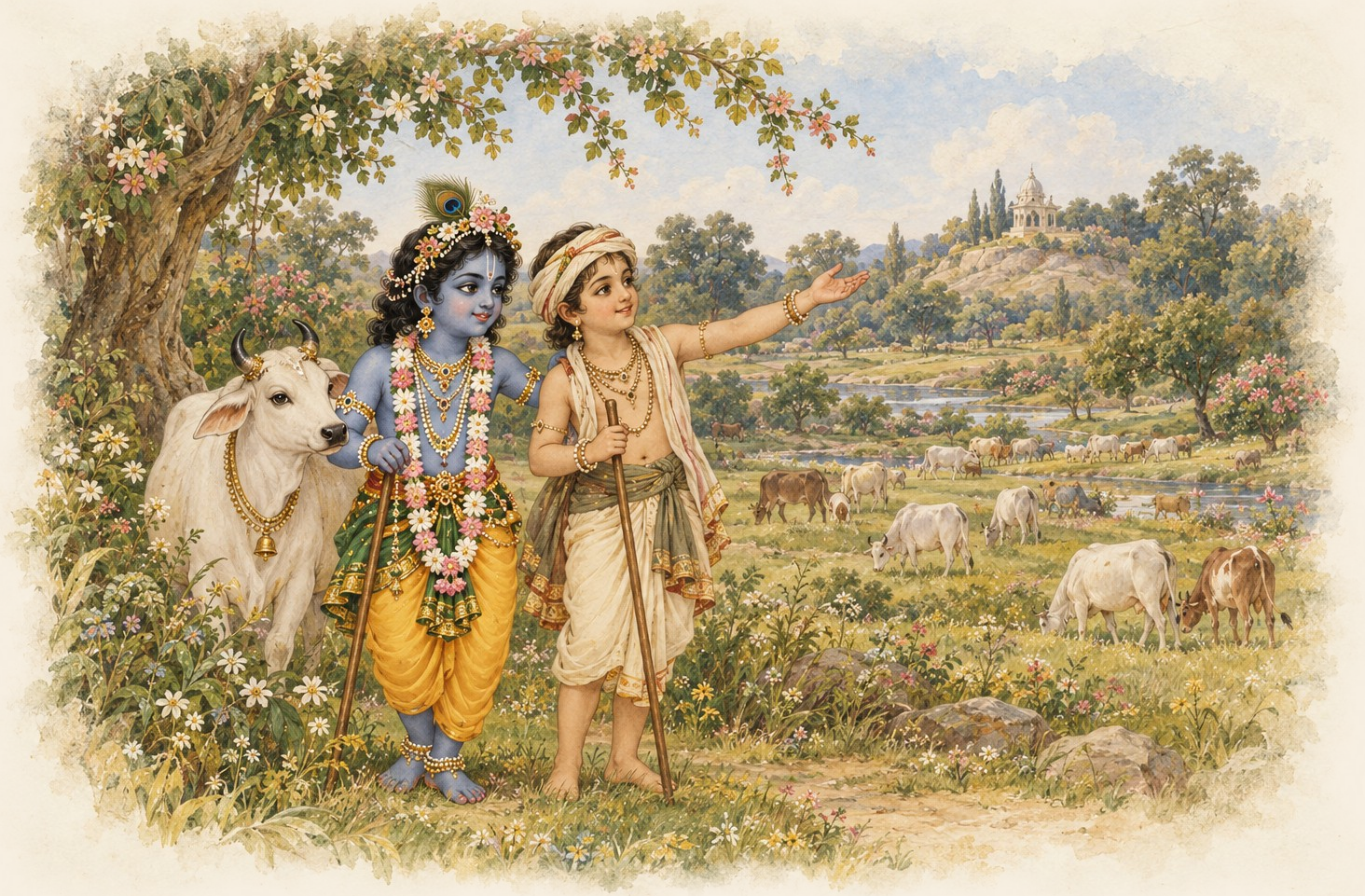
Krishna asked permission to go, then gathered the cows and guided them ahead. He walked behind the herd, playing His flute, with His happy friends beside Him. The people of Vraj watched Him leave. They missed Him already, and their thoughts stayed with the lovely little cowherd on His way to the forest.



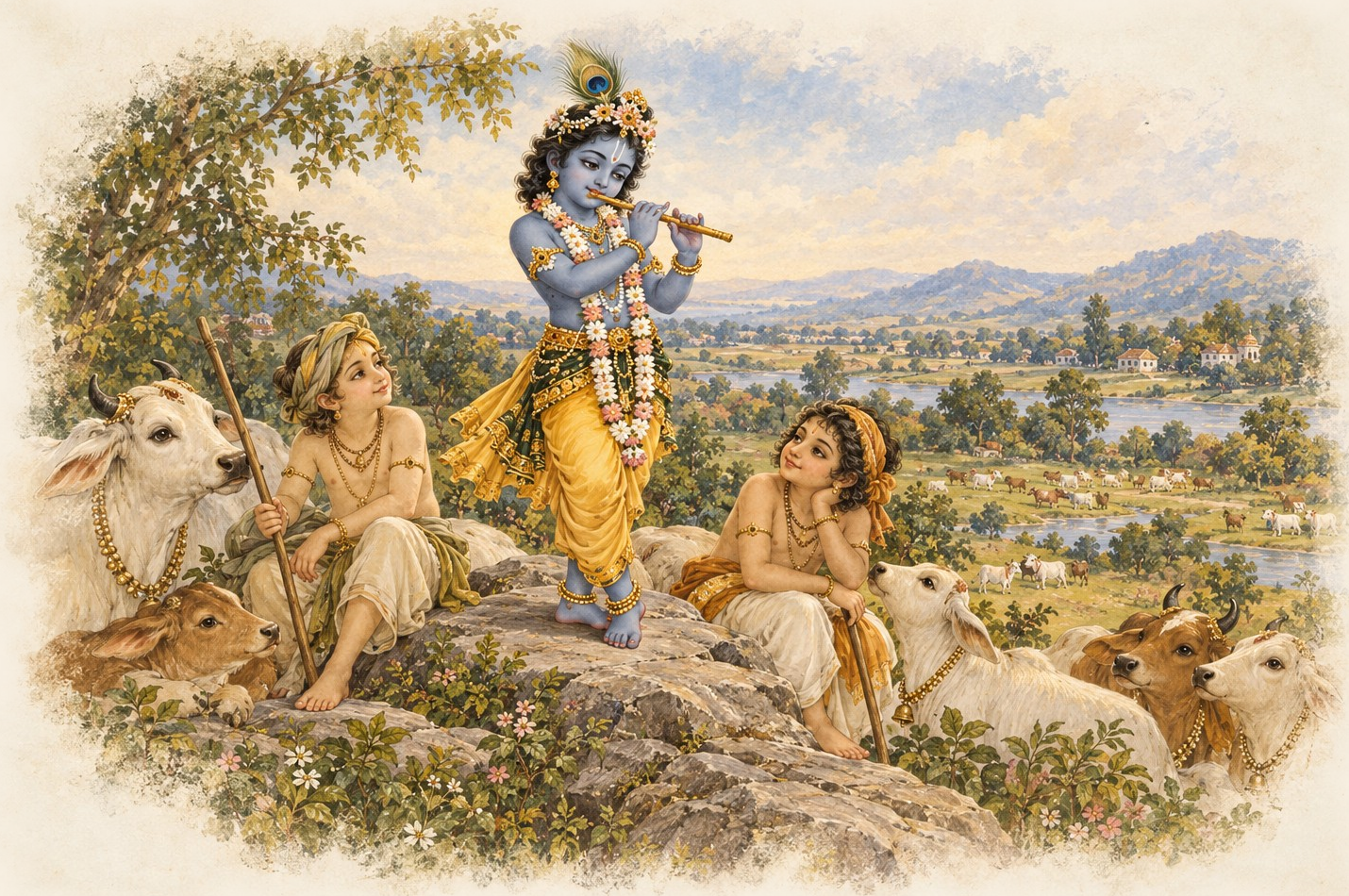
Out among the grazing cows stood Krishna, surrounded by His cowherd friends. The boys gathered close, their hearts full of love for Him. Dhori, Dhumar, Gauri, and Sanvari were among His cows. All belonged to Nanda's dear son. There in His cowherd dress, Krishna was wonderfully lovely to see.



Then the cows heard Krishna's flute. Beneath the kadamba trees, they stood still and listened. Dhori and Dhumar, Gauri and Sanvari were all quiet before Him. The same Krishna who grazed the cows was the Lord whose glory Shiva and Brahma praised. Here He stood among His friends and His listening herd.



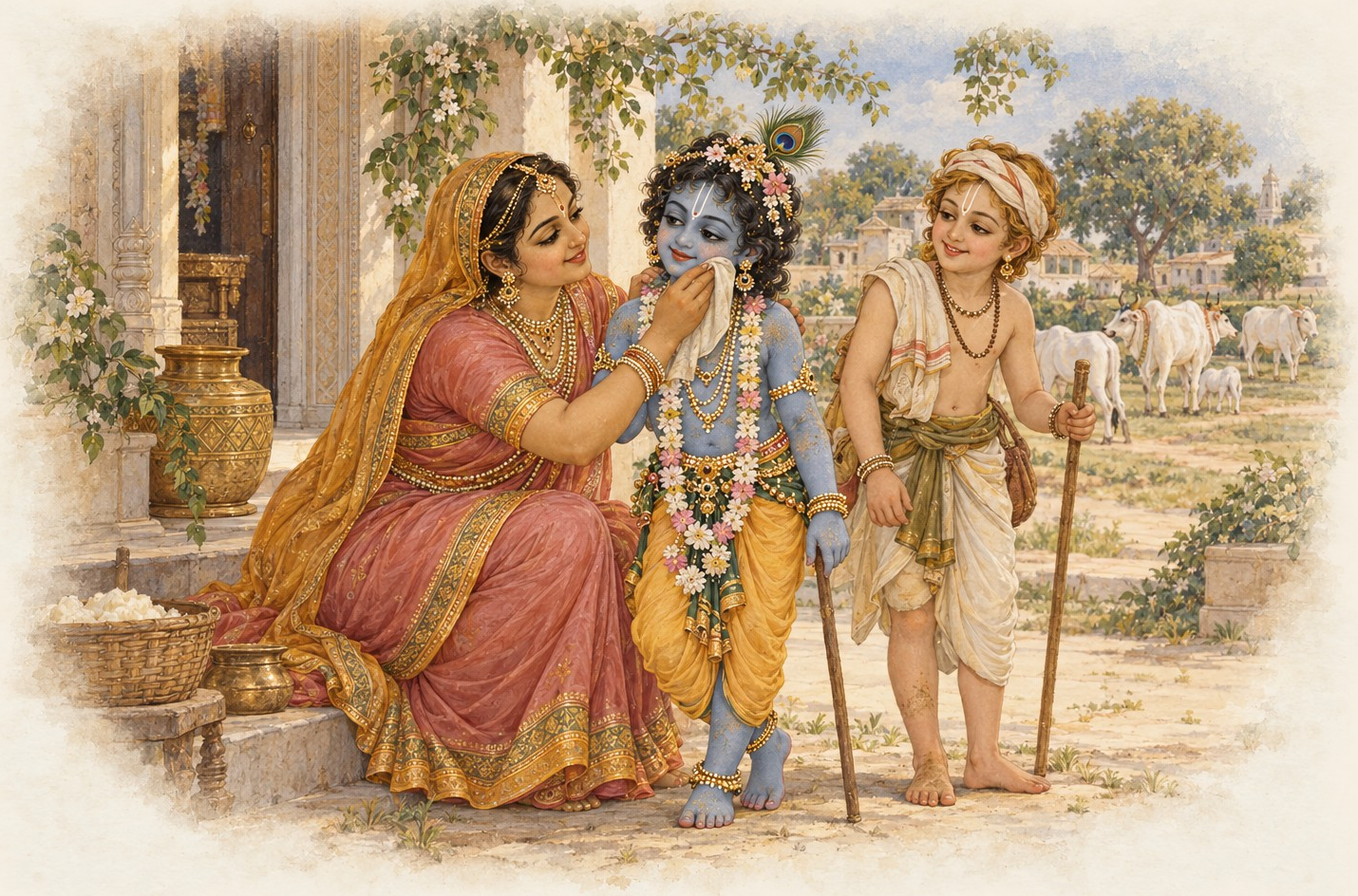
Some cows had wandered far away, grazing on the green grass of Vrindavan. Krishna was asked to call them back from a high place, where they could hear Him. Though the herd had spread out across the pasture, His lovely call could reach them. The distant cows would hear their beloved cowherd.



High on Govardhan Hill stood Krishna, calling Dhori.
His yellow garment shone, and a peacock feather
adorned His head. A garland of forest flowers lay
around His neck, and colors made from the earth
decorated His body. With His cowherd friends near
Him, He held His flute to His lips and played.



At the sweet call, the grazing cows turned toward Krishna. They came hurrying back, their faces lifted to Him. Milk streamed from them onto the earth as they gazed at their beloved Lord. Among His cowherd companions, Krishna enjoyed the fresh, frothy foam from the churning of the cows' milk.



Krishna returned from the forest. Yashoda gently brushed the cow-dust from His face and made loving gestures to ward away harm. She asked how He had managed with the cows, and where He and Bal had been when the rain clouds came. Her beautiful boy told His mother that they had not been afraid of the clouds.

Kirtans Used

गोपाष्टमी · Gopashtami collection

pushtikirtan.com/occasion/068-gopashtami

खेलनही चले ब्रजराई

Khelanhi Chale Vrajrai

Poet: Paramanand · Story on PDF page 4

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/khelanhi-chale-vrajrai-1686

गाय चरावन कहत गोपाल

Gay Charavan Kahat Gopal

Poet: Dwarikesh · Story on PDF pages 3, 5, 6, 12

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/gay-charavan-kahat-1687

प्रथम गोचरन चले कन्हारी

Pratham Gocharan Chale Kanhai

Poet: Paramanand · Story on PDF pages 5, 6

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/pratham-gocharan-chale-1688

गोधन चारत मदन गोपाल

Godhan Charat Madan Gopal

Poet: Paramanand · Story on PDF pages 7, 8

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/godhan-charat-madan-1697

Kirtans Used

Gopashtami collection · continued

चढि गोवर्धन शिखर सांवरो

Chadhi Govardhan Shikhar Sanvaro

Poet: Vishnudas · Story on PDF pages 10, 11

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/chadhi-govardhan-shikhar-1704

गैया दूर निकस गई

Gaiya Dur Nikas Gain

Poet not stated · Story on PDF pages 9, 11

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/gaiya-dur-nikas-1726

केसें केसें गाय चराई गिरिधर

Kesen Kesen Gay Charai Giridhar

Poet: Nandadas · Story on PDF page 12

pushtikirtan.com/kirtan/kese-kese-gay-1734