

## 10 Krishna the friend of the Brahmanas

All the gopis were busy collecting ghee, sugar and other ingredients to make laddoos. Krishna and the cowherd boys had gathered in Chikhsholi village, where the gopis were making laddoos. Krishna's friend, Madhumangala loved laddoos.

The gopas tiptoed into the house. The aroma of the laddoos filled the air. "Where are the laddoos?" the gopas whispered.

"Over here"

"Delicious ..... Give me some more"

"Here, you take some too"



The gopas shared the freshly made laddoos.

"What is this I hear? ... I think the gopis are coming."

"Yes! I hear the tinkling of their ornaments."

"Let's jump out of the window."

"Jump Sridama, jump Stoka."

"Is everyone here? Where is Madhumangala?"

"Madhumangala come quick! Madhumangala where are you?"

"Oh no! Madhumangala is stuck in the window."

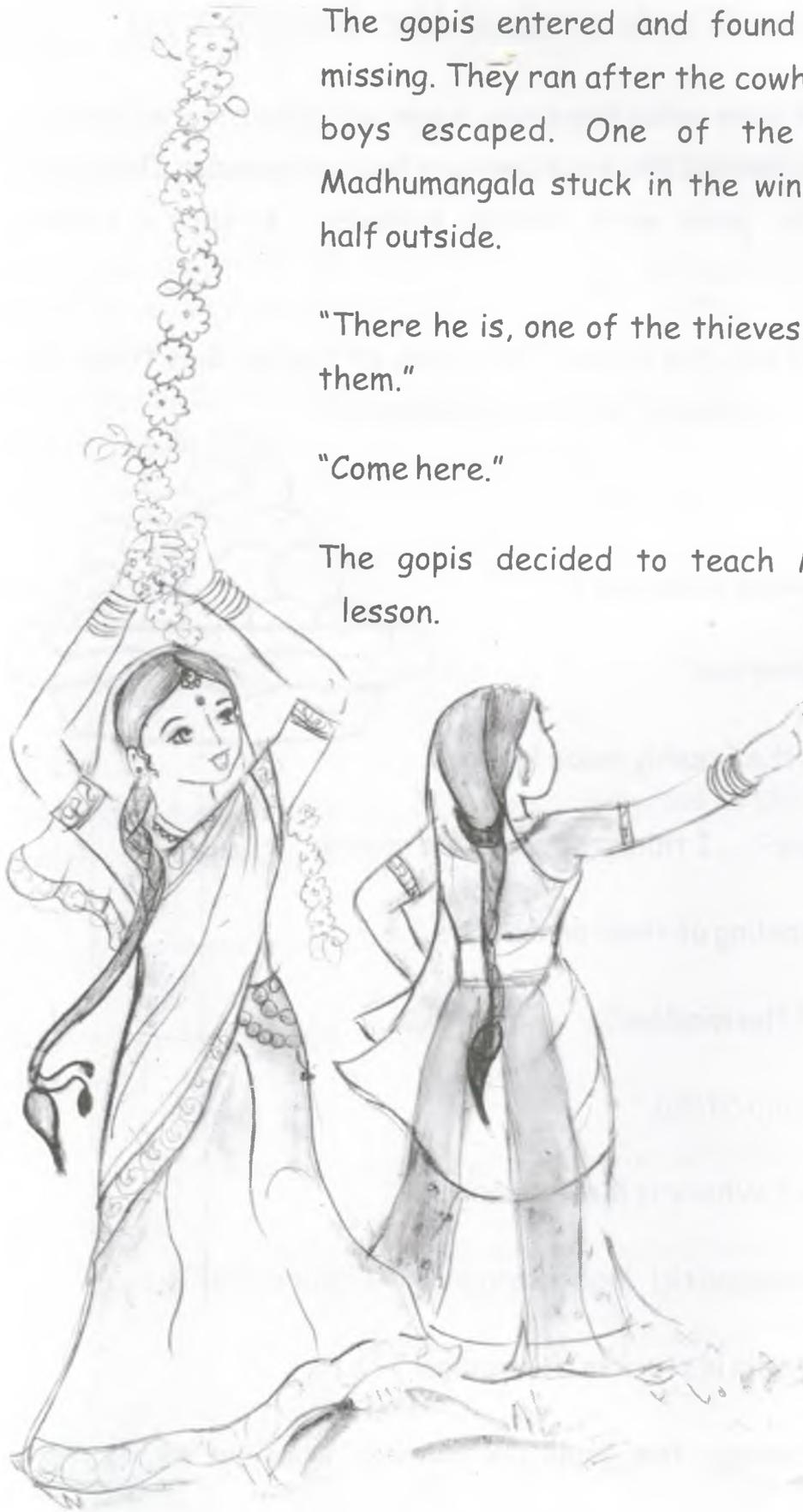
"The gopis are coming, the gopis are coming, what do we do, Run, Run, Run .....!"

The gopis entered and found all the laddoos missing. They ran after the cowherd boys but the boys escaped. One of the gopis spotted Madhumangala stuck in the window, half inside, half outside.

"There he is, one of the thieves. Now we will get them."

"Come here."

The gopis decided to teach Madhumangala a lesson.



"Bring me a long rope."

The gopis took a long garland and tied it to Madhumangala's shikha and threw the garland over the branch of a tree. All the gopis then took turns to pull the garland and they laughed and laughed.

Poor Madhumangala was in great pain. He was calling out to Krishna for help.

"Krishna, Krishna save me."

Krishna always listens to His devotees' call.

Krishna ran right back and scolded the gopis, although He wasn't really angry. "Don't you know that Madhumangala is a Brahmana? We must honour and respect him. You have committed a great offense by offending a Brahmana. You must atone for it.

The frightened gopis spoke "What can we do to free ourselves from this offence?"

"Oh please tell us Krishna. Only you can save us."

Krishna said, "Make a throne for Madhumangala. Worship him and offer him more laddoos instantly."

The gopis were ready to do anything that Krishna asked them to do. The gopis then made a beautiful throne on the banks of Krishna Kunda. They worshiped Madhumangala with great celebration and he ate laddoos to his heart's content.





## Activity Time

One day a fruit seller came to the house of Nanda Maharaja. She was calling out to people to come and buy her fruits. In those days people gave grains in exchange for fruits. This is called the barter system of exchange.



Krishna took some grains in His little pink lotus palms and came running towards the fruit vendor. As He was running most of the grains fell on the ground. By the time He reached the fruit seller there was hardly anything left.

Upon seeing the beauty of Lord Krishna the fruit vendor was enchanted. Not desiring anything in return, she filled Krishna's palms with fresh juicy fruits. As she gazed, captivated by the divine beauty of the Lord, all the fruits in her basket were transformed into valuable gems and jewels.

### Discussion:

In the pastime with Madhumangala we saw Krishna stealing ladoos. What happened in the pastime with the fruit vendor? What did Krishna do?

- ▶ Krishna does not need anything from anyone.
- ▶ Sometimes He asks for the moon
- ▶ Sometimes He steals butter
- ▶ and sometimes even ladoos
- ▶ Remember Krishna is the Lord of everything
- ▶ When Krishna takes something from us we get the benefit.



Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita

"If one offers Me with love and devotion a leaf, a fruit, a flower or some water, I will accept it."

When someone offers something lovingly to Krishna, without expecting anything in return, Krishna accepts the offering and showers His mercy on that devotee.



## Laddoos for Krishna

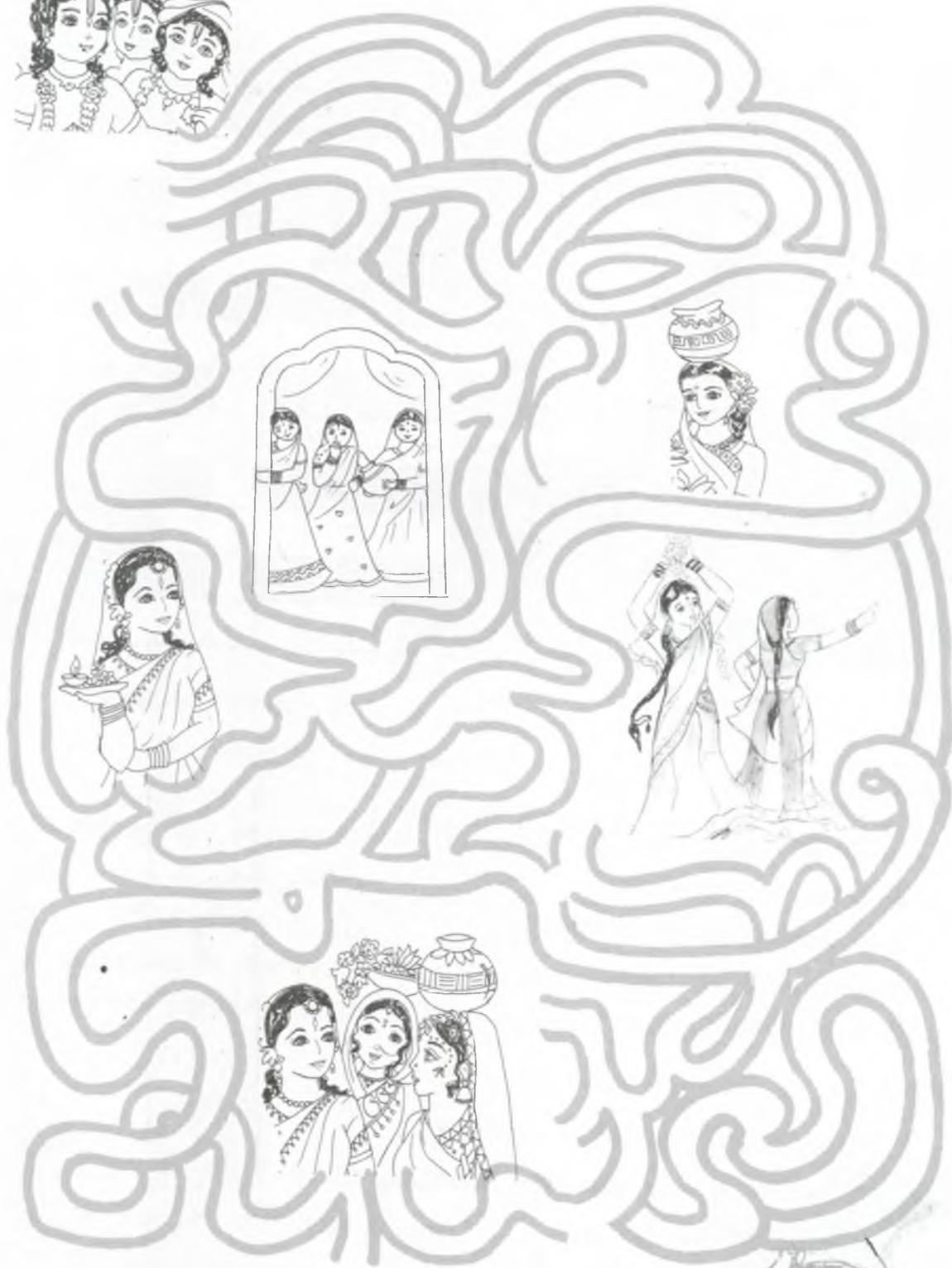
Make these laddoos, they are simply wonderful!

- You need:
- 100 gm soft butter
  - 2 tablespoons chopped nuts
  - a few chopped dates
  - some milk powder

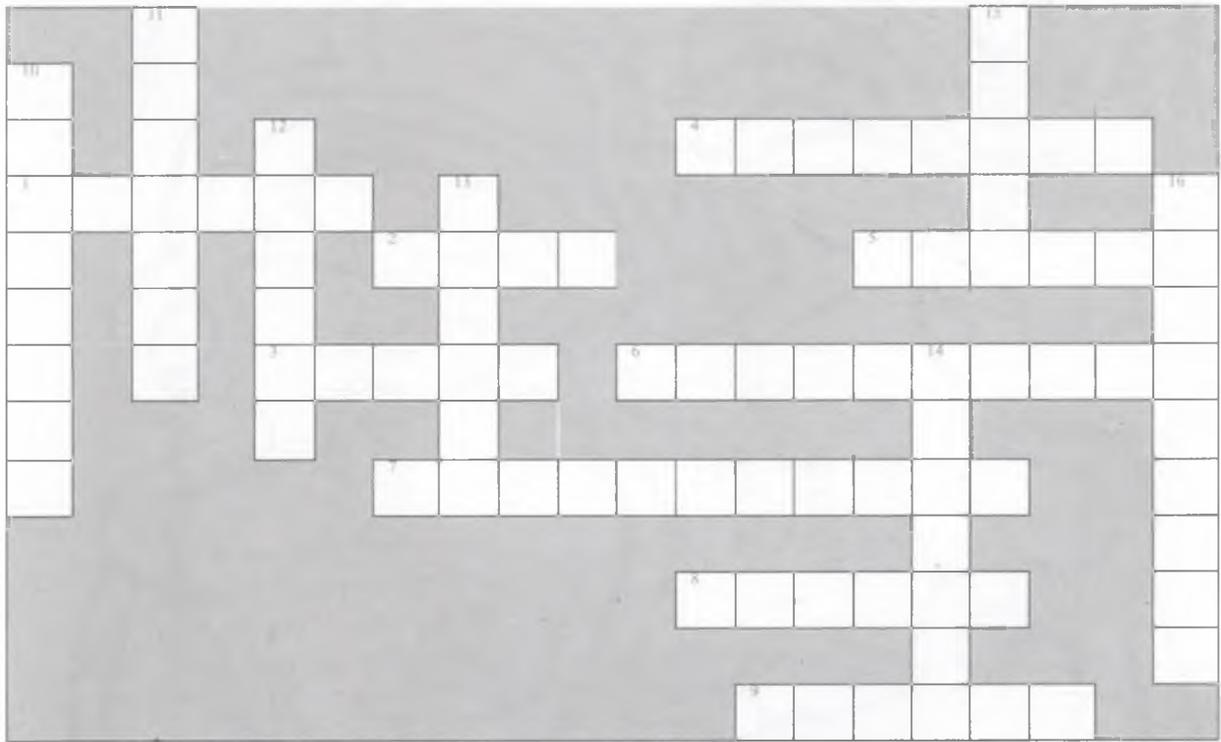


Make a smooth dough of the above ingredients. Roll into small balls and store in the fridge. Offer to Krishna and enjoy the Prasad.

Now help Madhumangala's friends reach him without getting caught by the gopis.....



Have you enjoyed reading about Krishna? Now test your memory. Complete the crossword using the clues:



Clues:

Across:

- |                              |                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Krishna was tied to       | 6. Protected the people of Vrindavana |
| 2. Seen only at night        | 7. Vishnu rests on                    |
| 3. A wicked uncle            | 8. A system of exchange               |
| 4. Krishna's brother         | 9. Another name for seller            |
| 5. By churning yogurt we get |                                       |

Down

10. They fought with the demons
11. Something soft used for sleeping
12. King of serpents
13. A dangerous substance
14. The lord will \_\_\_\_\_ to save his devotees
15. We should \_\_\_\_\_ the names of Krishna
16. The gopis wore many

Here is a little poem which mentions some of the Lord's pastimes. These pastimes attract the hearts of the devotees and also teach us many important things.

You steal the butter and pretend to cry,  
These childish pranks give the gopis joy.  
Govardhana hill, You held up high,  
When You were just a little boy.

We saw that pride comes before a fall,  
And anger makes us act in a wrong way.  
You help Your devotees when they call  
And also those who sincerely pray.

To respect our elders we must learn.  
The demigods are empowered by You.  
You give endless gifts in return,  
To those whose hearts are humble and true.

The amazing way in which You did appear  
Attracts our hearts and minds to You.  
You take away all doubt and fear  
With Your pastimes ever fresh and new.

The saints and sages have come to teach  
That You are our best friend.  
Your message we must always preach.  
To save the world You often descend.

