

# Festivals of India (Part 2)



**Hare Krishna Sunday School**  
International Society for Krishna Consciousness  
Founder-acharya: Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

# **Festivals of India (Part 2)**

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*This book is dedicated to  
His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami.  
By taking his guru's instructions to heart,  
he has enabled the whole world to  
relish the bliss of India's spiritual festivals.*

## Contents

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	1
Balaram's Appearance Day	2
Sri Krishna Janmastami	10
Radhastami	22
Disappearance Day of Srila Prabhupada	27

## **Introduction**

Everyone likes to celebrate. In all cultures of the world, you will find many festivals observing different important events. Some have to do with nature, some with the changing seasons, some for different stages a child will pass through, some for religious reasons and many other purposes. People seem to find a way to celebrate almost anything!

In Krishna Consciousness, there is no shortage of festivals. Many festivals and parties center around a particular person. A person having a birthday is the center of a birthday party. A new graduate is the center of a graduation party. With spiritual festivals, God is in the center. Krishna is unlimited and He has unlimited pastimes, all of which are good cause for celebration.

In this session we will experience a few of our well-known festivals. These celebrations center around “appearances” or births and “disappearances” or deaths. These are festivals that some of you may have attended in India or at the temple. We will learn the story behind each festival and why it is observed. We will make all the necessary preparations for it and together enjoy the fun of India’s spiritual holidays.

## Balaram's Appearance Day

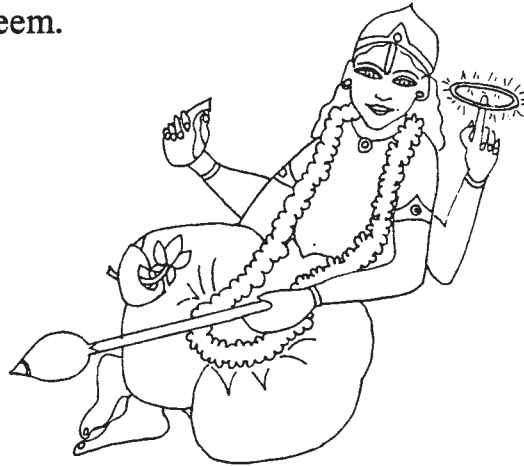
### *The Appearance of Lord Balaram*

Lord Balaram's appearance into this world happened in a very unusual way. To understand it, you have to know a bit about the appearance of Krishna and the history of Krishna's parents Devaki and Vasudeva. If you are not familiar with the story of Krishna's birth, read the story in the next lesson (Sri Krishna Janmastami: The Appearance of Lord Krishna) first. Then come back to this lesson and read the story of Lord Balaram.

Devaki's first six newborn children were killed by King Kamsa. When she became pregnant for the seventh time, an expansion of Krishna known as Ananta appeared within her womb. She was happy, yet sad. Happy because she knew that Lord Vishnu was residing within her womb; sad because Kamsa would kill the child after his birth.

The Supreme Personality of Godhead, however, had plans that would have made Devaki completely happy. He called for His internal potency Yogamaya. Yogamaya has the power to carry out any order or desire of the Lord no matter how impossible it may seem.

The Lord informed Yogamaya, "My expansion Ananta is within the womb of Devaki. You must arrange for Ananta to be transferred to Rohini's womb. (She was another wife of Vasudeva's.) There He will be safe. After He appears, He will be known as Sankarshan or Balaram."



The Lord then told Yogamaya of her role. "You will appear as the daughter of Nanda Maharaj and Yashoda in Vrindavan. Since you will appear as My sister, people within this world will worship you. You will be called Durga or Badrakali."

Yogamaya cast her spell and Balaram was transferred from Devaki's body to the womb of Rohini. It seemed to everyone that Devaki's unborn baby had died. So Balaram appeared as the son of Rohini in Vrindavan.

*Lord Balaram had many wonderful pastimes while on earth. His appearance day is a day that we especially like to hear of His activities. The following story is one that is often told.*

### ***Lord Balaram Visits Vrindavan***

Long after Krishna and Balaram had grown up and moved to Dwarka, Balaram desired to go visit His loved ones in Vrindavan. He set out from Dwarka, eager to see His friends and relatives.

After a very joyful reunion, with many blessings exchanged, Balaram sat down to answer the numerous questions from Yashoda and Nanda Maharaj. “Are Vasudeva and his family members doing well? What about our beloved Krishna? Do You and He sometimes remember us even though You are both grown up now with children of your own? Does Krishna miss us as we miss Him?”

The gopis arrived with even more questions. “Does Krishna have plans to visit all of us in Vrindavan? Does He remember us gopis, who are miserable because He is gone? Is He happy surrounded by all of the beautiful and clever women in Dwarka?”

The more the gopis spoke of Krishna, the more they loved Him and missed Him. They could not hold back their tears and soon all were crying. Lord Balaram could understand the intense emotions the gopis were feeling. He wanted to make them feel better so He began telling various stories about Krishna. This satisfied the gopis and they listened with joy.

Balaram wanted to keep the gopis happy as long as He could. He stayed among them in Vrindavan for two whole months. One of the gopis’ fondest memories was of the rasa dance they performed with Krishna. While Lord Balaram was there, He passed each night with the gopis in the forest. He danced the rasa dance with the gopis just like Krishna.





With Lord Balaram back, the forest became a magical place once more. The aroma of different flowers carried by the cooling breeze filled the forest with sweet smells. Moonlight filled the sky, making the banks of the Yamuna River look bright and glowing. The demigod named Varuna sent his daughter Varuni in the form of liquid honey oozing from the hollows of the trees. The aroma of this honey was thick in the forest air and Balaram especially loved the Varuni honey. The taste of the honey was heavenly and Balaram and the gopis drank it together. The gopis sang the glories of Lord Balaram and He felt very happy, as if He was intoxicated by the sweet honey. He sat with long garlands of forest flowers around His neck and He rolled his eyes in pleasure.

The two months that Lord Balaram spent in Vrindavan with the gopis passed so quickly that those nights seemed to be only one night. With Lord Balaram there, the gopis became as cheerful as they had been when Krishna Himself was present.

### ***Celebrating Balaram's Appearance Day***

There is another festival called Jhulan Yatra which is celebrated just before Balaram's appearance. Jhulan Yatra is a four-day long festival. During these four days, Radha and Krishna Deities are placed upon a decorated swing. Many people come to visit the temple during this time and everyone takes turns swinging the Deities. The last day of Jhulan Yatra is the day of Balaram's appearance so everyone swings the Deities for the last time on that day.





Lord Balaram's appearance is celebrated at moonrise. Those who can will fast for the entire day. Pastimes of Balaram are read throughout the day for everyone's pleasure. In the meantime special preparations are cooked for Lord Balaram. Of course, He will be offered a big pitcher of Varuni honey! Other items made with honey are also offered since He was so fond of it. In many temples on Balaram's appearance day, visitors will come with a new jar of honey to offer as a gift to the Lord. The altar may be covered with rows and rows of honey jars!

No festival is complete without a kirtan and you can be sure of an energetic kirtan on this day. You will hear "Jaya Baladeva" and "Krishna-Balaram" and other mantras in praise of Krishna's brother being sung. After the kirtan, when the moon is above the horizon, a gigantic feast is served to all the devotees. And after you enjoy a delicious feast and try the Varuni beverage, you may find your eyes rolling around in your head just like Lord Balaram's!



# Our Sunday School Celebration of Balaram's Appearance

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**My duties:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Which two Balarams are the same?  
Spot the differences in the others.



7

6

## Balaram Word Search

N V A S U D E V A K I W  
O M N V U J S T K E Q B  
I Z A E A T V T I S V C  
S Z B R O T H E R H P E  
N G N O A H N P L O W E  
A Y S H Y L V A R U N I  
P T E I I C A Y N G F G  
X C H N P C A B Y A G X  
E N U I O O L D E R Q P  
Z D Y Z Q H G U H Z K L  
N H C D Q Q N P B S I C

Ananta  
Balaram  
Brother  
Club  
Devaki

Expansion  
Gopis  
Honey  
Older  
Plow

Rohini  
Strong  
Varuni  
Vasudeva  
White

## Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a coded message. In the cryptogram below, each letter of the alphabet really stands for another letter. Can you break the code and find out something about Lord Balaram? If you want a few hints, look at the bottom of the page. If not, cover up the hints with another paper and get to work!

KPDC MEKEDEY XG J V Q

PKCQD MDP J V Q D P T

ZDXGVOE EOC VQ XG

AQDN GJDPOW .

ZDXGVOE XG MKLQ EOC

MEKEDEY XG RVXJQ .

HINTS: E=A  
M=B  
Q=E  
D=R  
X=I

## Sri Krishna Janmastami The Appearance of Lord Krishna

### *The Appearance of Lord Krishna*

Many years ago, the earth goddess Bhumi was upset about all the problems that demoniac kings were causing on the earth. Crying loudly, she went to Lord Brahma for help. Lord Brahma and the other demigods were alarmed at what she was saying and they all went together to see Lord Vishnu. Lord Vishnu reassured them, “I will soon come to earth as the son of Vasudeva and will destroy all the demons. You demigods should take your births in the Yadu dynasty. Don’t worry, the devotees will be saved.”



Some time later, Vasudeva, the son of King Surasena, married the beautiful Devaki. After the wedding, Devaki’s brother Kamsa drove them home on a wonderful golden chariot. Suddenly a great voice from the sky proclaimed, “Kamsa, you are such a fool. You are driving the chariot of your sister and her husband, but you do not know that the eighth child of this sister will kill you!”

This frightened Kamsa terribly. He caught hold of Devaki’s hair and raised his sword to kill her. Vasudeva was astonished and stopped Kamsa, saying, “Please don’t kill your own sister. She will never harm you. The threat is from her eighth child who is not yet born. I promise you that whenever she has a child, I will give the child to you.” Kamsa knew that Vasudeva could be trusted so he did not kill Devaki.

True to his word, when the first child, a baby boy, was born to Devaki, Vasudeva handed him over to Kamsa. Kamsa softened a little and gave the baby back to Vasudeva, saying that it was the *eighth* child that was to kill him. But at that time Kamsa was warned that the demigods were already taking birth in the Yadu dynasty. He also heard that Nanda Maharaj,



*The room was filled with a dazzling light. There stood Lord Vishnu Himself in His divine magnificence. In His four hands He held the conch, the disc, the club and the lotus flower.*



Vasudeva and all the residents of Vrindavan were preparing for the birth of the Lord Himself. Kamsa knew that if the demigods were already appearing, the Lord would soon appear too. He immediately arrested Vasudeva and Devaki and put them into prison under heavy guard. Kamsa put his own father Ugrasena in jail and made himself the king.

Within the prison, shackled in iron chains, Vasudeva and Devaki gave birth to a male child year after year. Kamsa didn't want to take any chances, so he killed them one after another. When Devaki was pregnant with her seventh child, which would be Lord Balaram, he was transferred to the womb of Rohini as we learned in the last lesson.

Now it was time for the eighth child of Devaki to be born. Devaki, Vasudeva and all the demigods became very happy waiting for Krishna's birth. Kamsa, on the other hand, became afraid and hateful. He waited for the child to be born, hoping to kill Him as he did the others.

At the time of Krishna's birth, there were nice signs everywhere. The planets and stars moved to good positions in the sky. The rivers were full of clear flowing water and the lakes were full of lotus flowers. The forests resounded with singing birds and dancing peacocks. The soft winds smelled of sweet flowers. The Gandharvas and Kinnaras began to sing; the Siddhas and Caranas offered prayers; the Apsaras began to dance; and the great sages and demigods showered flowers from the skies.

In the middle of the night, during a heavy rainstorm, Lord Vishnu appeared as the Supreme Personality of Godhead before Devaki. Vasudeva saw his baby son with four hands holding a conchshell, club, disc and lotus flower. His bright effulgence flashed throughout the room. He had the special mark of Srivatsa on His chest (a tuft of white hair that only Krishna has) and the jeweled necklace with the kaustubha stone around His neck (another trademark of Krishna). He was dressed in yellow silk and was wearing many valuable ornaments. His thick black hair was crowned with a jeweled golden helmet.

Vasudeva and Devaki, understanding that the Lord had appeared as their son, bowed down and offered prayers. They were terrified of Kamsa and begged Lord Vishnu to hide Himself so He would not be killed. The Lord answered, "I know that you are thinking of Me with great love and are

afraid of Kamsa. Now take me to Gokula Vrindavan and exchange Me with the daughter who has just been born to Yashoda.”

Then the Lord turned Himself into an ordinary small baby. Vasudeva quickly and quietly took his little son out of the prison. By the Lord’s arrangement, all the guards and gatekeepers of the prison were sound asleep and the doors of the prison opened magically.

Vasudeva carried little Krishna through the thundering rainstorm. Lord Ananta Sesa, who has the form of a serpent with many heads, spread his serpent hood over the head of Vasudeva like an umbrella. They came to the Yamuna River which was roaring with waves and foam in the big storm. They crossed with no problems and Vasudeva brought his baby son Krishna to the house of Nanda Maharaja in Vrindavan. Everyone was sleeping there too,

and Vasudeva quietly walked inside and put Krishna down next to Mother Yashoda. Then he picked up Yashoda’s baby girl who had just been born and went back with her to the prison of Kamsa. As he went back into the prison, he locked the doors and gates behind him so Kamsa would never know of all the things that happened during the night. He placed the baby girl next to Devaki.

Soon after Vasudeva returned, the gatekeepers woke up and heard the new baby crying. They ran to tell Kamsa. Kamsa was so afraid that his hair stood up on end. He jumped out of bed and cried, “Now the cruel death of my life is born!” Then he hurried to the prison where he saw Devaki and the baby.



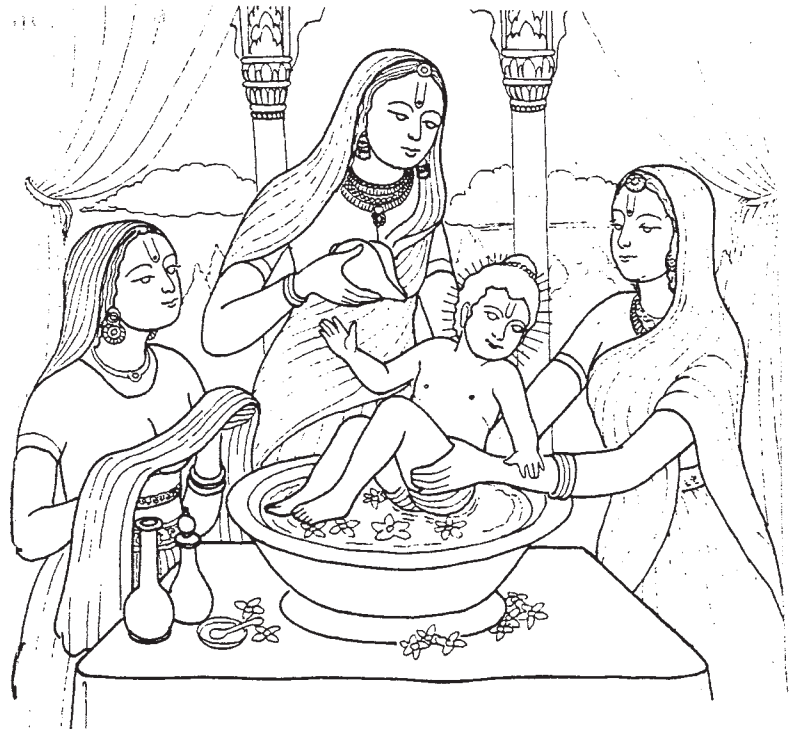
Quietly, Devaki said, “My dear brother Kamsa, please do not kill this baby girl. You won’t be killed by a girl, but by my eighth *son*.” Kamsa ignored the words of Draupadi and grabbed the newborn child. He threw her down, hoping to smash her against the stone floor. But the baby slipped right out of his hands and rose up into the sky!

The little baby girl was actually the goddess Durga. She assumed her original form, wearing a beautiful dress, flower garlands, shining jewels and ornaments. She had eight arms and held a bow, spear, arrows, bell, conchshell, disc, club and shield. Goddess Durga shouted at Kamsa, “You rascal, you cannot kill me! The child who will kill you is already born before me and is somewhere in this world. Don’t be so cruel to your poor sister.” Then she left.

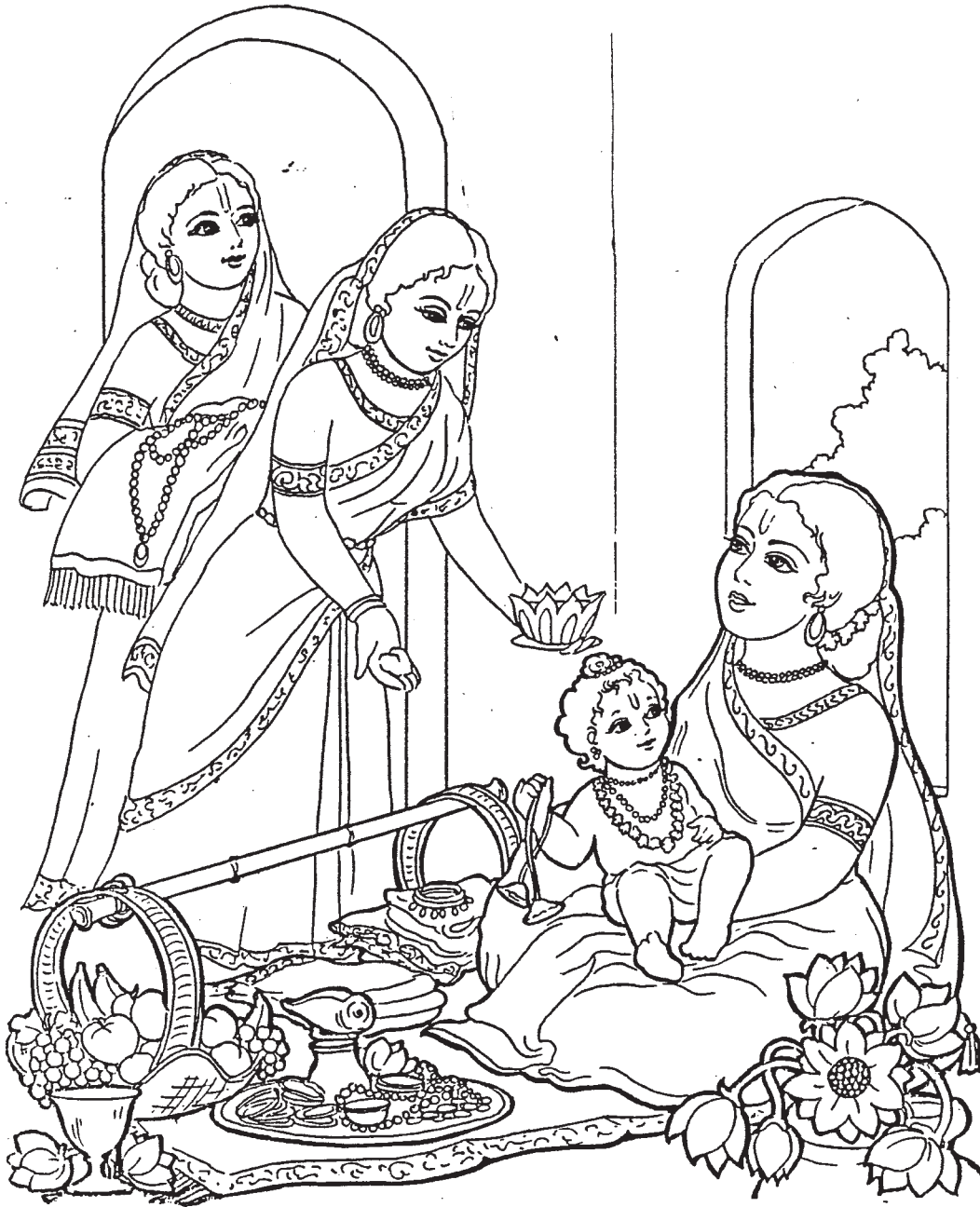
All of this made Kamsa even more afraid. He apologized to Vasudeva and Devaki, “I have been just like a demon to kill your six little babies. Please excuse me for such terrible behavior.” He unlocked them and released them from prison.

But, like the true demon he was, he had a change of heart the very next day. Kamsa decided that if his enemy was alive somewhere, he would find him and kill him. The evil king ordered his demon friends to kill all children born in the last ten days. He also ordered them to disturb the saintly people as much as possible.

Meanwhile, in Vrindavan, Nanda Maharaj and Yashoda were celebrating the birth of their child Krishna. Nanda Maharaj gave away 200,000 beautifully decorated cows, mountains of grains, silk cloth and golden ornaments to the brahmans, musicians and singers. Brahmans chanted different Sanskrit hymns for the good fortune of the child.



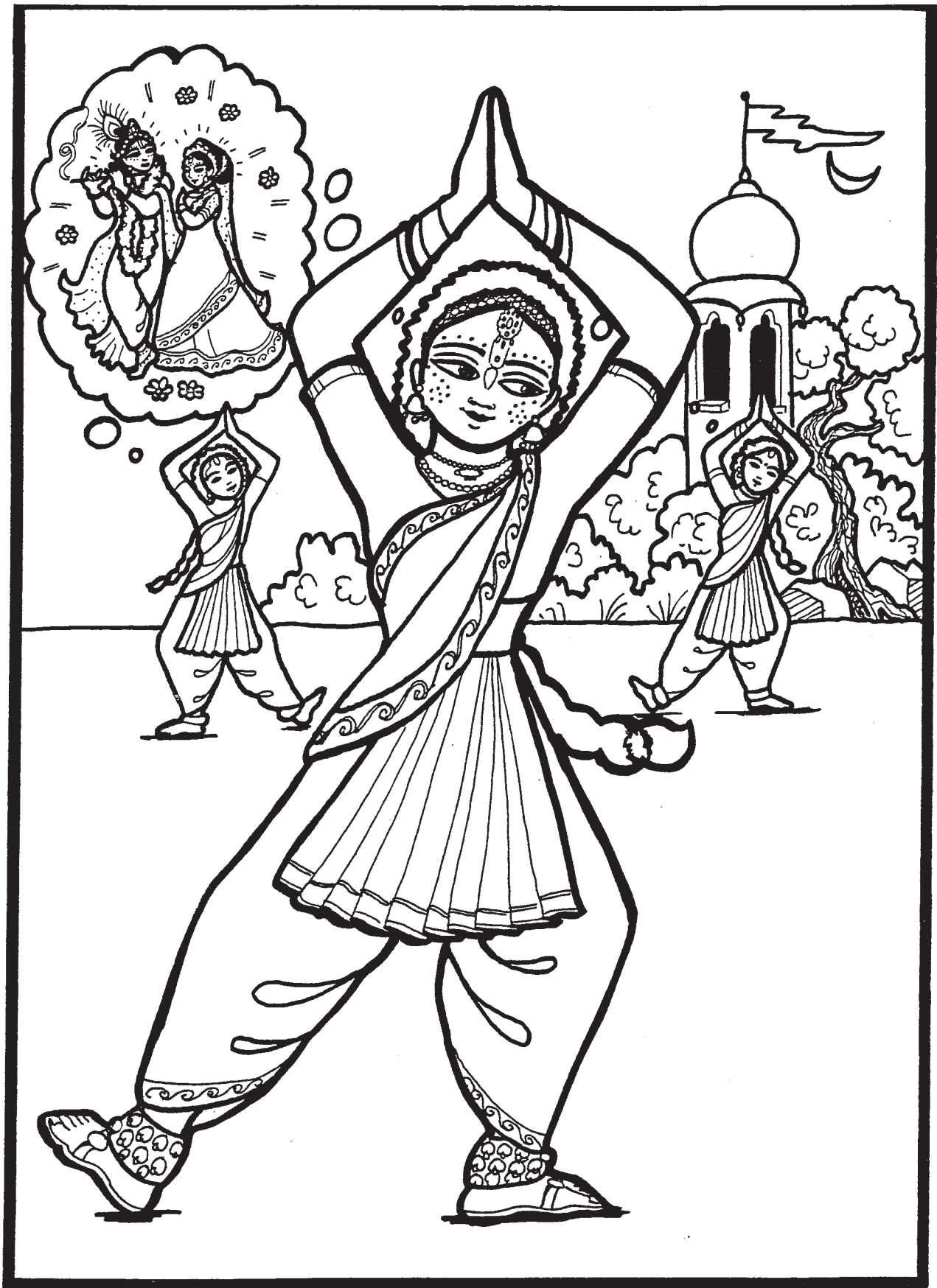




All the cowherd men and their wives, the gopis, dressed in their best clothes and brought gifts for the new baby. Nanda Maharaj was very happy to see everyone enjoying Krishna's birth ceremony. He prayed to the Supreme Personality of Godhead to protect his child.

### ***Celebrating Janmastami***

Janmastami is celebrated seven days after Balaram's appearance day. Janmastami is a celebration of fasting and feasting. Those who wish to follow Janmastami strictly observe complete fasting until midnight. For some, that means no food *or* water!



*On Janmastami, you will often see Bharat Natyam dances performed. These dances celebrate the pastimes of Krishna.*

In many temples Janmastami is the biggest celebration of the year. They may have Indian dances, dramas, singers or other performers providing entertainment. The entertainment is always based on Krishna's appearance and His pastimes. Temples are decorated grandly and the Deities are dressed as elegantly as possible in a new outfit. Often times an extraordinary outfit will be made out of fresh flowers. Surrounded by the fresh and fragrant blooms, the Deities look more beautiful than ever.

There will usually be an *abhishek*, or bathing, of a small Deity of Krishna. Bhajans are sung during this time and people take turns pouring conchshells full of ghee, water, milk and honey over Krishna. After the *abhishek*, everyone delights in drinking a bit of the bath water, called *charinamrita*. It tastes very sweet, and because it has bathed the body of the Lord, it is very purifying for our soul.

Sometime during the evening, just as with any birthday, gifts will be given to Krishna. This is a great chance to show your love for the Lord by offering Him a gift. He gives us everything, but how often do we have a chance to give something to Him? Will you remember to make or buy a present for Krishna on the next Janmastami?



Make sure you come to a Janmastami festival well-rested! Krishna's appearance is celebrated at midnight. Singing, dancing, telling Krishna stories and entertainment are going on right up until the clock strikes twelve. But people are so absorbed in thinking about Krishna that they don't get tired.

Right before midnight you can expect another ecstatic kirtan and lots of dancing. That will lead up to a special arati for Krishna at midnight. After the arati you may think that everyone will be ready to go home and go to bed. Not yet! Now it is time to break the fast and to enjoy a wonderful feast cooked for Krishna. And after a tasty midnight feast, you will feel ready to celebrate all over again.

## Our Sunday School Celebration of Janmastami

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**My duties:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Telephone Scramble

Below are names of things that you would find on Krishna's Deity form. On each telephone number there are 3 letters but only one letter is the correct one. To find out what each word is, pick one of the three letters for each button. Can you figure these out? *Here's a hint: the first one is something that Krishna wears around His waist.*

ABC	DEF	JKL	TUV
2	3	5	8

ABC	PRS	MNO	WXY	MNO
2	7	6	9	6

DEF	ABC	PRS	PRS	GHI	MNO	GHI	PRS
3	2	7	7	4	6	4	7

DEF	JKL	MNO	WXY	DEF	PRS	PRS
3	5	6	9	3	7	7

DEF	JKL	TUV	TUV	DEF
3	5	8	8	3

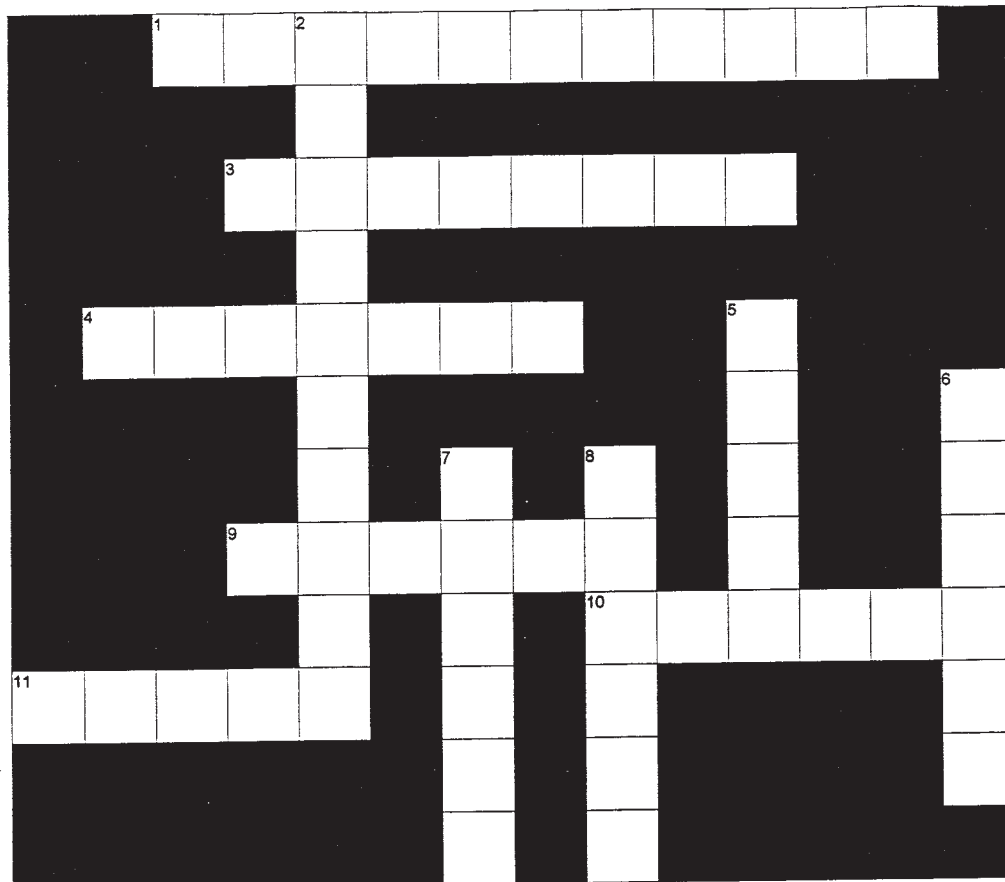
GHI	ABC	PRS	JKL	ABC	MNO	DEF
4	2	7	5	2	6	3

PRS	DEF	ABC	ABC	MNO	ABC	JKL
7	3	2	2	6	2	5

DEF	DEF	ABC	TUV	GHI	DEF	PRS
3	3	2	8	4	3	7

PRS	GHI	MNO	GHI	PRS
7	4	6	4	7

## Crossword Puzzle "Krishna's Appearance"



### ACROSS

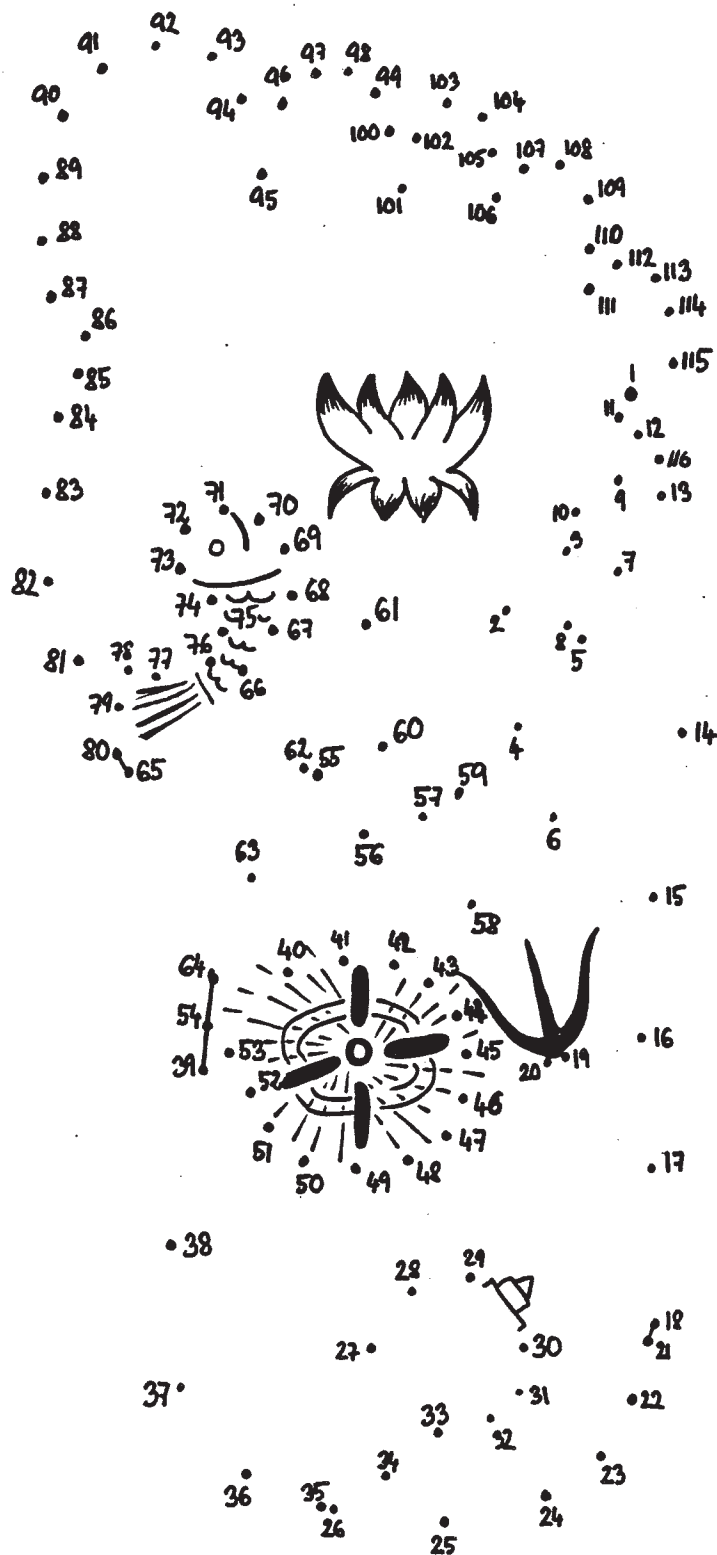
1. Ugrasena was Krishna's
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Krishna's real father
4. Kamsa's relation to Devaki
9. the real mother of Krishna
10. they slept while Vasudeva escaped
11. the evil king

### DOWN

2. used his hoods to cover baby Krishna
5. Yashoda's baby daughter
6. the "home" of Vasudeva and Devaki when Krishna appeared
7. the river that Vasudeva crossed carrying Krishna
8. this child of Devaki's was predicted to kill Kamsa

# Connect the dots!

Since Krishna is there in Vrindavan land,  
This can be found in the soft, white sand.



## Radhastami

### The Appearance of Srimati Radharani

#### *The Appearance of Radharani*

King Vrishabanu and his wife Kirtida lived in a beautiful palace in Varshana. It was situated on a high hill and was surrounded by beautiful forests. The caws of peacocks and the chatter of lively monkeys filled the air as well as the sweet smell of the forest flowers. As much as they loved their home in Varshana, they decided to move to Raval, near the Yamuna River. They hoped that by being near the holy river, Mother Yamuna would bless them with the child they had longed for.

This wish was granted and they were soon blessed with a nice and beautiful daughter. King Vrishabanu and Queen Kirtida named her Radharani. But there was one sad thing about their new baby Radharani. She was blind and couldn't see a thing. She would not open Her eyes.



Narada Muni, the great sage who travels through the universe, could understand that Radharani was very special. He knew that She appeared on the earth to have pastimes with Krishna. So Narada immediately went to King Vrishabanu's palace to see Radharani. King Vrishabanu didn't want to show Narada his blind daughter. But then he thought that maybe Narada could bless Her and cure Her blindness.

He brought Radharani out to meet the great sage. Narada Muni offered his obeisances to the baby and sang many wonderful prayers to Her. After blessing Her he left, but she could still not see anything.

A short time later Vrishabanu and Kirtida had some other visitors. Mother Yashoda and Nanda Maharaj came with their baby Krishna to see the daughter of King Vrishabanu. Radharani's parents were swinging Her on a swing and Krishna's parents brought Him before the beautiful baby. Krishna reached out and touched Radha's face with His small lotus hands.

Radharani's eyes fluttered and opened up. She could see now! The very first thing that She saw in this world was the beautiful face of Lord Krishna. This was what She had been waiting for, and as she looked upon His beautiful blue lotus face, she smiled a most wonderfully happy smile.

### ***Celebrating Radhastami***

Radhastami is celebrated fifteen days after Janmastami. Balaram is seven days older than Krishna, and Krishna is fifteen days older than Radharani.



The appearance of Radharani is celebrated at noontime. At many temples in the morning a new dress is offered to the Deities and they are decorated very opulently. Fresh fragrant flowers are offered to the Deities and Radharani looks like a beautiful pink lotus surrounded by many other flowers.

Everyone likes to hear about the pastimes of Radharani and Krishna. Radhastami is a time when people gather in the temple and hear about many of those pastimes. A rousing *kirtan* is held during the noon arati and after that, everyone sits down to a sumptuous feast. Radharani loves to cook for Krishna, so She enjoys seeing Her devotees enjoy Krishna prasadam.



## Our Sunday School Celebration of Radhastami

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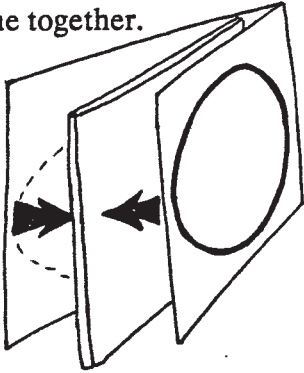
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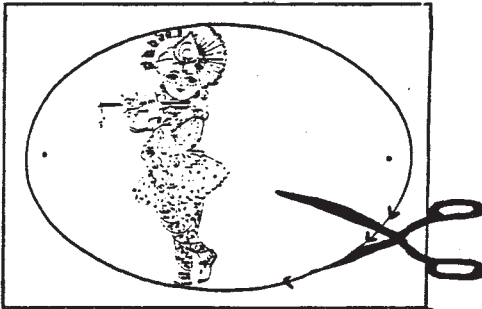
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# Jaya Shri-Shri Radha-Krishna

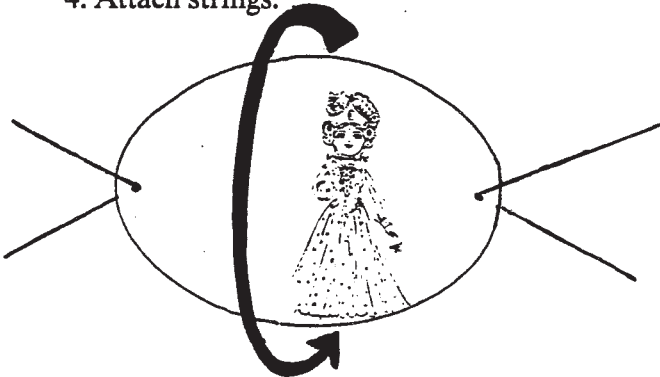
1. Cut along the thin line in the middle of the page.
2. Fold the picture along the dotted line.  
Put a piece of cardboard in between and glue together.



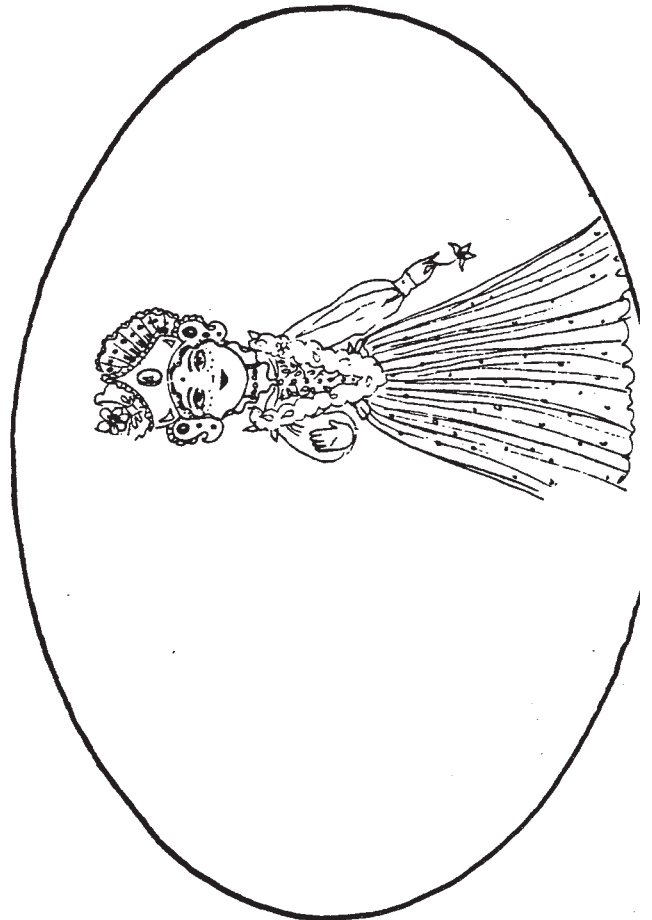
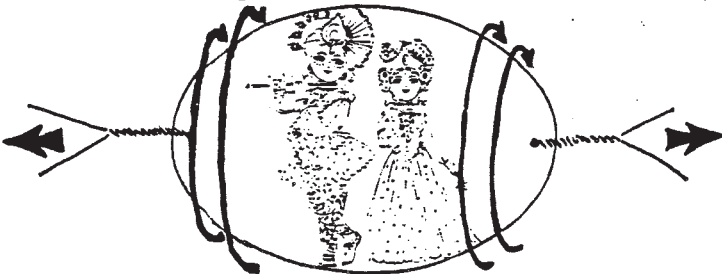
3. Cut out and punch holes for strings.



4. Attach strings.



5. Wind up and then let spin.





## Radhastami Word Search

K Y S T S Y D T O U C H  
C R K W N T B J N P X A  
D K I R T I D A L F E C  
D N I S D E B C B Q L N  
G R A D H A O L S P H S  
S F U D H N R M I Z N S  
S J F S S U A O N N N W  
S M I L E M V R U G D O  
Q R B S Y A A A A O A P  
V T J O E Y L S B D S D  
I Z M F D E X T R G A Q

Baby  
Blind  
Eyes  
Kirtida  
Krishna

Narada  
Open  
Radha  
Raval  
See

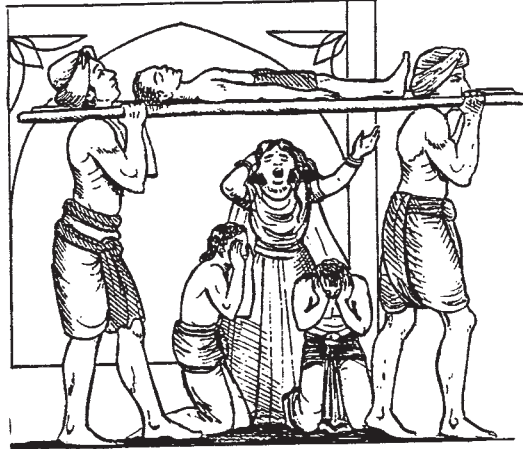
Smile  
Swing  
Touch  
Vrishabanu  
Yamuna

## Disappearance Day of Srila Prabhupada

### *Disappearance Days of Great Saints*

Most people don't consider death as a cause for celebration. Yet, in spiritual life, death is often celebrated as joyfully as a birth. This is true in cases of pure devotees of the Lord.

For ordinary souls, death marks a change of bodies. The happiness and suffering experienced in this body is over and the soul journeys on to a new body, where it will also experience pleasure and pain. It may be a better body than



the last or it may be worse. But when a person who is completely pure dies, his soul does not go on to another material body. He gets his eternal spiritual body which does not become sick, will never get old, and never has to die. Now he is able to be with Krishna always, up in the spiritual world, happily serving Him in one of many kinds of relationships.

The most successful thing we can accomplish is to return home to the spiritual world. Therefore, when a pure devotee dies we rejoice. He is a success and he will be happy and blissful in his true position in the spiritual world.

Such a death may be celebrated, yet we still feel sorrow. Our sorrow is that we will no longer have the association of that great person. We are sorry for *our* loss; association with pure devotees is rare.

### *Srila Prabhupada's Disappearance*

We celebrate many disappearance days. The six goswamis, Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur and Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Maharaj are a few among many that we honor. Srila Prabhupada has a unique position in ISKCON as the founder-acharya. He established ISKCON, opened temples, translated ancient scriptures into English and spread Krishna Consciousness to many lands. For that reason, his disappearance day is celebrated on a grand scale in ISKCON temples.



Srila Prabhupada spent his life giving us many valuable instructions. His departure from this world was the final instruction. He has shown how passing from this life can, and should, be done. We can learn much from his example.

Prabhupada had been very ill for several months before he passed away. His preaching spirit was strong, however, and he continued his preaching by instructing his many disciples. His translation work continued even though he didn't have enough strength to sit up or hold a microphone. He would lay upon his bed and dictate to a disciple who held the microphone, recording everything. Prabhupada continued his writing in this way.

The disciples of Prabhupada certainly wanted him to live. But Prabhupada could see that Krishna's will was for him to leave this world soon and he was ready.

On November 14, 1977, in his room at Krishna-Balaram Mandir in Vrindavan, Srila Prabhupada gave his final instruction by leaving this world and going back to Godhead. He showed the perfect way to depart. He was surrounded by Vaisnavas who were chanting Hare Krishna. He was in Vrindavan, the most spiritual place in the world. Prabhupada chanted and heard Krishna's name up to the moment he left his body. As he was surrounded by his loving followers and was nearing the end of his life, he looked up at all before him and reminded them, "Do not think that this will not happen to you, too."

The whole world feels a loss when a great devotee disappears. To those who knew him and had his association, the feeling of separation is quite



devastating. Yet, for someone to actually go back to the spiritual world is a rare and glorified occurrence. Even the demigods in heaven rejoice when one from this world enters the spiritual world. And while we on earth may also feel sad, we can rejoice also.

### ***Celebrating Prabhupada's Disappearance***

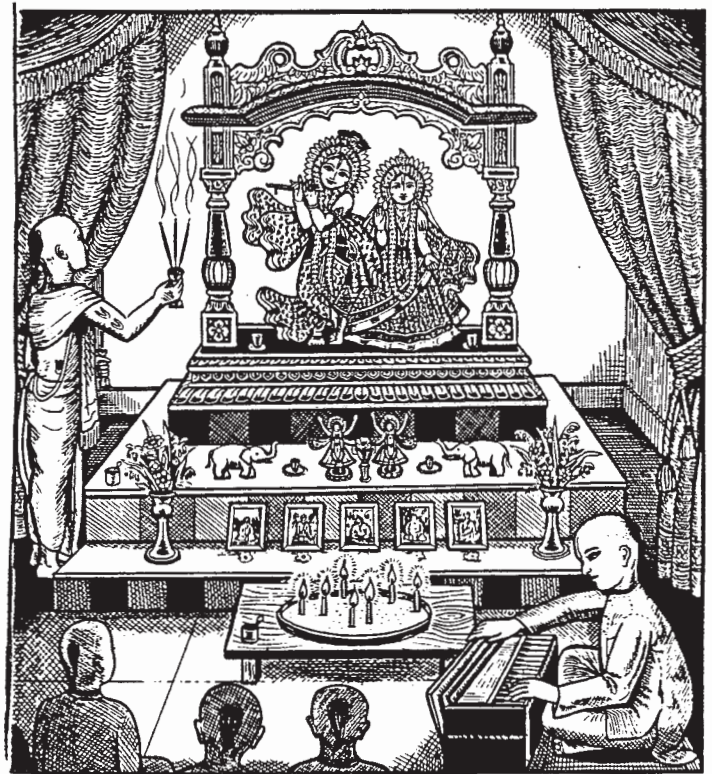
The celebration of Prabhupada's disappearance occurs in the fall just four days after Govardhan Puja. It is another noontime celebration. Again, many devotees will fast from food and drink until noon.

To prepare for the celebration, the early morning hours are spent decorating Srila Prabhupada's vyasasan. Devotees will gather later in the morning to hear pastimes of Srila Prabhupada read. Often devotees who had Prabhupada's association will tell of their experiences with him. A mixture of emotions will be in the room: joy, pride of Prabhupada's accomplishments, gratitude, sadness, and sorrow from being separated from him.



A *puspa abhishek*, or a bathing of flower petals, is performed on that day. Mantras are chanted and flower petals are thrown upon the murti of Srila Prabhupada. This is followed by an arati and a song singing the praises of the spiritual master.

Just like all the other festivals, Prabhupada's disappearance festival ends with a feast. You will find many delicious items to eat that were also some of Prabhupada's favorites. And while you're enjoying still another feast, remember that it is due to Prabhupada that we are able to appreciate and celebrate these wonderful festivals.



**Here is a song that is sung in the temple on the disappearance days of great saints.**

(1)

*je anilo prema-dhana koruna pracur  
heno prabhu kotha gela acarya-thakur*

(2)

*kaha mora swarup rupa kaha sanatan  
kaha dasa raghunatha patita-pavan*

(3)

*kaha mora bhatta-juga kaha kaviraj  
eka-kale kotha gela gora nata-raj*

(4)

*pasane kutibo matha anale pasibo  
gauranga gunera nidhi kotha gele pabo*

(5)

*se-saba sangira sange je koilo bilas  
se-sanga na paiya kande narottama das*

(1) He who brought the treasure of divine love and who was filled with compassion and mercy -- where has such a personality as Srinivasa Acharya gone?

(2) Where are my Swarupa Damodara and Rupa Goswami? Where is Sananta? Where is Raghunatha dasa, the savior of the fallen?

(3) Where are my Raghunatha Bhatta and Gopala Bhatta, and where is Krsnadasa Kaviraja? Where did Lord Gauranga, the great dancer, suddenly go?

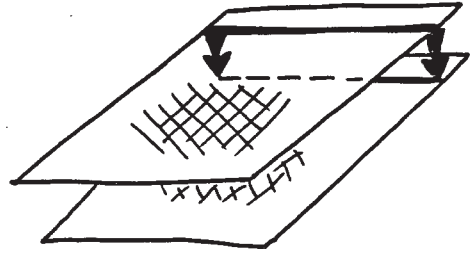
(4) I will smash my head against the rock and enter into the fire. Where will I find Lord Gauranga, the reservoir of all wonderful qualities?

(5) Being unable to obtain the association of Lord Gauranga accompanied by all of these devotees in whose association He performed His pastimes, Narottama dasa simply weeps.

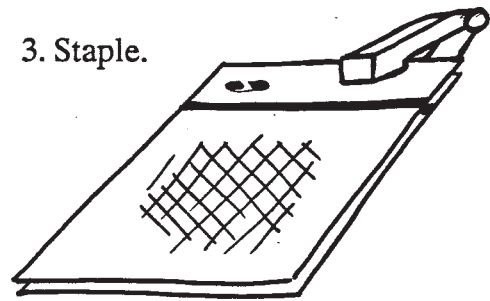


1. Cut the paper at the broken line.

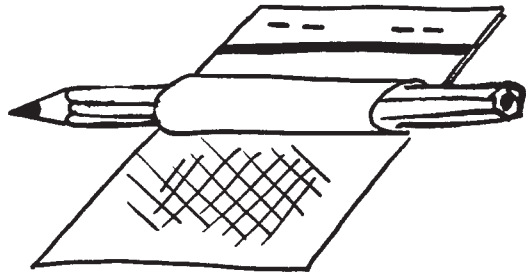
2. Put the full lines on the top of each other with pictures up.



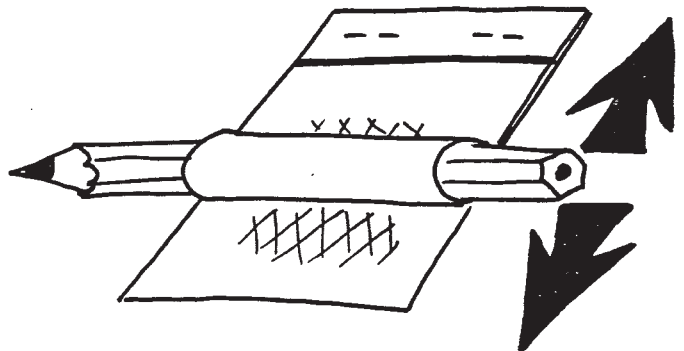
3. Staple.



4. Roll up the top paper on a pencil.



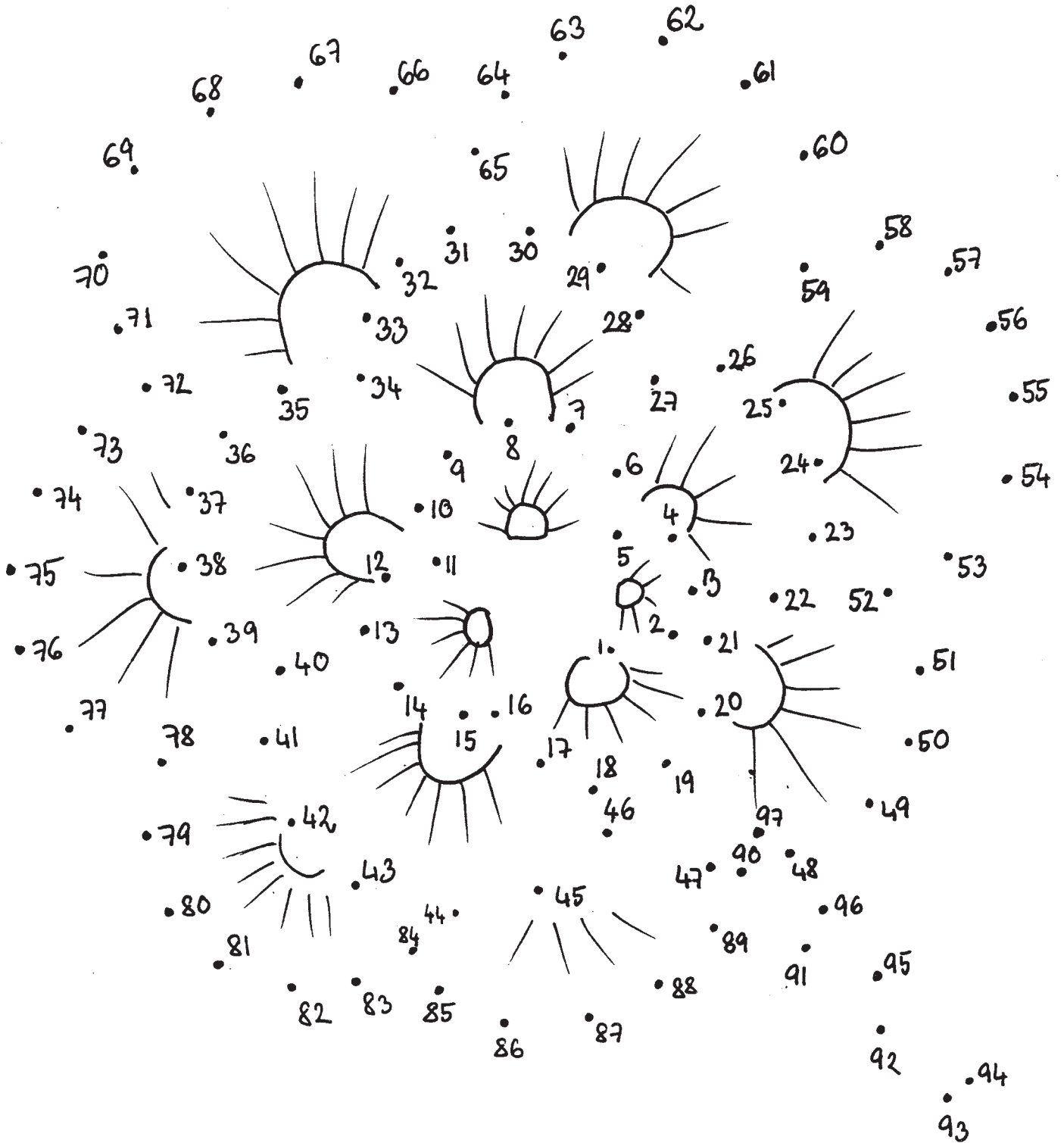
5. Move up and down rapidly.





# Connect the dots!

Connect this picture dot-to-dot,  
And Prabhupada won't feel so hot.



## Word Scramble

Unscramble the following words to find things that you would do in the temple on Prabhupada's disappearance celebration.

ATE	_ _ _ _	
C PAL	_ _ _ _ _	
DEAOTERC	_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _	
EDAR	_ _ _ _ _	
FSAT	_ _ _ _ _	
FSF RREWOLEFO	_ _ _ _ _ . _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _	(2 words)
GNIS	_ _ _ _ _	
NECAD	_ _ _ _ _	

### Cryptogram

In the cryptogram below, each letter of the alphabet really stands for another letter. Can you break the code and discover part of a famous Bhagavad Gita verse about the guru? If you want a few hints, look at the bottom of the page. If not, cover up the hints with another paper and get to work!

SLRE EFA EM JIWFH  
 EGI EFLEG ZA  
 WYYFMWPGCHK W  
 RYCFCELWJ VWREIF .  
 CHBLCFI DFMV GCV  
 RLZVCRRCOIJA WHX  
 FIHXIF RIFOCPI LHEM  
 GCV .

HINTS: I=E	F=R	R=S
W=A	V=M	H=N

## Time to Decorate!

Today is Prabhupada's disappearance day. Your service is to decorate his vyasasan. Color and decorate Prabhupada's vyasasan as nicely as you can, then cut out a small picture of Prabhupada and place it on the vyasasan seat.

