

WHO IS KRISHNA?



This is Krishna.

Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

See how beautiful He is!

He stands in a threefold bending form.

He plays sweet music on His flute.

The color of Krishna's body is blue like a monsoon rain cloud.

He wears yellow silk garments.

He is decorated with beautiful jewels and flowers.

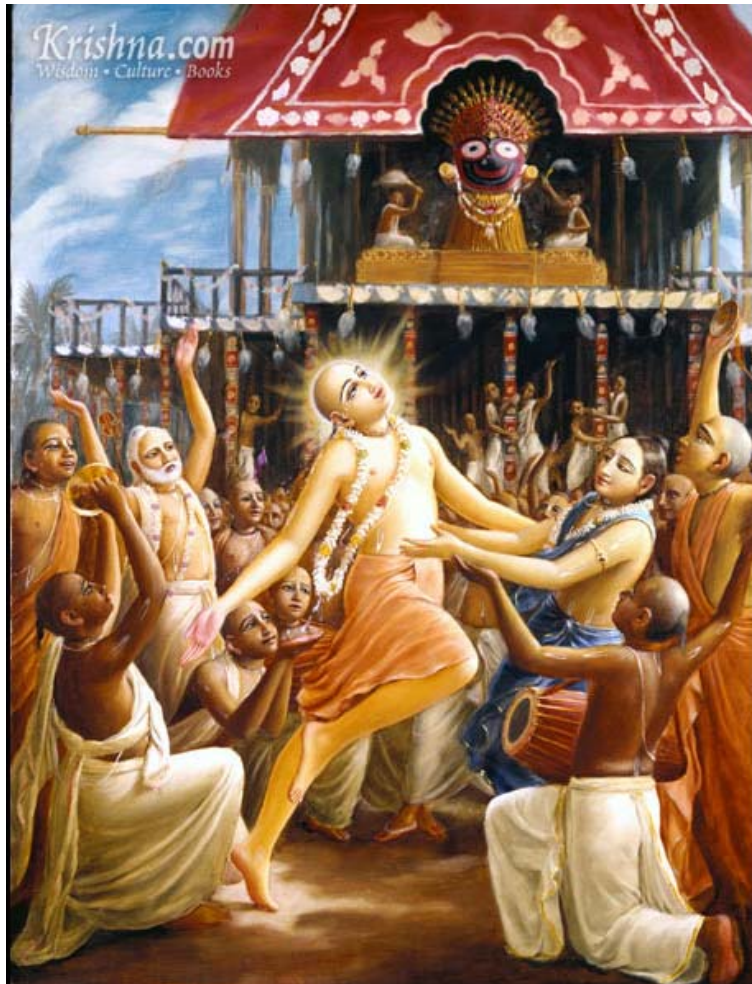
He always wears a peacock feather in His hair.

Sweet smelling Tulasi leaves decorate His lotus feet.

In Vrindavan everyone loves Krishna very much.

Teacher's sign: _____ **Parent's sign:** _____

Lord of the Universe



Sri Jagannath is the black color deity in the temple. He is none other than Krishna.

Jagannath means Lord of the universe. He holds the Sudarshana Chakra in His lotus hand.

Lord Jagannath comes out of the temple every year on the chariot to give darshan to everyone. This day is called Jagannath Ratha Yatra.

His elder brother Balaram and younger sister Subhadra Mai accompany Him.

By the causeless mercy of Srila Prabhupada now Ratha Yatra is conducted by ISKCON all over the world.

In this festival we pull the chariot, and invite the Lord to stay in our heart. Jagannath is very kind to His devotee.

Lord Jagannath stays eternally (for ever) in His Dhama called Jagannath Puri (Orissa).

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare / Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare



Jagannath Pranam Mantra

Jagannatha svami
nayana patha gami bhavat tume

TRANSLATION

"O Jagannath, Lord of the Universe, kindly be visible unto me."



Poem

"Jagannatha, Jagannatha"
- "Yes Gauranga"

"Giving darshan to the
people" - "Yes Gauranga"

"Going on the chariot" -
"Yes Gauranga"

"Open Your wide lotus
eyes" - Ha! Ha! Ha!

Srila Prabhupada and the Jagannath Rath Yatra

Prabhupada's Childhood

Prabhupada was born in 1896 in Calcutta, India. His parents named him Abhay. His father's name was Gour Mohan De and his mother was Rajani. His father wanted to be sure he raised his son to be a devotee of Krishna. Gour Mohan would invite many religious men to come to his home. He gave Abhay a drum and his own Radha-Krishna Deities to worship. When Abhay was just a little boy, he started offering everything he ate to his Deities and he offered Them arati every day.



Abhay's Ratha Yatra Parade

One of his favorite times was when the Ratha Yatra festival was celebrated. Every year, Abhay would come with millions of others to watch the parade. Lord Jagannath would ride on the first cart, Lord Balaram would ride on the second, and Lady Subhadra would ride on the third cart. The carts were very colorful and they had tall canopies that seemed to reach the sky.

Abhay liked the festival so much that he wanted his own cart so he could have a Ratha Yatra parade. He asked his father if he could and his father agreed.

Gour Mohan and young Abhay went from shop looking for the right cart. Gour Mohan asked carpenters, "Can you build a small cart for my son?" They could make a cart but when they told him the price he sadly said, "Oh no. That is too much. We can't spend that much for a cart." This happened many times and Abhay began to cry, thinking that he would never be able to get his cart.

Father and son started home, still not finding a cart that they could afford. As they walked through the streets, an old woman heard Abhay crying. She came up to him and said, "What is wrong? Why are you crying?"

Gour Mohan told the lady about their search for a small Ratha Yatra cart. "But every carpenter wants more money than we can afford," he said.

"Come with me," said the old woman. "I have a cart that may be just the right size. You might as well take a look at it."

Abhay and his father followed the kind woman to her house. She showed them the cart. It was about the right size but it was a little old. "How much money would you like?" Abhay's father asked. When he heard the price, he was very happy because it was finally an amount he could afford. Abhay was able to pull his new cart home.

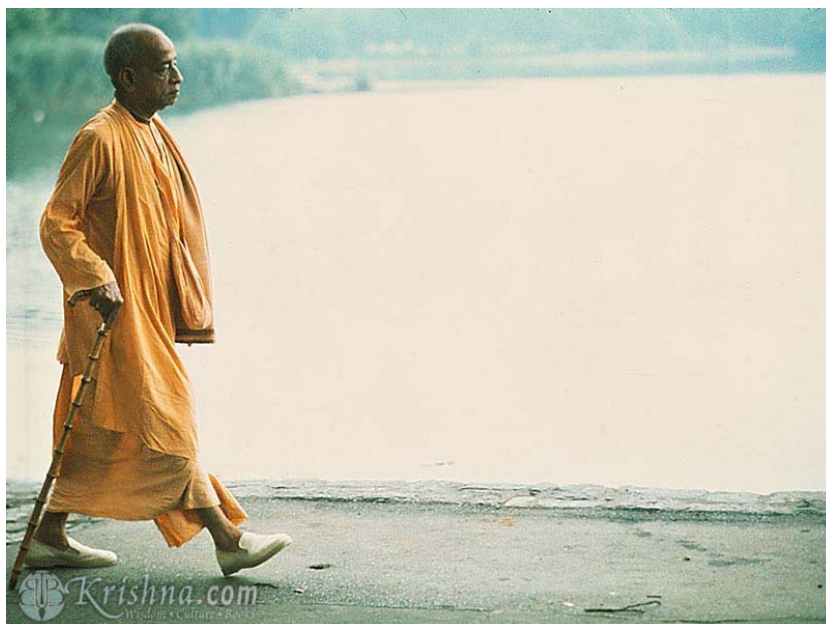
Together Abhay and Gour Mohan worked on fixing up the cart. They put columns on it and placed a canopy on the top. They made it as much like the real carts in Calcutta as they could, even attaching a wooden horse and driver in front. Gour Mohan bought paints for Abhay and he painted the cart in bright festive colors.

When he had finished the cart, Abhay began to prepare for the festival. He asked his friend's mothers to cook special food so he could distribute it at his Ratha Yatra. He put small Jagannath Deities on the cart and the parade began!

Every day, Abhay's family and the neighborhood children joined in the procession. Some pulled the cart while others played drums and kartals. Everyone chanted and sang with joy. His festival lasted for eight days. Even Gour Mohan's friends wanted to join in on the fun, so they pulled the cart, too. "Anyone who pulls the Lord in His cart is liberated from this material world!" they said.

Every year, Abhay would bring out his decorated cart and hold a Ratha Yatra festival and celebrate it in just the same way.

Abhay continued in his devotion to Krishna. He grew up, went to college and got married. He had children and worked hard to support his family. But even though he had many duties, he never forgot his duty to Krishna.





Bhagavad Gita (4.9)

*janma karma ca me divyam
evam yo vetti tattvatah
tyaktva deham punar janma
'naiti mam eti so 'rjuna*

TRANSLATION

One who knows the transcendental nature of My appearance and activities does not, upon leaving the body, take his birth again in this material world, but attains My eternal abode, O Arjuna.

Parent's Sign: _____

Appearance of Lord Krishna

Once upon a time, the Goddess of Earth, Bhumi, took the form of a cow and went to ask Lord Brahma for help while crying. She said, "The whole world is upset because of the demoniac kings." So Lord Brahma, the father of the universe, along with Bhumi and all other demigods went to the ocean of milk to see Lord Vishnu on His planet of Svetadvipa and prayed sincerely by reciting nice prayers.

Lord Vishnu conveyed message in the heart of Lord Brahma, "Soon, I will come down to the earth as the son of Vasudeva, along with My brother and sister, Balaram and Yogamaya. All of you demigods should take birth on earth in the Yadu family. Then, I will come Myself as the Supreme Lord Krishna to save all the devotees and to kill all the demons." Lord Brahma conveyed that message to the other demigods.

Some time later, Vasudeva, the son of the Yadu King Surasena, married Devaki, the beautiful daughter of Ugrasena. After the wedding, Devaki's brother Kamsa drove them home on a wonderful golden chariot. There were hundreds of other gold decorated chariots, horses and elephants, along with wonderful music.

Suddenly, a great voice was heard from the sky: "Kamsa, you are such a fool, the eighth son of you sister will kill you." Kamsa became afraid. Immediately he caught Devaki's hair and raised his sword to kill her. Vasudeva, her husband, stopped him and said, "My dear brother- in- law, please do not kill your own sister. She will never give you trouble. Right now you are safe. I promise to give you all the children born to her." Kamsa knew that Vasudeva would keep his promise, so he did not kill her.

But he locked up Vasudeva and Devaki and his own father Ugrasena inside the prison. Then Kamsa made himself the king. He began to disturb all the Yadu family and even killed all the baby boys born to Devaki and Vasudev, one after another.

Krishna's sister Yogamaya took Devaki's seventh baby, Balarama, away and put Him safely in womb of Rohini, one of the wives of Vasudeva, when she was staying in the house of Nanda and Yashoda. Then Lord Krishna entered Devaki's womb. As the days went by, an

ocean of hate grew in Kamsa's heart. He waited for the child to be born; hoping to kill Him as he had killed Devaki's other six sons. He was always thinking of Krishna twenty-four hours a day. While sleeping, eating, working while talking, sitting or walking, all Kamsa could see around him was Krishna.

At the time of Krishna's birth, there were good signs everywhere.

Then in the darkness of night, during a heavy rain storm, Lord Vishnu appeared as the Supreme Personality of Godhead before Devaki. Vasudeva saw his wonderful baby son with four hands holding a conch shell, club, disc and lotus flower, and flashing His bright effulgence within the room. He had the special mark of Srivatsa in His chest and the jeweled necklace with the Kaustubha stone around His neck. He was dressed in yellow silk, valuable golden



bracelets, bangles, earrings and other ornaments all over His body. He had hair on head and wore a helmet with the Vaidurya stone. Vasudev prayed and bowed down with folded hands to offer prayers, "My Lord, You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead and You have so kindly appeared in my home to kill the demoniac kings of the world like Kamsa. Knowing that You will kill him and his followers, Kamsa has already killed Your six baby brothers before You. As soon as he hears that You took birth, he will try to kill You, too." Devaki was very afraid of her brother and prayed, "My dear Krishna. Please save me from the cruel hands of Kamsa. As soon as he knows that You have taken birth, he may hurt You. So please hide Your four-armed form from our eyes."

Krishna answered, "I know you are thinking about Me out of great love and are afraid of Kamsa. Therefore, take Me now to Gokul Vrindavan and exchange Me with the daughter who has just been born to Yashoda."



Then the Lord turned Himself into a small baby. Vasudeva quietly took his little son out of prison. Because of Krishna's power, everyone in Kamsa's palace including the doorkeepers, were in deep sleep and all the doors automatically opened. The night was very dark and it was thundering and raining. While Vasudeva carried little Krishna in the heavy rain, Lord Ananta Sesha spread His serpent hood over the head of Vasudeva like an umbrella. Yamuna was roaring with big waves and foam. But Vasudeva could cross it by Krishna's mercy. On the other side, he went to the home of Nanda Maharaj in Gokul Vrindavan, where everyone was in deep sleep because of Krishna's power. He walked inside quietly and put Krishna down next to Mother Yashoda. Then he picked up Yashoda's baby girl and went back with her to the prison of Kamsa, where he put her next to Devaki. Prison doors closed on their own because of Krishna's power.

Later the gatekeepers woke up and heard the new baby crying. They informed Kamsa. Kamsa was so afraid that his hair stood on end. He jumped out of bed and cried; "Now the cruel death of my life is born!" Then he hurried to the prison.

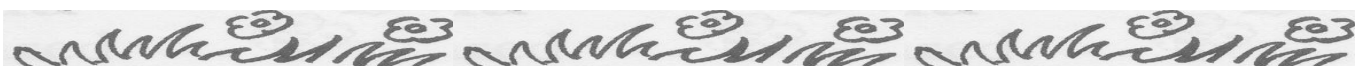
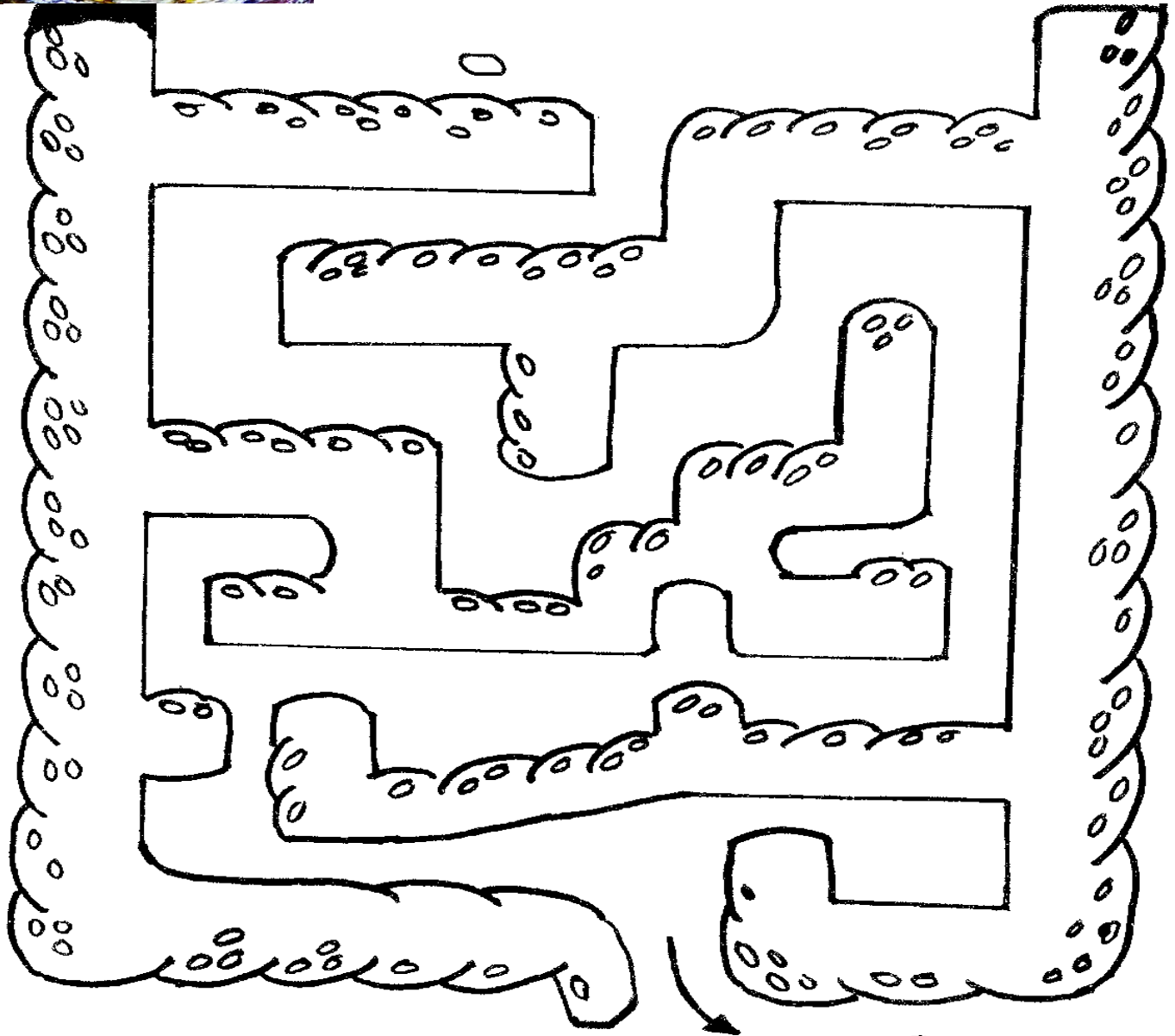
Devaki said, "My brother, Kamsa, please do not kill this baby girl. You won't be killed by a girl." Cruel Kamsa grabbed the new born child to throw her down hard on the stone. But that baby slipped right out of his hands and went into the sky! Actually she was Goddess Durga. She wore a beautiful dress, flower garlands and shining jewels and ornaments. In her eight hands she held a bow, spear, arrows, bell, conch shell, disc, club and shield. The goddess Durga shouted at Kamsa, "You rascal, you cannot kill me! The child, who will kill you, is already born before me somewhere within this world. Don't be cruel to your poor sister." Then she disappeared.

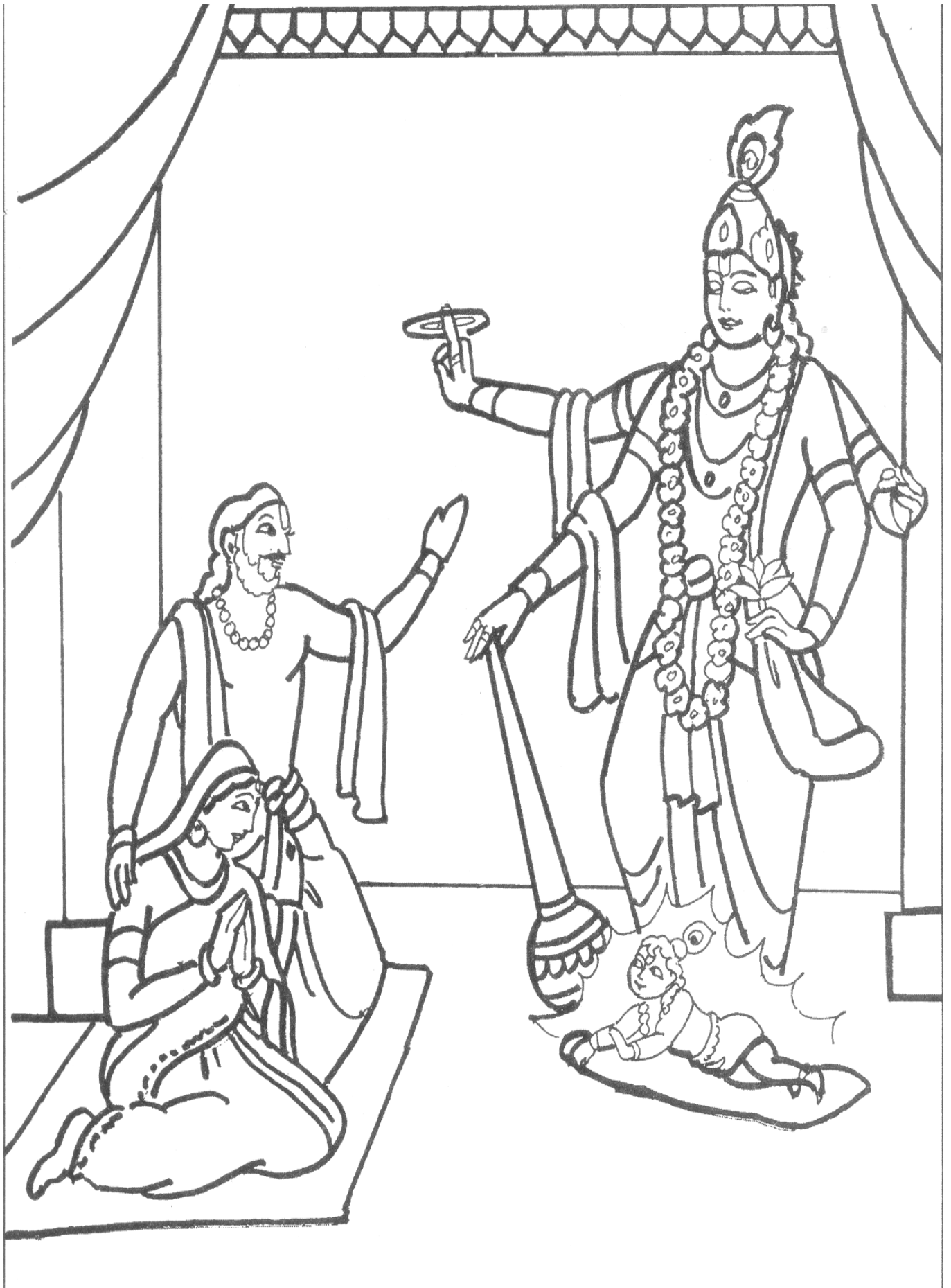
Kamsa became more afraid. He said, "My dear Vasudeva and Devaki, I have been just like a demon to kill your six babies. Please excuse my terrible behaviour." He unlocked them

But the next day, he had change of heart. Kamsa, who was the greatest rascal, ordered his demon friends to disturb all kinds of saintly persons and to kill all the children born in the last ten days.

In Vrindavan it was declared that a baby boy was born to Yashoda. On this occasion Nanda Maharaj gave away 2,00,000 well-decorated cows, mountains of grains, golden-bordered cloth and ornaments to the brahmanas, musicians and singers. The brahmanas chanted different Sanskrit hymns for the good fortune of the child. All the cowherd men and their wives, the gopis, dressed up nicely and brought gifts for the new baby. When they visited Nanda Maharaj and Yashoda's house, the gopis gave their blessings to Krishna by mixing turmeric powder, oil, yogurt, milk and water and sprinkling it on baby Krishna and on everyone there. The cowherd men saw the fun and they in turn, joyfully threw yogurt, milk, ghee and water on the gopis! Then everyone began to throw butter on each other! Nanda Maharaj was very happy to see everyone enjoying Krishna's birth ceremony and prayed to the Supreme Personality of Godhead to protect his child.







Parent's Sign: _____

Krishna and the Kaliya Serpent



One day, during the summer season, the boys and cows became very thirsty and began to drink the water of the Yamuna. The river, however, had been made poisonous by the venom of the great serpent known as Kaliya.

Because the water was so poisonous, the boys and cows suddenly fell down on the ground, apparently dead. Then Krishna, simply cast His merciful glance over them, and all the boys and cows regained consciousness and began to look at one another with great astonishment. They could understand that by drinking the water of the Yamuna they had died and that the merciful glance of Krishna had restored their lives

Within the river Yamuna there was a great lake, and in that lake the black serpent Kaliya used to live. Because of his poison, the whole area was so contaminated that it emanated a poisonous vapor twenty-four hours a day. If a bird happened to even pass over the spot, it would

immediately die and fall down into the water. Lord Krishna saw the effect of the great serpent's poison: the whole river that ran before Vrindavan was now deadly.

Krishna immediately climbed up into a big Kadamba tree on the bank of the Yamuna. After climbing to the top of the tree, He tightened His belt cloth and, slapping His arms just like a wrestler, jumped into the midst of the poisonous lake.

When Krishna was swimming about just like a great strong elephant, He made a tumultuous sound, which the great black serpent Kaliya could hear. The tumult was intolerable for him, and he could understand that this was an attempt to attack his home. Therefore he immediately came before Krishna. Kaliya saw that Krishna was indeed worth seeing because His body was so beautiful and delicate; its color resembled that of a cloud, and His feet resembled lotus flowers. He was decorated with Srivatsa, jewels and yellow garments. He was smiling with a beautiful face and playing in the river Yamuna with great strength. But in spite of Krishna's beautiful features, Kaliya felt great anger within his heart, and thus he grabbed Krishna with his mighty coils. Seeing the incredible way in which Krishna was enveloped in the coils of the serpent, the affectionate cowherd boys and other inhabitants of Vrindavan immediately became stunned out of fear and fell down on the ground. All the cows, bulls and small calves, with great anxiety, could only cry in agony and stand erect on the bank, unable to help their beloved Krishna. For two hours Krishna remained like an ordinary child gripped in the coils of Kaliya, but when He saw that all the inhabitants of Gokula—including His mother and father, the gopis, the boys and the cows—were just on the point of death, Krishna immediately freed Himself. He began to expand His body, and when the serpent tried to hold Him, he felt a great strain. On account of the strain, his coils slackened, and he had no alternative but to let Krishna loose, from his grasp. Kaliya then became very angry, and his great hoods expanded. He exhaled poisonous fumes from his nostrils, his eyes blazed like fire, and flames issued from his mouth. The great serpent remained still for some time, looking at Krishna. Licking

his lips with bifurcated tongues, the serpent looked at Krishna with double hoods, and his eyesight was full of poison. Krishna immediately pounced upon him. Thus attacked, Kaliya looked for an opportunity to bite Him, but Krishna moved around him. As Krishna and Kaliya moved in a circle, the serpent gradually became fatigued, and his strength seemed to diminish considerably. Krishna immediately pressed down the serpent's hoods and jumped up on them. The Lord's lotus feet became tinged with red from the rays of the jewels on the snake's hoods. Then He began to dance upon the hoods of the serpent, although they were moving to and fro.

While Krishna was dancing on his hoods, Kaliya tried to push Him down with some of his other hoods. Kaliya had about a hundred hoods, but Krishna took control of them. He began to dash Kaliya with His lotus feet, and this was more than the serpent could bear. Gradually, Kaliya was reduced to struggling for his very life. He vomited all kinds of refuse and exhaled fire. While throwing up poisonous material from within, Kaliya became reduced in his sinful situation. Out of great anger, he began to raise one of his hoods to kill the Lord. The Lord immediately captured that hood and subdued it by kicking it and dancing on it. Kaliya then began to vomit blood instead of poison; he was completely fatigued. His whole body appeared to be broken by the kicks of the Lord. Within his mind, however, he finally began to understand that Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and he surrendered unto



Him. He realized that Krishna is the Supreme Lord, the master of everything.

The wives of the serpent, known as the Nagapatnis, saw that their husband had been subdued by the Lord's kicking and that he was almost at the point of death due to bearing the heavy burden of the Lord. They prepared to worship the Lord, surrendered unto the Supreme Lord and began to pray.

After the Nagapatnis submitted their prayers, Lord Krishna released Kaliya from his punishment. Kaliya was already unconscious from being struck by the Lord. With folded hands, he humbly began to pray to the Supreme Lord Krishna, "My dear Lord, I am born as a serpent; therefore, by natural instinct I am very angry. How is it then possible to give up my acquired nature without Your mercy? I surrender unto You. Now You can punish me or save me, as You desire."

After hearing this, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who was acting as a small human child, ordered the serpent thus: "You must immediately leave this place and go to the ocean. Leave without delay. Don't pollute the waters of the Yamuna. Let it be drunk by My cows and cowherd boys."

Mother Yashoda, Rohini, Maharaj Nanda, the cowherd men and boys were very happy to see Krishna back with them and they all hugged Krishna in turn, pressing Him to their chests. Now they didn't have to be afraid of the Kaliya serpent any more.