

4 Krishna wants the Moon

One night the rays of the full moon were shining in the courtyard of Nanda's house. Mother Yashoda was talking to some elderly Gopis. Krishna was playing nearby.

Baby Krishna happened to look up and see the moon. He started crying.

Gopis : O Krishna why are you crying ? Do you want some milk ?

Krishna : No ! No !

Gopis : Do you want some thick creamy yogurt ?

Krishna : No ! No !

Gopis : Do you want some cheese ?

Krishna : No ! No !

Gopis : O Krishna please stop crying. What do you want ?

Krishna pointed to the moon.

Krishna : I want that freshly churned butter.

The Gopis started laughing.



Gopis : That is not a piece of butter. It is a royal swan gliding across the lake of the sky.

Krishna started kicking His legs and shouting loudly.

Krishna : I want to play with the royal swan. Quickly catch him before he reaches the bank of the lake.



Some other Gopis came there and said "O Krishna they are joking. This is not a royal swan it is the moon hanging in the sky.

Krishna : Then get Me the moon I want to play with it.

Mother Yashoda placed her crying son on her lap and comforted Him.

Yashoda : O my sweet son, this is neither the moon nor the royal swan. It is freshly churned butter. Can't give it to You. It looks tasty but it has poisonous spots on it. No one can eat it.

Krishna : Why does it have poison ? What is poison ?

Yashoda embraced her son and spoke to Him in a gentle sweet voice.

Yashoda : Listen carefully. There is an ocean of milk.

Krishna : Ocean of milk ? How many cows made that ocean ?

Yashoda : Darling the milk ocean was not made by cows.

Krishna : How can there be milk without cows ?

Yashoda : The one who gave the cows the ability to produce milk can also make milk without cows.

Krishna : Who is He ?

Yashoda : He is the Lord. He is the cause of creation. He is everywhere. Once the demigods and the demons had a fight. The Lord wanted to help the demigods. He churned the ocean of milk. The Mandara mountain served as a churning rod. Vasuki, the King of the serpents offered his body as a rope.

Krishna : Mother did they churn the milk the way the gopis do ?

Yashoda : Yes my son. But the churning of the ocean produced a poison called Kalakuta.



Stars

Krishna: Mother, how did the churning of the ocean of milk produce poison? Only snakes have poison.

Yashoda: Lord Shiva drank the poison. The snakes drank the drops of poison that fell from his mouth. That is why snakes have poison.

Krishna: Yes mother. But I want the moon.

Yashoda: O my son! This piece of butter you are seeing in the sky is made from the milk ocean. That is why the moon is spotted with drops of poison. Please don't try to eat that butter. Please take my freshly churned butter.

By this time Krishna had started feeling sleepy. Mother Yashoda fed Him and put Him to rest on a beautiful golden bed on a soft fluffy mattress.





Activity Time



Discussion:

Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

He is the creator of everything, the sun, the moon, the stars, planets.
EVERYTHING.

Yet here we see that He is crying for the moon. Krishna performs these pastimes just to make His devotees happy..

Sometimes He eats mud and sometimes He steals butter and plays naughty tricks just like any baby. The devotees are happy when they hear these sweet pastimes.

At other times He performs amazing pastimes like swallowing the forest fire and lifting Govardhana Hill to protect His devotees.

These activities help us understand how great the Lord is, and increase our faith in Him.

Why do the devotees gather in the temple everyday to hear and discuss the pastimes of the Lord?

Sit in a circle and take turns to share any pastime which you know.

Discuss which are ordinary and which are extraordinary.

Make a list.



Here are some Riddles for you

Rain rain everywhere
Devotees stand without a care

A dance performance in the middle of a lake
Only for His dear devotees' sake

The baby wanted something which no one can get
Everyone tried to make Him forget

Gopis had stored it all away
But nothing left at the end of the day

Brothers cured of pride and greed
By Narada's mercy were quickly freed.

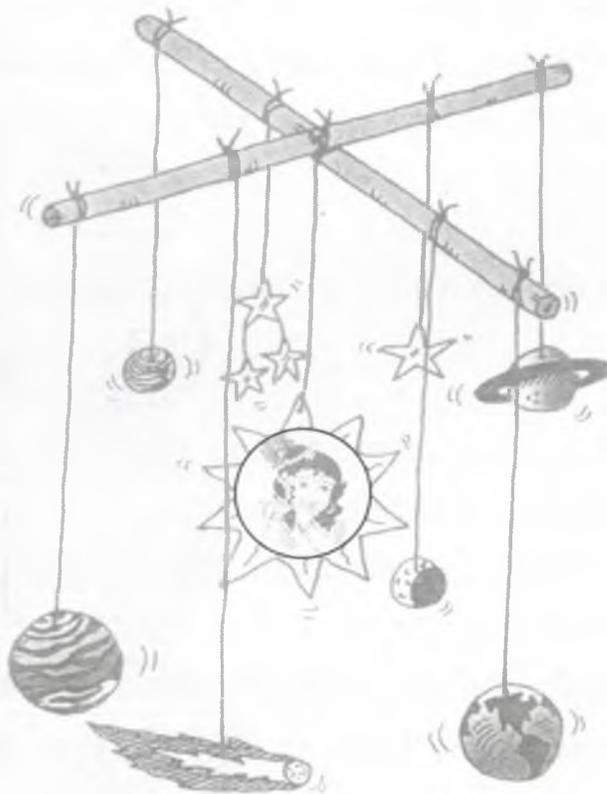
The child took all His hands could hold
In return He gave jewels and gold.



Krishna is the Centre



Cut and colour shapes to make the sun, moon, stars, planets and other objects. Decorate the shapes with colourful paint, aluminium foil, glitter, fluorescent paper and so on. Use a pin and make a hole in each shape. Tie a piece of thread or thin wool through each hole. Take two rods and tie them across each other as shown in the diagram. Tie the different shapes at different heights along the rods. Take the picture of Krishna from the coloured page and tie to the centre. Hang up this beautiful mobile of Krishna's creation



Shake ! Shake ! Shake !

- Lets make butter.
- Take an air tight jar.
- Put cream in the jar.
- Add some curds and mix it nicely.
- Keep the jar aside for 7-8 hours.
- All the children sit in a circle and sing the Mahamantra. Take turns shaking the jar and passing it on.
- After some time the jar will be filled with soft creamy butter.
- Offer the butter to Krishna, you can also offer some sugar candy along with butter.
- Now everyone can enjoy the delicious prasad.

