

# Krishna

– the Supreme Personality of Godhead



in Rhyme  
and Song





**Dedicated to:**

My spiritual master His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada who came to this western world filled with impersonalism and voidism to give us Krishna.

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## INTRODUCTION

While attempting to versify this book: **Krishna, The Supreme Personality of Godhead**, I would like to offer my respectful Obeisances unto the author, my beloved spiritual master, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. I also offer my respectful obeisances unto my beloved guru, Kirtananda Swami Bhaktipada.

Krishna appeared 5000 years ago as the son of Vasudeva and Devaki and played exactly like a human being, but His activities are unparalleled. It is essential for everyone to hear of His activities in order to become fully Krishna conscious. Therefore, it was Srila Prabhupada's desire that this book be presented in verse form for the children. The first eleven chapters are now being presented and I pray for his mercy to continue.

My grateful acknowledgement is due to His Divine Grace Satsvarupa das Goswami, Srila Gurupada, for his encouragement to write this book after hearing the first recital of this presentation by the Vancouver gurukula children.

Harirani devi dasi

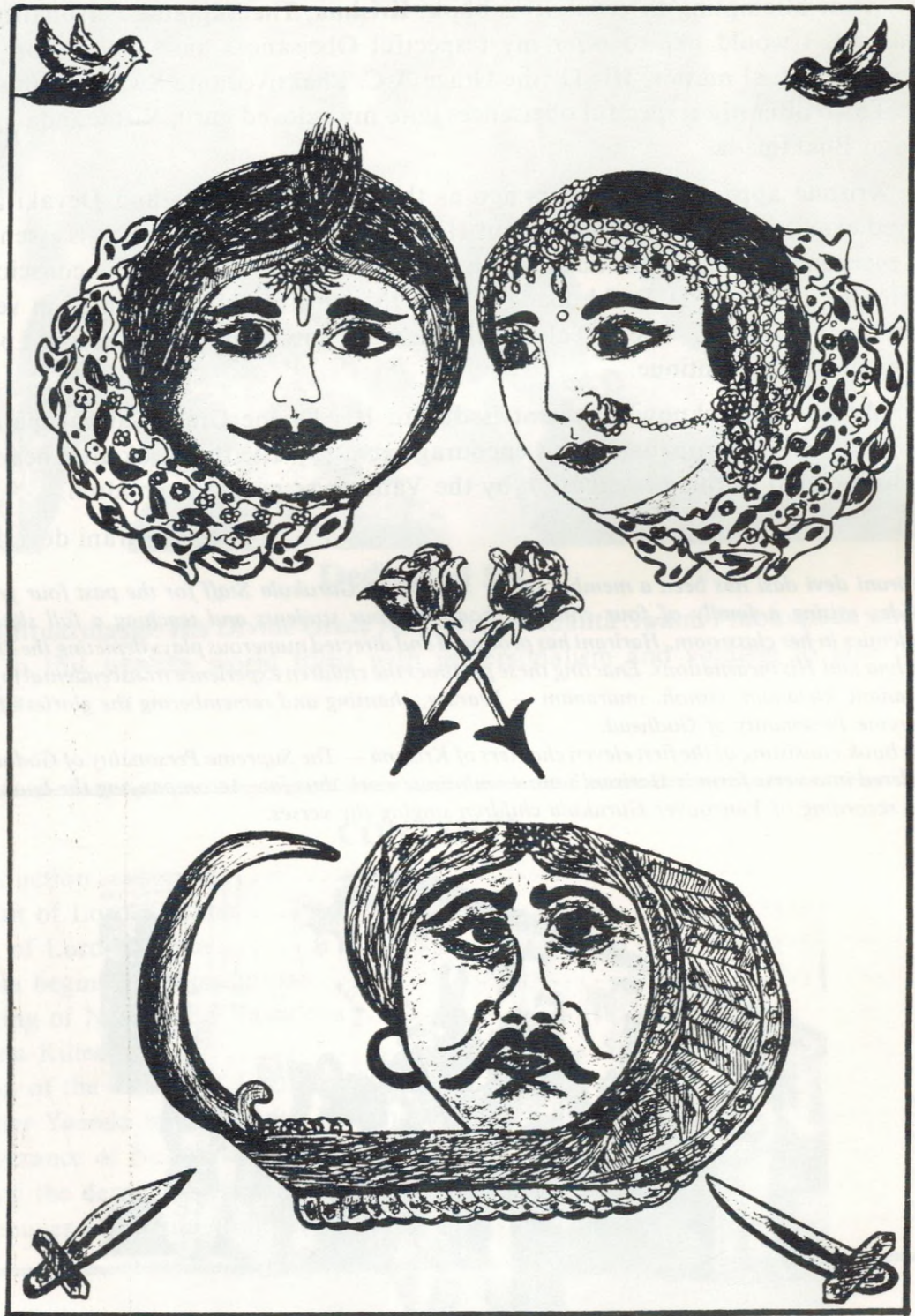
*Harirani devi dasi has been a member of the Vancouver Gurukula Staff for the past four years. Besides raising a family of four children, boarding four students and teaching a full slate of academics in her classroom, Harirani has produced and directed numerous plays depicting the lila of Krishna and His incarnations. Enacting these pastimes the children experience transcendental joy by sravanam, kirtanam, visnoh, smaranam — hearing, chanting and remembering the glories of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.*

*This book consisting of the first eleven chapters of Krishna — The Supreme Personality of Godhead, rendered into verse form is Harirani's most ambitious work thus far. Accompanying the book is a tape recording of Vancouver Gurukula children singing the verses.*



Vancouver gurukula children enact the pastimes of Krishna and Balarama







# ADVENT OF LORD KRSNA

1

PT. I

1.

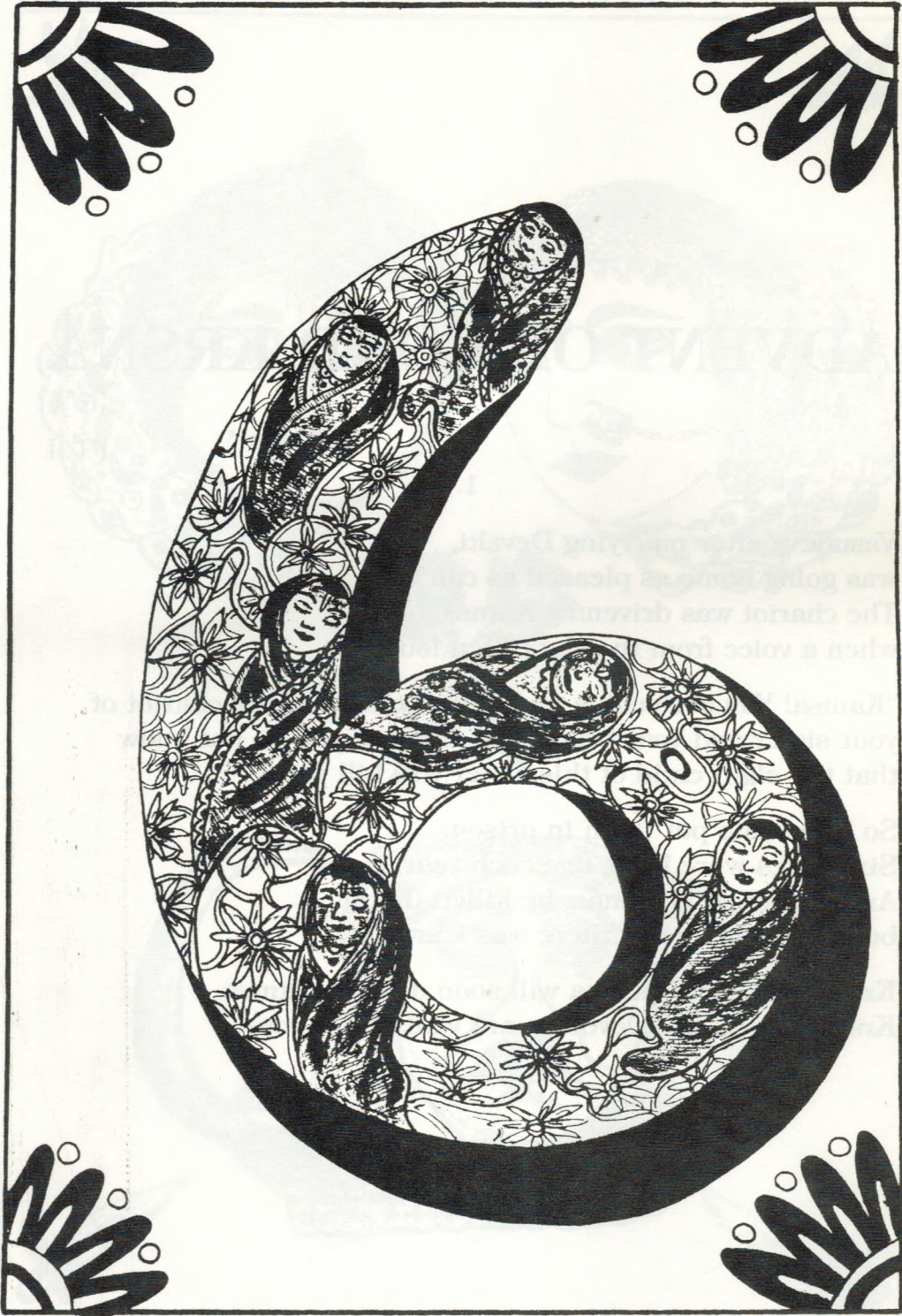
Vasudeva after marrying Devaki,  
was going home as pleased as can be,  
The chariot was driven by Kamsa.  
when a voice from the sky called loudly.

“Kamsa! You are such a fool! You are driving the chariot of  
your sister and your brother-in-law, but you do not know  
that the eight child of this sister will kill you.

So Kamsa he put them in prison.  
Six babies were born, one each year.  
And Kamsa, this demon, he killed them,  
because in his heart there was fear.

Krsna! Oh Krsna! Krsna will soon destroy Kamsa.  
Krsna! Oh Krsna! Devotees are waiting for you.







1.

O Kamsa, you demon,  
you killed those babies one by one.  
One, two, three, four, five and six.  
Now it's Krsna's turn to play some tricks.

2.

Number seven is Balaram,  
but he took birth in Vrndavana.  
Now the time has come for number eight,  
and Kamsa's mind is in a state.

3.

He plans to kill his sister too,  
but he's not sure just what to do.  
Number eight is in Devaki's womb,  
and Kamsa's heart is full of gloom.

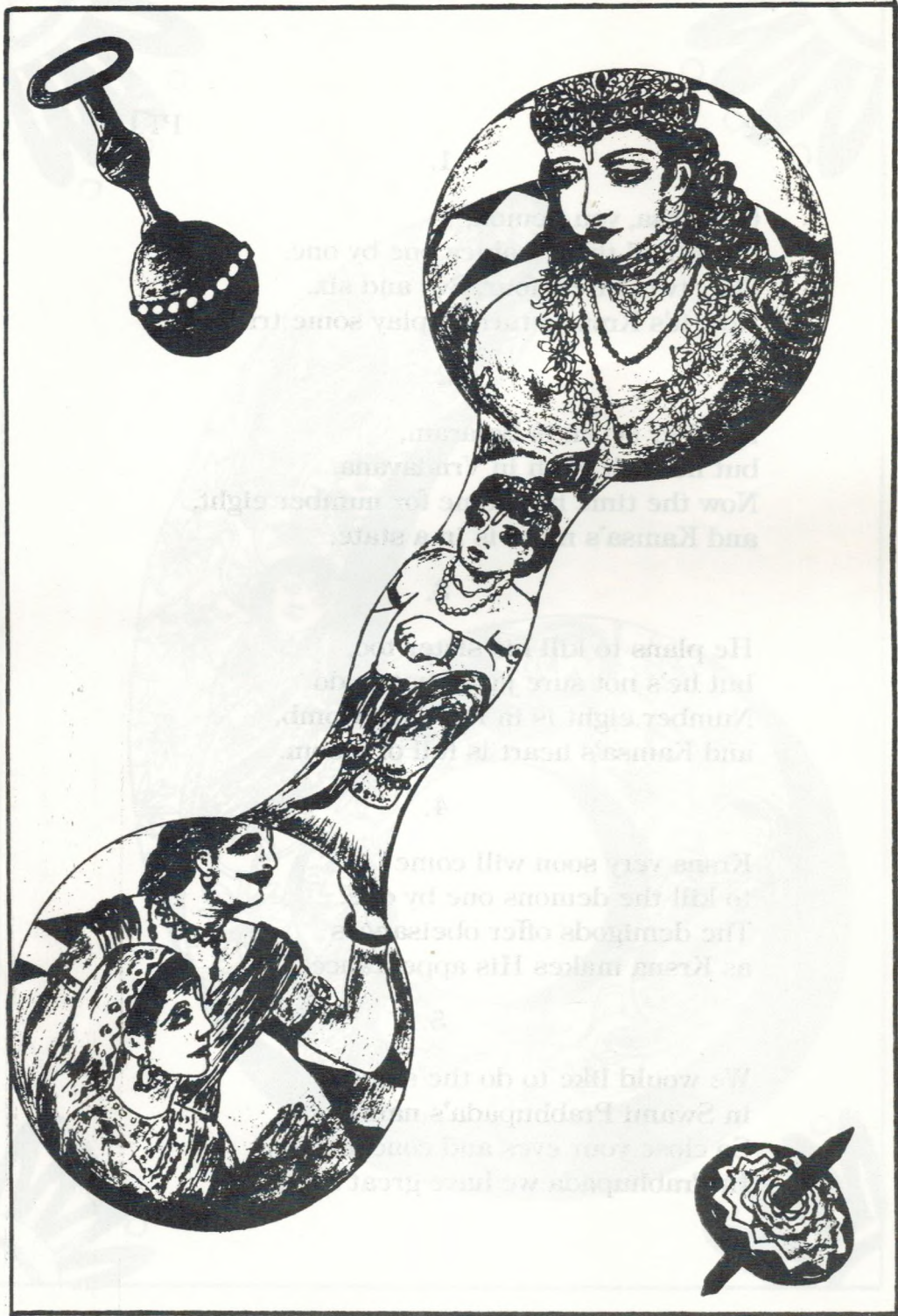
4.

Krsna very soon will come  
to kill the demons one by one.  
The demigods offer obeisances  
as Krsna makes His appearance.

5.

We would like to do the same  
in Swami Prabhupada's name.  
So close your eyes and concentrate.  
In Prabhupada we have great faith.







# BIRTH OF LORD KRSNA

3

PT.I

1.

See there flowers are growing and  
hear hear birdies are singing.  
And see there rivers are flowing  
and peacocks begin to dance.

2.

The brahmanas are lighting the sacrifice fires,  
the sages and demigods are showering flowers.  
The denizens of heaven are singing and praying.  
The eighth child will soon be here.

PT.II

1.

Lord Krsna appeared to Vasudeva and Devaki.  
Lord Krsna appeared a charming baby.  
Dazzling beauty with four arms the baby made His appearance,  
but He must conceal this four-armed form of Visnu.

2.

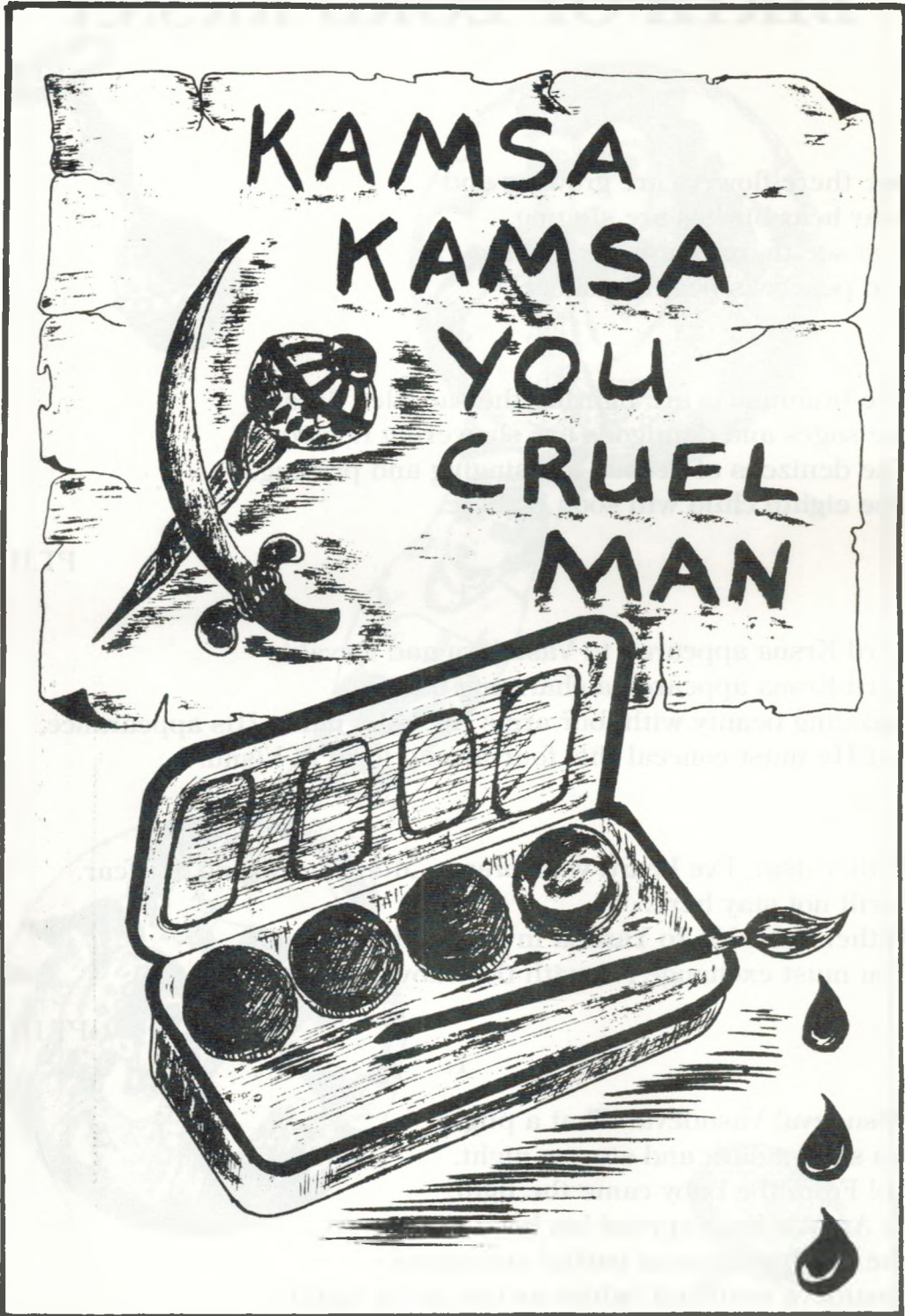
Father dear, I've heard your prayer. Mother dear, do not fear.  
I will not stay here.  
Father, take Me to Yasoda in the land of Gokula.  
You must exchange Me with the baby girl of Nanda.

PT.III

1.

Vasudeva! Vasudeva! What a plight!  
On such a dark and stormy night.  
Lo! From the baby came the light,  
as Ananta Sesa spread his hood  
the roaring Yamuna parted and stood.  
Vasudeva switched babies as fast as he could.  
Mother Yasoda never understood.







# KAMSA BEGINS HIS PERSECUTIONS

Vasudeva, Vasudeva, he came back,  
and placed the child in Devaki's lap.  
Now the new-born child is crying,  
and the prison guards are calling,  
"Kamsa, Kamsa, wake up!"

2.

"Brother Kamsa," Devaki prayed.  
"This baby is a girl, I'm afraid.  
Spare her please — I beg of you."  
But Kamsa did not change his view.  
"Baby girl, I'm smashing you!"

3.

"Kamsa, Kamsa. You cruel man."  
the baby said, and slipped from his hand.  
Up in the air she id flying,  
eight arms now appearing.  
"Kamsa! The death of your life is not here.

PT. II

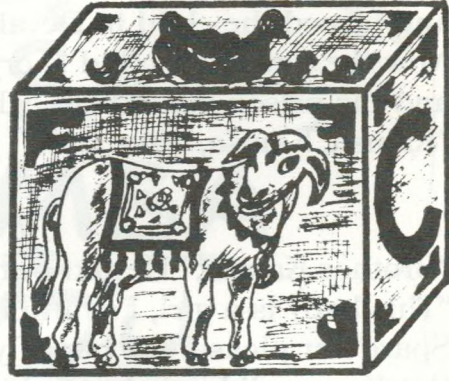
1.

Kamsa's now scared. Kamsa's afraid.  
See how he falls down upon his knees:  
"Vasudeva and Devaki please,  
excuse me for my sinful deeds,  
you are now free to go in peace.  
Forgive me if you can. I am a sinful man."

2.

"Kamsa you fool, do not be so cool.  
Stand up and fight, fight with all your might."  
Now the demon friends of Kamsa speak.  
"Allow us freedom this child to seek.  
Devotees and brahmans we must defeat."  
And Kamsa soon agreed.  
And Kamsa soon agreed.







# Meeting of Nanda and Vasudeva

5

1.

Nanda and his family  
dressed up very nicely.  
Everyone's invited to the ceremony.  
The brahmans chanting mantras performed the rituals,  
all for the sake of the newborn child.

2.

Nanda distributed grains,  
and decorated cows,  
according to Vedic injunction to the brahmanas.  
To purify the newborn child and to prolong His life,  
Nanda gave in charity, very sumptuously.

3.

The men wore costly garments,  
great turbans on their heads.  
They all rejoiced with Nanda on this grand event.  
The women overwhelmed with joy dressed up in their best.  
Kumkuma on their faces and scented ointments.

4.

Musicians played expertly.  
Women blessed the child,  
sprinkling Him with yogurt, tumeric and oil.  
Then they sprinkled everyone and soon the men joined,  
throwing with no restriction butter all around.

5.

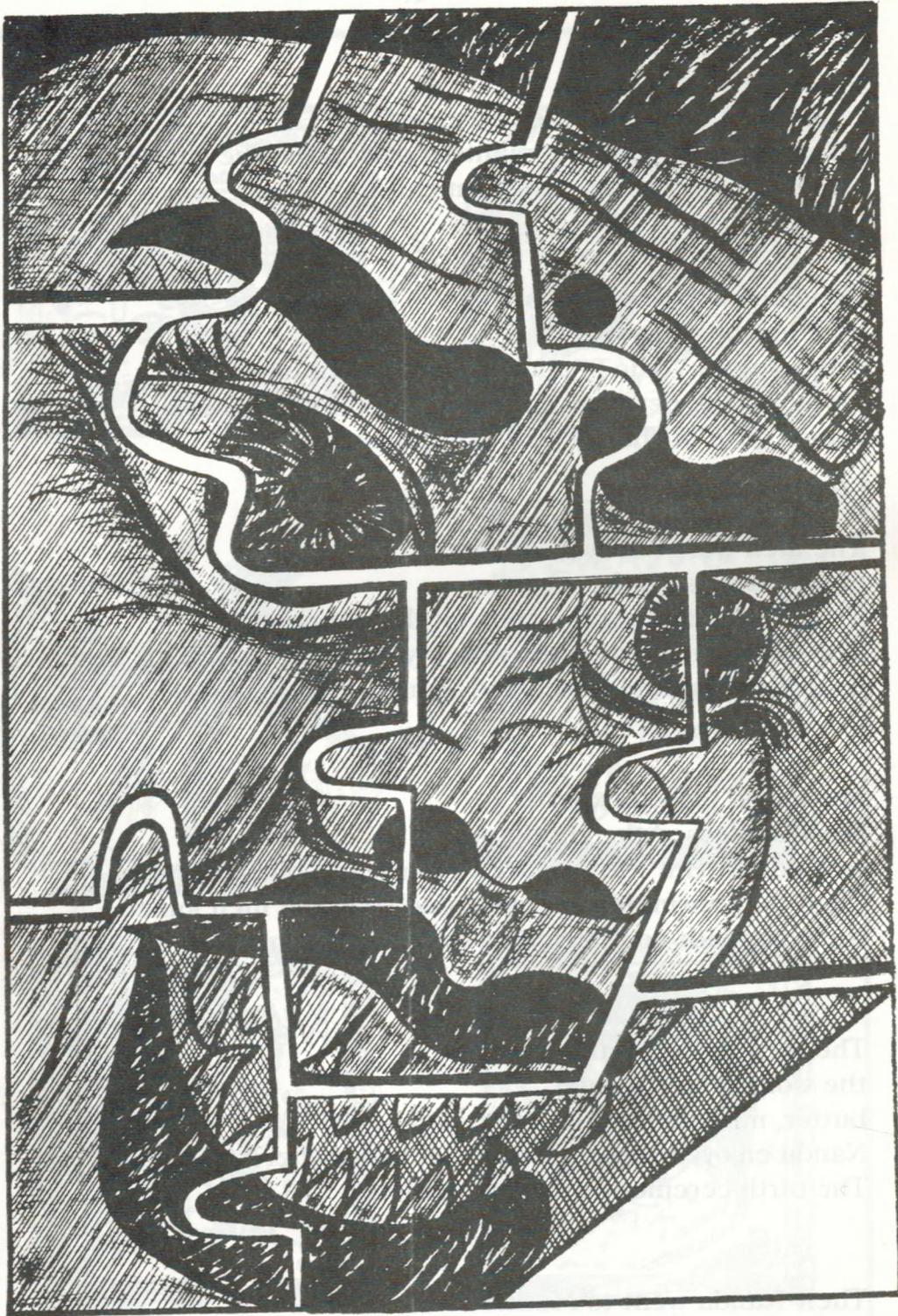
The men threw on the women,  
the women on the men,  
butter, milk and yogurt again and again.  
Nanda enjoyed these pastimes of his cowherd friends.  
The birth ceremony was very opulent.

6.

Then Nanda went to Mathura  
to pay his taxes there.  
Vasudeva met Nanda--oh what a happy pair!  
They spoke of baby Krishna and of Balaram.  
Then Vasudeva told Nanda, "Go home as fast as you can."



Meeting of Nanda and Vasudeva





# Putana Killed

6

1.

PT. I

Putana, you ugly witch,  
you can't fool Krishna with your tricks.  
Dressed up like a beauty queen,  
killing babies on Kamsa's team.

2.

With lotus flower in her hand  
Putana came to Vrndaban.  
Poison smeared upon her breasts.  
Found baby Krishna taking rest.

3.

Without a doubt this child is God,  
He is for sure the Supreme Lord.  
Yet Putana picked the baby up,  
and offered Him her breast to suck.

4.

Baby Krishna closed His eyes.  
Putana had a great surprise,  
as Krishna sucked her life air out,  
she fell down and began to shout.

5.

"Leave me, leave me, child!" she cried.  
Her witch form now she could not hide.  
The villagers heard a tumultuous sound  
as Putana crashed unto the ground.

PT. II

1.

Quick now, the baby needs cleansing,  
Yasoda, with cow's dung is smearing,  
Rohini with cow's urine bathing.  
Lord Krishna we must protect.

2.

The twelve names of Visnu Yasoda is chanting  
as Nanda and others return from Mathura.  
The body of Khecari witch they are burning,  
while Nanda holds Krishna, his son.







# SALVATION OF TRNAVARTA

7

PT. I

1.

Lord Krishna's now one, Yasoda is so happy.  
Lord Krishna's now one--Janmastami.  
Nanda's calling everyone, "It's Krishna's birthday. Please come  
We must observe this with a bathing ceremony."

2.

See the decorated cows, hear the brahmans chanting hymns.  
Auspicious bathtime.  
When the baby fell asleep, Yasoda laid him down to rest.  
It's time now to entertain the guests.

1.

Hungry baby, crying baby,  
mother does not hear.  
Angry baby, kicking baby,  
please take care.  
Lying 'neath a hand cart  
baby kicked the wheels apart.  
Axle here, spokes there.  
Children running everywhere.  
Crash, bang, cart and dishes hit the ground.

2.

Anxious father, anxious mother,  
running to the sight.  
Men and women loudly calling,  
"Is Krishna all right?"  
Mother gets the baby,  
children tell the story.  
"Krishna kicked the cart,  
Demon Sakatasura thrown apart.  
Again! Brahmans chanting, fires lighting, and Krishna's taking bath.



1.

There's Danger, danger all around,  
and Krishna's on the ground.  
Here comes Trnavarta  
twirling like a whirlwind.

2.

Dust and wind blew everywhere,  
no one could see a thing.  
No one could see, but all could hear,  
Krishna can't be found.

3.

Yasoda's crying piteously,  
lying on the ground.  
"Krishna, Krishna, come to me.  
My Dear, I cannot see."

4.

Higher, higher in the sky  
no time to say good-bye.  
Trnavarta's got Krishna  
riding on his shoulder.

5.

Krishna's getting heavy now,  
heavier than a mountain.  
The demon's eyes popping out--  
he can't stay in the sky.

6.

Falling, falling to the ground, No. 3 is dying.  
Krishna came home safe and sound.  
The gopis now rejoicing.



# VISION OF THE UNIVERSAL FORM

8

PT. I

1.

Vasudeva sent Gargamuni  
to Nanda Maharaj.  
Nanda greeted Garga with respectful prayers.  
Garga is the family priest of the Yadu dynasty  
here to tell the boy's future by astrology.

2.

Krishna is the son of Devaki,  
now in Nanda's care.  
Both these boys are Vasudeva's a transcendental pair.  
If I give this child a name Kamsa will soon hear  
the eighth child of Devaki is now residing here.

3.

This naming ceremony  
must be done with care.  
Nanda agreed with Garga, this secret we must share.  
They went into the cowshed to chant the Vedic hymns,  
and Nanda heard from Garga many wonderful things.



4.

This boy, the son of Rohini,  
will be called Ram.  
Because He is so strong, He is Balaram.  
Because of the Yadu dynasty, His name is Sankarsan.  
Then Garga spoke of Krishna, Nanda's second son.

5.

This boy was white and then was red,  
yellow and now black.  
Different bodily colours in yugas of the past.  
Some will call Him Vasudeva and some will say Krishna,  
many other names He had, the number is vast.

6.

This child will please the men and cows,  
righteous He'll protect.  
Whoever becomes His devotee, He never will forget.  
This child must be protected though so powerful.  
Nanda, please believe me, "Narayan is your son!"

8

1.

PT. II

Hear, hear Yasoda is calling,  
and see there the gopis are coming,  
and hear, now Rohini is laughing,  
at Krishna and Balaramji.  
They crawled to the cowshed and held a calf's tail.  
The poor calf is running the children still holding.  
They drag in the cow dung, the mud and the clay.  
The neighbours laugh loud at Their play.



2.

Oh dear these boys are so restless,  
the gopis complain to Their mothers.  
Yasoda, please restrict your Krishna,  
that boy and His brother are bad.  
They let loose the calves before we milk the cows.  
The calves drink the milk before we get to the cows.  
We would like to chastise these two naughty boys,  
Who smile and just run far away.

3.

They steal our yogurt and butter,  
we try to take care of this matter.  
The boys chide we don't need your butter,  
the monkeys won't even partake.  
We hide our yogurt, our milk and our butter.  
In the darkness They find it by Their jewels which glitter.  
They break all the pots an They pinch all the babies.  
Please take off Their jewels today.

4.

All right, I will take Their jewels,  
Yasoda agreed with the gopis.  
But no, no, the gopis are saying,  
we know this no good will do.  
These boys, They are spreading some kind of effulgence.  
They see in the darkness with or without ornaments.  
If somehow or other They can't reach our butter  
in anger they spit on the floor.

5

See now, how good They're appearing,  
and see how They sit there pretending.  
The gopis just go away smiling.  
Yasoda cannot chastise.







1.

One day the boys went out to play,  
and Balaram had a plan.  
He joined with all his friends to say  
that Krishna ate some clay.

2.

Yasoda took Krishna by the hand,  
said, "Son, what have You done?"  
Mother, the boys made up these lies  
so I will be chastised.

3.

You can look within My mouth,  
if there be any doubt.  
Said Krishna like a simple child.  
So mother looked inside.

4.

Dear, oh dear, how can this be  
an ordinary child.  
Within His mouth Yasoda could see  
so much activity.

5.

Mountains, oceans, fire and air,  
planets, moon and stars.  
Spiritual and material activities,  
all living entities.

6.

Yasoda also saw herself  
within Lord Krishna's mouth.  
She thought she had become crazy.  
O what perplexity.

7.

So first she offered up a prayer,  
and then began to think,  
my own begotten child must be  
the Supreme Personality.



# MOTHER YASODA BINDING LORD KRISHNA

9

PT. I

Yasoda's now churning the butter.  
Her beauty increased as she churned.  
She's singing the pastimes of Krishna.  
All the feats of her son she enjoys.

Chorus

Krishna, O Krishna, Krishna's the darling of Gokula.  
Krishna, O Krishna, mother is thinking of You.  
Soon Krishna appeared to His mother,  
demanding His right to be fed.  
Feeding Krishna comes first thought Yasoda.  
The churning must wait for later.

Chorus

Yasoda enjoys pleasing Krishna,  
she smiles as she feeds Him breast milk.  
But there's milk on the stove boiling over,  
so Yasoda stopped feeding her boy.



Krishna's angry at this stage.  
His lips and eyes are red with rage.  
He pressed His teeth into His lip,  
then threw a rock at a butter pot.

2.

With one stroke the butter pot broke,  
now Krishna's hands are fast at work.  
Scooped up some butter in great haste,  
mother will not like this waste.

3.

When Yasoda saw the broken pot  
she knew her son would not show up.  
With stick in hand she looked around.  
He must be punished when He's found.

4.

He reached a hanging butter pot,  
and served the monkeys the whole lot.  
When mother turned up on the site,  
Krishna ran off in great fright.

5.

Mother chased, but when she caught,  
Krishna's too afraid she thought.  
I'd better throw this stick away,  
there has to be some other way.

6.

She tried to bind Him with a rope,  
two inches short, but still there's hope.  
I'll simply add more rope she thought.  
It always stayed two inches short.

PT. III

Oh dear Yasoda is weary,  
unable to solve the mystery,  
but Krishna's now pleased to surrender  
Himself to be bound by the rope.  
He played like a child in the house of Yasoda,  
first not enough milk, and now bound to a mortar,  
for breaking the pots and dividing the butter.  
Yet planning more mischief to do.







# DELIVERANCE OF NALAKUVARA AND MANIGRIVA

Ch. 10

1.

Oh! There is Nalakuvara  
and brother Manigriva.  
The sons of Kuvara, the treasurer,  
now standing as Arjuna trees.  
These brothers were once drinking wine and enjoying  
in the province of Kailasa on the bank of the Ganges.  
In the garden of Siva they splashed in the water  
with beautiful maidens around.

2.

Oh my! Narada passed by--  
the maidens turned chaste and shy.  
The brothers were too drunk to see  
the great sage Narada Muni.  
O what a disgraceful, degraded condition.  
These brothers were heedless due to intoxication.  
The great sage Narada so full of compassion,  
must smash their grand illusion.

3.

He cursed them to become trees,  
yet keep all their memories.  
To stand for one hundred years,  
till the Supreme Lord appears.  
These Arjuna trees in the courtyard of Nanda,  
caught the eye of child Krishna while bound to the mortar.  
In order to fulfill the words of Narada,  
the demigods must now be freed.



4.

So Krishna dragged over the mortar,  
He did not once stop or falter.  
The mortar stuck between the two trees,  
as Krishna pulled, they tumbled down.  
The demigods, now purified, appeared to child Krishna.  
They bowed down and prayed, "Please engage us dear Krishna."  
Then Krishna He made them this wonderful promise,  
"it is your last birth within this world."

5.

Here comes Father Nanda,  
and here comes Mother Yasoda.  
But how did the trees fall, they wonder,  
while Krishna's still bound by the ropes.  
The men are astonished, the women are anxious.  
The children complaining, no one would believe us.  
But Nanda is smiling while the knots he's untying.  
Then the gopis whisk Krishna away.



# KILLING THE DEMONS VATASURA AND BAKASURA

Ch. 11

Pt. 1

1.

Yasoda used to say, "Krishna  
please bring a wooden plank."  
The plank's too heavy for a child.  
But Krishna would comply.

2.

And Nanda worshipping Narayana,  
said, "Bring my slippers, son."  
With wooden slippers on His head  
Krishna would soon come.

3.

So everyone did have some fun,  
when Krishna was around.  
He played at these activities,  
to please His devotees.







1.

One day a vendor came to Nanda Maharaja's house.  
One day a vendor came to sell some fruit.  
"If you want some fruit, "She called,  
"please come to me and take them all."  
So Krishna ran out with some grains for an exchange.

2.

Little boy Your hands are small,  
so, my dear, You're dropping all.  
But what a beauty!  
So the vendor took the grains,  
filled Krishna's hands with lots of fruits.  
Then saw her basket filled up with precious jewels.

1.

"Balaram, Balaram, my dear son,  
You must come home as fast as You can.  
Krishna, too, should come with You.  
The time for lunch is overdue."

2.

"Yasoda, Yasoda, the boys won't come.  
You must go there as fast as you can.  
They'll stay and play till the end of day,"  
said Rohini, "Come what may."

3.

"Krishna, Krishna," Yasoda cried,  
"You must be hungry, dear lotus-eyed.  
You ought to be tired from playing so long.  
Since morning You and Your brother were gone."

4.

"Nanda, Nanda will never eat,  
until You boys are in Your seats."  
The boys set off hearing Nanda's name.  
Their friends called out, "Next time, no game!"







5.

“Children, children, what are You doing?”  
Krishna and Balaram were actually coming  
“Krishna, Your body is dirty from play.  
Besides, today is Your birthday.”

6.

“Come home, come home and take a bath.”  
At last Yasoda got them to start.  
Now to perform the birthday ceremony,  
and give many cows in charity.

1.

Nanda met with Upananda  
and the elder men  
concerning all the trouble made by Kamsa's men.  
As well-wishers of Krishna  
and of Balaram,  
Uncle Upananda thought moving the best plan.

2.

Who can forget Putana  
or Trnavarta.  
The two Arjuna trees which fell down without breeze.  
The time has come to leave this place,  
it is no longer safe.  
Lord Hari has saved us from calamities.

3.

the forest of Vrndavan,  
nearby Govardhana,  
there are lots of plants and herbs, pasturing grounds.  
I suggest we waste no time.  
Let's prepare the carts.  
If everyone agrees we should at once start.



4.

Off they go to Vrndavan.  
Oh, what a caravan.  
Cows and bulls along with calves moving to the front.  
Elders and children  
seated on bullock carts.  
Men with cows and arrows appointed as guards.

5.

Then came pretty damsels,  
seated on the carts.  
They're chanting Krishna's glories, melting peoples's hearts.  
Yasoda talked with Krishna,  
Rohini with Balaram.  
The whole ecstatic picture was the Lord's plan.

6.

The carts encircled Vrndavan.  
They all saw Govardhana.  
Blowing horns and bugles making tumultuous sounds.  
We'll all live here peacefully  
on Yamuna's bank.  
Now everyone is happy here in Vrndavan.

PT. V

1.

The little cowherd boys are trained  
to take care of the calves.  
So Krishna and brother Balaram  
went to the pasturing ground.

2.

Sometimes the boys would play Their flutes,  
and sometimes play with fruits.  
Pretending that the fruits were balls,  
such fun They did enjoy.



3.

The brothers liked to dance and prance  
and liked to play bullfights.  
Covered up with blankets now,  
pretending to be cows.

4.

The demon Vatsasura came.  
He entered like a calf.  
He planned to kill the two brothers  
while mingling with the others.

5.

But Krishna knew the demon's plan,  
so He told Balaram.  
The brothers sneaked up from behind.  
The imposter They must find.

6.

Krishna caught hind legs and tail  
and whipped him round and round.  
Then threw him up into a tree.  
He died and hit the ground.

7.

Krishna's friends are happy now.  
They cried, "Well done, well done."  
The demigods were pleased to see,  
so they showered flowers down.







11.

VI

1.

O what a shame, another demon came.  
His name is Bakasura, sent there by Kamsa.  
Appearing as huge as a mighty hill.  
Unusual shape with a sharp duck's bill.  
Attacking Krishna ferociously.  
Then swallowing Krishna up, but the demon's throat burned up.

2.

Balarama and the boys, breathless, almost died.  
But Krishna's effulgence at work, burning the demon's throat.  
So the demon quickly threw Krishna out.  
He's pinching to kill with his beak-like mouth.  
Krishna easily ripped both his beaks apart,  
like splitting a blade of grass, so the demon died aghast.

3.

Now what's that sound, the demigods beating drums.  
The boys are thunderstruck, hearing bugles striking up.  
The denizens of heaven shower flowers down.  
Krishna is so pleasing to everyone.  
The boys ran home to relate the news  
of Krishna's amazing feat, Krishna's pastimes are a treat.



# VANCOUVER GURUKULA CHILDREN IN ACTION



First-graders



Mother Harirani in her classroom

Sankirtan in Stanley Park

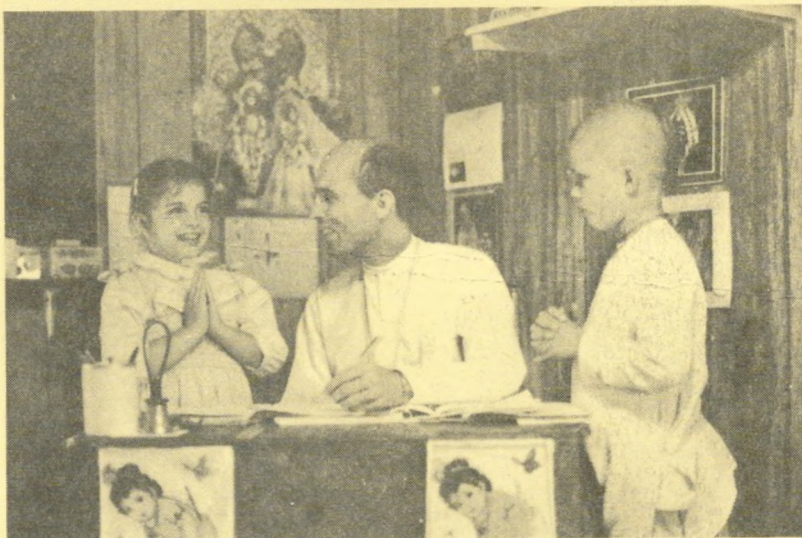






Singing Krishna's pastimes for a Sunday feast crowd

## VANCOUVER GURUKULA CHILDREN IN ACTION



Headmaster Bala Krishna dasa



.... a child's Rathayatra





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