

more about KRISHNA



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Dedicated To



**His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Founder Acharya, International Society for Krishna Consciousness
ISKCON**

Compiled by
Radhika devi dasi and Hemangi Gopi devi dasi

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Message for Parents and Teachers

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the Founder Acharya of ISKCON, was very concerned about Vedic education. He said "Child is the father of man, so the basic principle of any type of life is to instruct the children from the very beginning in Krishna consciousness to enable children to grow to be the leaders of human society."

We are very pleased to present before you the 2nd edition of 'Advent of Lord Krishna', now renamed 'More About Krishna'

Benefitting from the feedback and suggestions of teachers, parents and children, we have revised some of the text material. We have also changed some of the exercises and added creative activities in order to make the book more appealing to children. This book is suitable for children around 8 years of age. We humbly request you all to spend quality time with them in order to help them blossom in Krishna consciousness.

We are thankful to Radhika devi dasi, Hemangi Gopi devi dasi and all the other devotees who have helped in bringing this book out. Bamsi Gopal das and Bhakta Kundan worked tirelessly on the typing and layout design.

We thank the Vaishnavas all around the world for their blessings, suggestions and continued support. We pray at the lotus feet of Shri Guru and Shri Gauranga that these devotional books be of some help in bringing about a positive change in the rapidly degrading civilization.

Hare Krishna

Radheshyam Das
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7 January 2004
Pushya Abhishek

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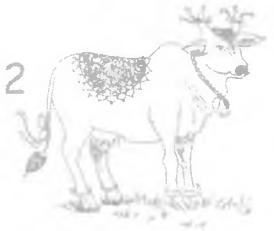


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1 The Supreme Saviour

SCENE 1

(Sounds of fighting in the background and Mother Bhumi crying)

Narrator More than 5000 years ago.....
Mother Bhumi was full of woe.
Disturbed by the demons' behaviour,
She decided to approach the Supreme Saviour
In the form of a cow, with tears in her eyes,
First she went to Lord Brahma, so wise.

(Brahma is seated on a lotus)

Bhumi devi Respected Brahma I've bad news to share ,
There are sinful people everywhere.
Torturing brahmanas and cows without a care,
The situation has become too difficult to bear.

Narrator Lord Brahma thoughtfully furrowed his brow.



Lord Brahma Only Lord Vishnu can help us now
 O Shiva, Indra and other demigods too,
 Let us proceed to the abode of Lord Vishnu.

(All the demigods and Bhumi Devi exit the stage)

SCENE 2

(Lord Vishnu is seen lying down and Lakshmi devi is
massaging His legs)

Narrator Shvetadvipa is a white island in the milk ocean,
 Here resides Vishnu the Lord of all creation
 The demigods felt grateful and blessed to see
 The Lord being served by Mother Lakshmi
 Lord Vishnu looked majestic in jewels and yellow silk,
 Resting on Ananta Shesh in the ocean of milk.
 The demigods bowed at Their lotus feet,
 And offered worship with special prayers so sweet.



(The demigods chant together with folded palms)

Demigods You are the creator, maintainer our dearest friend,
The beginning, the middle and also the end.
O Supreme Lord we've gathered here today
For Your mercy we humbly do pray

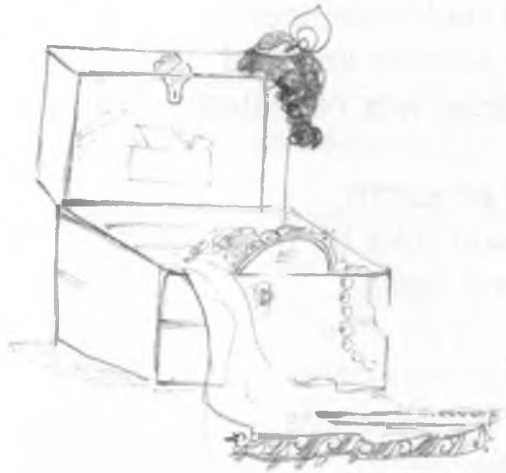
Narrator Though Vishnu smiled but spoke not a word,
All knew that their prayers had been heard..
Awaiting on the shore they silently kneeled
In Brahma's heart the message was revealed.

Lord Vishnu It's time for Me to appear on earth,
In the Yadu family I will soon take birth.
I promise to appear again and again,
To re-establish religion among all men,
The rule of the demons must now cease
As declared, I will protect My devotees.
I want all of you to assist Me,
Now take birth in the Yadu family.

Narrator At last, Mother earth was pacified,
The demigods too, were satisfied.
In the Lord's pastimes a part they'd play,
Eagerly awaiting the Lord's appearance day.



Activity Time



We can also take part in the Lord's pastimes by hearing and speaking of them.

Enact the above play.

Use your imagination to make simple costumes and sound effects.

Discussion



A king is the head of his country. He has many ministers under him. These ministers are in charge of the different departments like food, water, defence and so on. They act under his instructions.

In the same way the demigods work on Krishna's behalf. They fulfill different functions in the universe

Find out how these demigods are serving Krishna :



Surya



Chandra



Vayu



Varuna

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



Cut and paste pictures of other demigods and demigoddesses.

Who do the demigods approach when they need help?
Could you tell us why.

.....

.....

.....

A Secret Message

In this chapter we have learnt something very important.
Do you know what it is ?

Using the code given below find the hidden message.

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

PIRHSMZ RH GSV HFKIVNV

KVIHLMZORGB LU TLWSVZW

Shvetadvipa

Let's make a model of Shvetadvipa



Take a cardboard box, paint the inside blue. Cut fish and plants out of coloured paper and stick them on the background.

Make Ananta Shesh out of clay and place Him on the base. Take the picture of Lakshmi and Vishnu from the coloured page and place Them in a suitable position. You may use glitter, shells, stones and paint to decorate the model.



2 Voice in the Sky

It was Devaki and Vasudeva's wedding day
"I'll drive your chariot", Kamsa did say.
The procession included horses and elephants
While many bands played musical instruments.

Devaki was decked up with gold jewellery
Everyone moved forward happily.
Suddenly a loud voice was heard from the sky,
"At the hands of her eighth child you will die!"

Angered, Kamsa pulled at Devaki's hair
Vasudeva pleaded, but Kamsa didn't care.
Vasudeva's words were wise and clear
But Kamsa wasn't ready to hear.

Devaki and Vasudeva were mercilessly thrown
Into a jail cell with walls of stone.
Ignoring the cries of the father and mother,
Kamsa killed six children one after the other

Balarama the seventh child was born in a special way
By Yogamaya's power He was carried away.
Soon after, it was time for the Lord to appear,
Devaki looked beautiful and felt no fear.

The saints and sages all gathered there,
They offered many a wonderful prayer.
Let's try to understand the Lord's birth and activities,
By hearing His pastimes and singing His glories.





Activity Time

Discussion

We saw how anger causes a person to act cruelly. Kamsa's selfishness was the cause of his anger. It made him mistreat his own sister.

Anger can be very harmful. It makes us do things which we would not do otherwise. It is also important to understand what makes us angry.

In your group discuss these pictures. Can you find out why these children are angry?



He beat me in the race.
If I had the chance I would
punch him in the nose.



My father has just shouted at me
and now this dumb dog is coming
in my way.



How dare you say that
your doll looks better
than mine? You silly girl!



You play the game my way or just get lost!



I don't care if she thinks I am rude She was spoiling the party by showing off her new dress

These children are facing a problem with their anger. Most of us feel like that sometimes.

Which are the things that make us angry ?

.....

.....

.....

Share any incident where anger led to bad behaviour.
How could it have been avoided ?

.....

.....

.....

.....

We must try to understand how anger is harmful and try to change ourselves. When we face this problem we must speak to an adult. Ask them what we should do. Most importantly we must pray to Lord Krishna to help us change.

Anger is not always bad. Sometimes others get angry with us to correct our behaviour because they love us. We should try to see the reason behind their anger rather than just their anger.

The Lord is our Supreme father and knows what is best for every one of His children.

Our Puppet Show

Let's make finger puppets



- 1 Make drawings of different things described in the poem like stars, flowers, sages and so on. Glue the drawing on to a piece of stiff paper or cardboard.
- 2 Cut out the drawing, leaving a base at least 8 cm deep. Cut two holes (large enough to slip two fingers through) about 1 cm apart at the bottom of the drawing
- 3 Put two fingers through the holes in the puppet.
- 4 Now recite the poem on the following page and make the puppets dance. You may even sing the poem and use music to enliven the show !





The Lord is about to Appear

The Lord is about to appear,
Lord Krishna is about to appear,
Wicked Kamsa, we no longer fear.

Look at the stars that tell,
Look at the planets that tell,
That soon all is going to be well.

The time is right,
The moment is right,
Mother earth appears so bright.

The sky is aglow,
The night is aglow,
Fragrant breezes begin to blow.

Flowers bloom everywhere,
Lotuses bloom everywhere,
Peacocks are dancing here and there.

The streams gush along,
The rivers gush along,
The birds chirp a welcome song.

The gandharvas sing,
The kinnaras sing,
Caranas recite prayers in offering.

The sages send showers,
The demigods send showers,
Of sweet scented heavenly flowers.

The Lord is about to appear,
Lord Krishna is about to appear,
Hearts overflow with joy and cheer.

O Krishna! To You we pray,
O Supreme Lord! To You we pray,
We've waited long for this very day.



3 Krishna's Amazing Appearance



Devaki and Vasudeva



Nanda and Yashoda



Krishna



Kamsa



Gokula



Baby Girl



were very happy to see



the Supreme

Personality of Godhead in the form of a wonderful baby.



Baby

was dressed in yellow garments and wore

shining



His complexion was like a



and on

His hair was a





asked



to carry Him to



and exchange Him for the



born to



By the influence of Yogmaya all the



in the



of



went to sleep. The palace



opened. The



of



opened.



put



in a



and

went out.

The darkness of the



disappeared. At that time it was



spread His hoods on the head of



to protect Them.

When



reached the banks of the Yamuna river, the waves were

rising and falling. Then a wonderful thing happened! The Yamuna



could easily cross over to the other side.



went to the house of Nanda in



. Everyone was

sleeping. He silently entered the house. He put



on

Yashoda's



and picked up the



born to her.

Then he returned to the palace of



. He went inside the jail.

The



closed.



put the



on the lap of

. Then he put the



on himself and sat down.

Everything took place so quietly that



did not know that so

many things had happened. After some time the



awoke and heard the



crying. The guards

informed

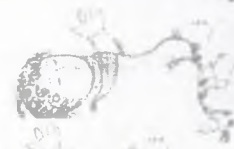


. He came running to kill the baby.



begged

"My dear brother please do not kill this

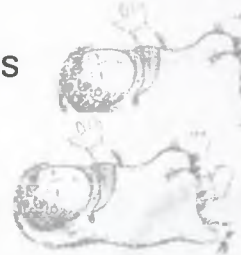


."

Cruel





did not listen. He grabbed the




and tried

to dash her on a stone.

The  slipped out of his hands and rose into the .



She appeared in a beautiful form with 8 arms. She was the younger


sister of Lord Vishnu. All the demigods offered her 


and prayers. Yogamaya said, " You rascal how can you kill

me? The child who will kill you is already born before me

somewhere within this world. Don't be so cruel to your poor

sister."  became fearful. He released .

He begged them to excuse him for his bad deeds. 

forgave  and returned to their home.



Activity Time

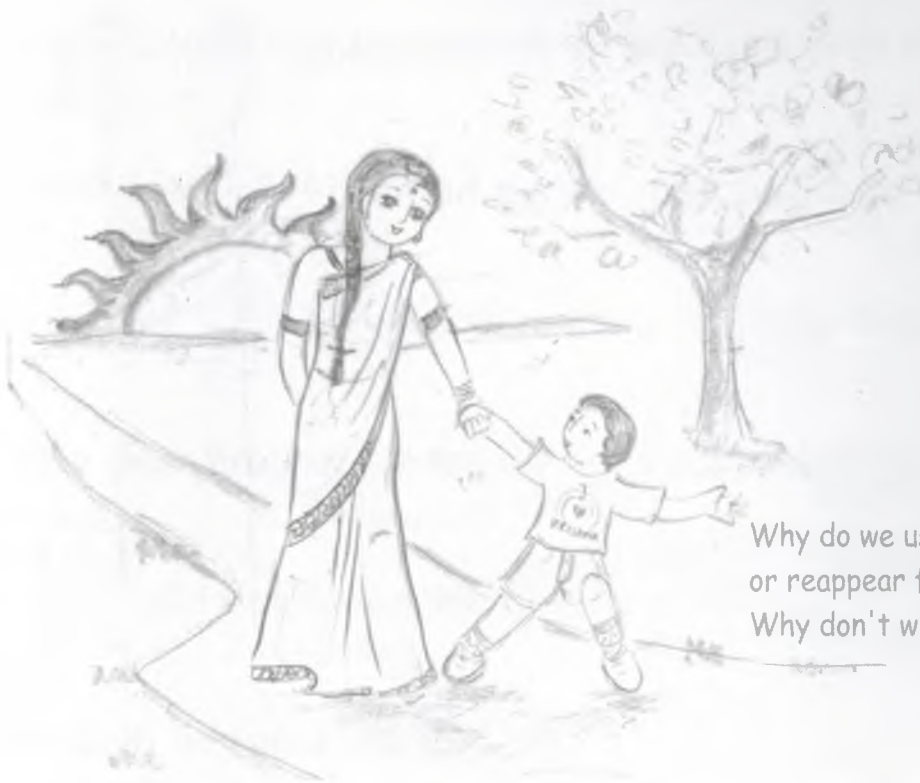
Discussion:

In Bhagavad Gita Lord Krishna says, "Whenever and wherever people lose faith in Me and become wicked and sinful, at that time I descend to save the good people and punish the bad people and re-establish religion. In this way, I reappear in various forms again and again".

Lord Krishna has appeared in many incarnations. He is the source of all incarnations.

In the Shrimad Bhagavatam (1.3.28) it is said :

ete camsa kala pumsa krishnas tu bhagavan svayam
indrari vyakulam lokam mridayanti yuge yuge



Why do we use the words appear
or reappear for Krishna, mother ?
Why don't we use the word born ?

Shrila Prabhupada gives us a very simple example to help us understand this.



Let us try :

We say...

The Sunto our vision in the morning.

The Sunfrom our vision in the evening.

The Sun to our vision the next morning.



Do you understand ?

The Sun is always there.

The same Sun appears everyday. Can we say a new sun is born everyday ?

Now if someone was to ask you - why do you say that Krishna appears ?
What would you say ? (You can refer to the picture on the next page)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

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What would you say ? (You can refer to the picture on the next page)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Label this Diagram :



Krishna is the source of all incarnations

The following word grid contains the names of the ten main incarnations of the Lord. Can you find them?

A	N	A	M	A	V	A	M	N	P
M	A	Y	S	T	A	M	A	A	A
K	A	L	K	I	R	A	N	R	R
U	A	M	A	R	A	R	H	S	S
R	A	D	H	A	H	A	S	I	H
M	N	A	N	D	A	L	I	M	U
A	L	U	K	O	G	A	R	H	R
Y	A	H	D	D	U	B	K	A	A
M	A	T	H	U	R	A	M	M	M
V	R	I	N	D	A	V	A	N	A

KRISHNA

MATSYA
KURMA
VARAHA
NARSIMHA
VAMANA

PARSHURAMA
RAMA
BALARAMA
BUDDHA
KALKI

You may find a few extra words
GOKULA, RADHA, MATHURA, VRINDAVANA

Story Sequence

Our artist has drawn some pictures but the printer has mixed them all up. These pictures tell us a story. Each of you draw one of these pictures on a big sheet of drawing paper and stick your drawing on chart paper.

Everyone sit in a circle and close your eyes. When teacher counts 1-10 everyone runs and stands in the correct order. You should be able to do this in less than one minute. This game is a lot of fun and at the same time helps us remember the amazing way in which the Lord appears.

You can play different games with these cards.



Wall Hanging



Cut out the pictures of the Dashavatara and Krishna from the coloured page.

Take coloured card paper and cut out 11 rectangles or any other shape you like. The shape must be bigger than the picture.

Now take ribbon and attach all the shapes on the ribbon as shown in the illustration.

On each shape stick a picture of one avatara starting with Krishna's picture. Decorate the shapes.

Tie a bell to the lower-end of your handicraft.

There your wall hanging is ready !



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.





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.

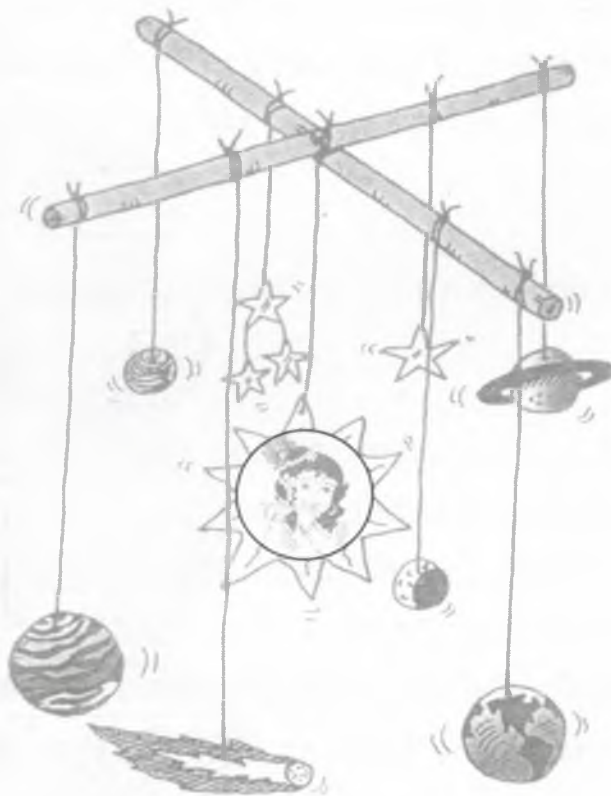
The child took all His hands could hold
In return He gave jewels and gold.



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

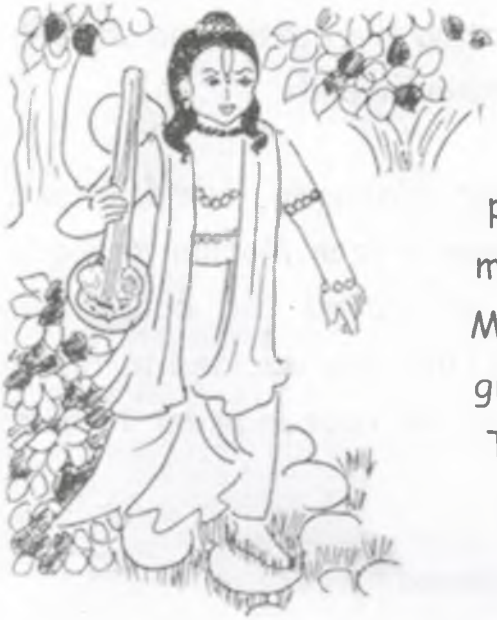


Shake ! Shake ! Shake !

- 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.



5 How Krishna got the name Damodara



Nalakuvara and Manigriva were the sons of Kuvera, who is the demigod in charge of wealth. These young boys were proud of their riches and had picked up many bad habits. One day Nalakuvara and Manigriva were drunk, playing with their girlfriends in the waters of the Ganges. The great sage Narada Muni came there. But the boys continued enjoying themselves and did not offer any respects to him.

Narada Muni was shocked to see this bad behaviour. He knew it was his duty to teach them a lesson. Therefore he cursed them. "May you both become trees for one hundred heavenly years. After that you will see Lord Krishna face to face. At that time He will shower His mercy on you."

Nalakuvara and Manigriva turned into twin Arjuna trees. Thousands of years passed by....

One day mother Yashoda was churning butter. While she churned butter she sang songs about the childhood pastimes of baby Krishna. As she churned her bangles and earrings made a sweet tinkling sound. Soon baby Krishna came there. He climbed onto mother Yashoda's lap because He wanted to drink milk. Mother Yashoda started feeding Him lovingly. Suddenly she saw that the milk on the stove was boiling over. She quickly put down Krishna and ran to take care of the overflowing milk.



Baby Krishna was very angry. He took a piece of stone and broke the yogurt pot. He started eating the butter and sharing it with His monkey friends.

When mother Yashoda came there Krishna ran away in fear. Mother Yashoda chased Him all around the house and finally caught Him. She decided to teach

Him a lesson. Mother Yashoda collected lots of rope in order to bind Krishna to a wooden mortar.

Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He sometimes performs wonderful pastimes. At first mother Yashoda could not bind Him. Later Krishna allowed her to easily bind Him. After binding baby Krishna to the mortar, Mother Yashoda went to complete her household duties.

Baby Krishna dragged the wooden mortar between the two Arjuna trees standing in the courtyard. The mortar got stuck between the two trees. Krishna pulled the mortar with great force and the trees fell down with a loud crash.

As the two trees fell down, Nalakuvara and Manigriva appeared there. They bowed down in front of Krishna and offered wonderful prayers to Him for saving them. They realized that the curse had helped them become humble and good devotees. After receiving Krishna's blessings they happily returned to their heavenly abode.





Activity Time

Discussion:

'Dam' means rope and 'odar' means stomach. Therefore Damodara means one whose stomach is bound by a rope. Krishna has many names depending on His form, qualities and pastimes. Write down more names of Krishna with their meanings.

A large rectangular box with decorative corner ornaments, intended for writing the names and meanings of Krishna.

In the Shrimad Bhagavatam there are many pastimes of Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and His devotees. Hearing and reading these stories makes us know and love Krishna better.

Read this



My mother always makes me finish my homework before I go to play. I don't like it



I have always made the best dresses for myself. I have saved money to buy some silk. Now I am making a dress for Krishna.



I was angry when my teacher punished me. But now I know it was for my own good.



Why does my father always want me to bow down to saintly people?



Does this behaviour remind you of Nalakuvara and Manigriva?

Elderly people make rules and regulations to guide us .

Sometimes they show their anger because they care for us and want to help us.

The Lord has given us wealth in the form of our body, talents, money and even time.

We should use everything to serve and please the Lord.

In the story Nalakuvara and Manigriva disrespected Narada muni
We come across many saintly people in our lives. We must be very careful to offer proper respect to them. They are very special because they are dear to the Lord.

What message have they come to give us ?

How can we show our respect for them ?



Some words of this poem have slipped to the bottom of the page.
Can you pick them up and put them in the right places ?

Butter Thief

Yashoda and Rohini dress their boys with great care,
Krishna has a peacock feather in His curly
Kanha's garments are of a yellow hue,
Dauji's clothes are a bright

Shining jewels and sandalwood paste
Little silver bells on ankles and
Their mothers are happy to see Them crawl
These naughty babies give joy to

On hands and knees They move around
Ankle bells ringing with a sweet
Holding a calf's tail They are dragged everywhere
Seeing the fun, the gopis gather

The cows give milk so creamy and sweet
The gopis make butter that's delicious to
Singing songs they churn the milk merrily
Storing the soft white butter



hair waist sound fun
blue all there eat

Once the brothers learn to walk and run
They start having even more
Krishna and Balarama, naughty little butter thieves
Quietly enter the houses of the

They eat as much as they possibly can
Sharing the rest with the monkey
When the pots are high... oh! They have many tricks
Breaking the pots with stones and

If the jars are hidden and can't be found
They trouble the babies and litter the
"We must go and complain," the gopis say
but seeing Gopal's face their anger melts

Krishna looks scared and pretends to cry
"Oh we love Him so much" the gopis
"You know we make butter everyday
Just so that Krishna can steal it

carefully

away

gopis

ground

clan

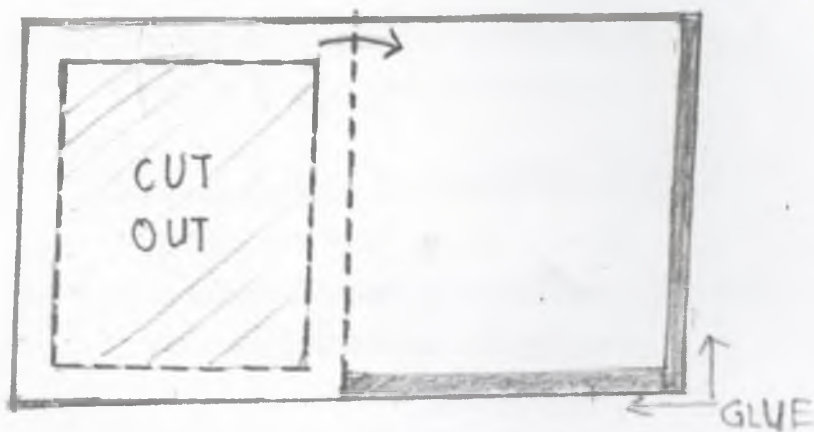
sigh

sticks

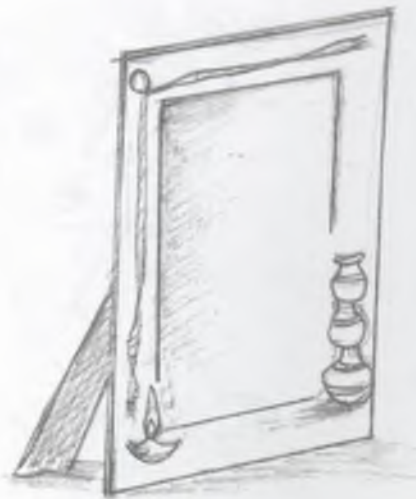
away



Photo Frame



- Take a sheet of paper 12" x 8"
- Draw a line in the middle of the page as shown in the diagram.
- Now cut out a rectangle keeping a margin of about 2" on all sides as shown in the diagram.
- Fold the cardboard and glue the sides together leaving the top open.
- Take the picture of DAMODARA from the coloured page. Stick it on thin card paper.
- Decorate the frame with cut outs of lamps or any other design.
- Slip the picture into the frame.
- Your photo frame is ready.
- You can offer a lamp to Damodara during the month of Kartik.



Memory Game

By now all of you know many names of Krishna.

Sit in a circle.

The child who begins the game says one name of Krishna
like Damodara.

The second child says Damodara and then adds another name
like Madhava.

The third child says Damodara, Madhava and adds another like
Shyamsunder.

In this way the game goes on as more
and more names are added to the list.

This game is fun to play and also helps us remember Krishna.
You could start another round of this game with Krishna's pastimes



Damodara..



Damodara
Madhava..



6 Why the dust of Vrindavana is so soft



"Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!" The gopas giggled.



"Krishna You are such a baby".



"Your maiya only gives You calves to take care of Baby! Baby!" Hearing the teasing words of the gopas Krishna's lower lip started to tremble. Big tear drops fell from His rosy cheeks like shiny pearls. The words of His gopa friends rang in his ears. He pattered on His little lotus feet, back to the palace.



The sky was a bright orange. The sun was setting. Mother Yashoda was waiting at the doorway. She spotted her beloved child. He was all alone today. She ran ahead to welcome Kanha. Without even looking at her Krishna ran right past her.



"Kanha! Kanha!" Maiya called. "Listen to me" she said walking into His room. "Come let me bathe You, You are covered with dust.



"Why won't You talk to Your maiya? Tell me what the matter is. Are You hurt? Did Dauji say something to You?"



Krishna looked so sad. "Come I've made sweetmeats for You" said Mother Yashoda trying to coax her son to talk. "Do You want some sweet rice or puris filled with cream?"





But nothing seemed to make Kanha happy. In this way He fell asleep.

That night Yashoda spoke to Nanda Maharaja. "Kanha has become a big boy now. He is five years old. I've been thinking that we should hand over the charge of the cows to Him. What do you think? Am I right?" Nanda Baba agreed readily.

Next morning when Krishna woke up, Mother Yashoda said "I've spoken to Nanda Baba. He said Kanha has become a big boy now. From today He must take care of the cows. Be quick now, You have to take the cows to the forest"

Krishna leapt into His mother's arms with a big smile. He appeared like a fully bloomed lotus. That morning Krishna got ready very fast. In no time He was at the doorway.

He was amazed to see that there were so many cows.

Nanda Maharaja had nine lakh cows.

Yashoda maiya handed Krishna a lunch bag, an umbrella and His shoes.

"But maiya, what about My cows? How will they walk without shoes? Is there anything to protect them from the sun? If not, please give Me shoes and umbrellas for My cows too."





"Shoes, umbrellas for cows? Whoever heard of that Kanha? And we have nine lakh cows. Each cow has four hooves. Moreover cows don't need shoes."



"Maiya, if you won't give Me shoes and umbrellas for My cows, I too will go to the forest without My shoes and umbrella."



Mother Yashoda had no choice but to allow Krishna to go without shoes and an umbrella.



When the cows heard that Krishna would go into the forest without his shoes, their hearts filled with sorrow. The cows could not bear to think that their beloved Krishna would walk on the thorny rocky paths in the forests of Vraja.



They started stomping the ground with their hooves. They stomped and stomped till the dust of Vrindavana became very soft. In fact they stomped so hard that it became as soft as butter. Now they were happy that Krishna would have no trouble walking barefoot in the forests of Vraja.





Activity Time

In this chapter we saw how the cows and calves united together to please Krishna.

Read the following Story

An old Brahmana priest lived in a holy place, in an ashram, with his seven disciples. There they worshiped very ancient and sacred Deities of Radha and Krishna. Many people would come to see these Deities and make donations for Their worship.

The guru, however, was growing weak due to old age. He knew that soon it would be time to leave his body. He did not feel confident to hand over to his disciples the entire services of these Deities.



One day a pilgrim donated a large ruby to the Deities.

"I think it should be sold for money." one disciple declared.

"No, no!" another cried. "Radha should wear it."

Yet another had his opinion, "It would be far better if we cut it into many small rubies. Then we could make a beautiful necklace for Her".

The disagreement among the disciples carried on for so long that the Brahmana felt that the Deities would never get Their ruby. But he did not interfere. He wanted his students to learn how to manage the ashram themselves. After a while he said. "That's enough.

Now each one of you go to the woods. Bring back one stick, no more than an inch thick."

The seven disciples stopped their quarreling and set out to obey their guru's order. When they returned, the old brahmana took their sticks. He tied them all firmly together with a couple of lengths of rope. He then asked, "Which one of you can break this bundle?"

The seven young men each tried in turn, but even the strongest failed. "It's not possible," they exclaimed, "Watch," their guru said, cutting the rope with a knife. Taking each stick on its own, he very easily snapped it into two;

"I am getting very old. Soon I will die. You are like a bundle of sticks. If you try to help each other, cooperate and work together, you will be strong and serve me well. But if you become divided and fight, you will become weak like these separate sticks. And then, who will care for our Radha and Krishna Deities? Remember united we stand, divided we fall."

Realizing their folly, the seven disciples agreed to set the ruby in a gold ring. That ring, they decided, was to decorate one of Krishna's fingers. Their guru, pleased at this decision, finally felt ready to leave them. Soon after, he peacefully gave up his body and returned to the spiritual world.

Later, when the people came to see the old brahmana's famous Deities they often asked, "How did Krishna get such a beautiful ring?"

The disciples would always answer. "By the strength of a bundle of sticks."

What were the disciples fighting for ?

Why did the Brahamana allow his disciples to fight among themselves ?

What does the bundle of sticks represent ?

How do we know that the disciples learnt their lesson well ?

Give a suitable title for the story

Discussion:

Let's Join Hands

Stand in a circle

Cross your hands and hold the hands of the person next to you.

Now without breaking the circle all of you have to uncross your hands.

It can be done but may take some time.

- What did you feel when you started playing the game?
- What did you feel and do at the end of the game?
- What were you thinking of?

Some tasks can be done alone and some tasks require team work.

It is easy to perform a task when we pool in our strength, our intelligence and our talents.



Srila Prabhupada tells a story

In a little village there lived a an old man with his seven sons.

One late evening all the sons were gathered around the father, massaging him as he lay on his bed. The father was very pleased to see all his sons serving him.

He closed his eyes and went to sleep. Suddenly he got up with a jerk. He saw that three of his sons were pulling one leg and another three were pulling the other leg and one was tugging at his head. Each one wanted to show that he was better than the other.

" Please stop you are hurting me" he cried. " You cannot satisfy me if you are fighting amongst yourselves".

The sons realised their mistake and felt ashamed.

What did you learn from this story? Who is our Supreme Father and how can we serve Him?

Devotee Doll Chain



Let us make a chain of happy, smiling devotees who are chanting and dancing together

Fanfold a piece of drawing paper evenly. To start the fanfold, fold 1 end of the paper over about 1 inch. Then turn the paper over and fold the end up. Continue folding the paper in accordionlike pleats.

After you've finished folding, draw your design for the paper dolls. Make sure at least some parts of the design touch both sides of the paper so the dolls "hold hands." Draw only one half of the doll, since the other half will be across the top fold. Cut out the doll pattern. Then decorate each doll with markers, or glue on trims such as ribbon, yarn, or fabric scraps. You could also draw neck beads and tilak for the dolls.





7 Krishna delivers Kaliya

In the river Yamuna was a huge lake
There lived Kaliya, a wicked snake
He spread his poison everywhere
Dangerous black fumes filled the air.

The boys and cows drank that water one day
Krishna found their bodies along the way.
His loving glance revived them in a moment
He knows everything past, future and present.

Krishna climbed a big Kadamba tree.
And tied His waist belt tightly.
Like a blue lotus, speckled with gold
Krishna's beauty was a sight to behold

Jumping into the water, He swam around.
Kaliya was furious, hearing the sound.
Swimming like a powerful elephant
Enraging the envious gigantic serpent

From Kaliya's nostrils great flames blazed.
From his many hoods cruel eyes gazed
He caught Krishna in his coils so tight
This was the beginning of a very long fight.

The cowherd men were full of grief
Mother Yashoda trembled like a leaf
The cows, bulls and calves shook with fear
To everyone's heart, Krishna was very dear

The struggle went on for very long
Kaliya's grip was very strong
The Brijabasis had all gathered there
Only Balarama was watching without a care.

He told the Brijabasis "Do not lament.
Listen to my words and be patient
Krishna will smash Kaliya's pride
He is stronger than death personified."

In a moment Krishna did slip
Out of cruel Kaliya's vicious grip
He gave the devotees a loving glance
And then began an amazing dance

Krishna jumped from hood to hood
Like a graceful dancer He stood
Kaliya's anger was like red hot coal
But now Krishna was in complete control.

The heavenly beings played music so sweet
As He crushed Kaliya's pride with His lotus feet
The Nagapatnis felt sad and began to pray
"Krishna please save our husband today."

"You've purified Him with Your dance
Now bless him with Your merciful glance!"
Hearing the prayers of His devotees
Krishna smiled and felt very pleased:

Kaliya had become humble and meek
In a gentle voice he began to speak
"O Lord my anger was like blazing fire
Now punish me or save me as You desire"

Kaliya was ordered to leave without delay
Thus Krishna forgave him and sent him away
The Yamuna water became clear and pure
The cowherd boys played there once more.



Activity Time

Discussion:

All these people are praying

What do you think about their prayers ?



Oh Lord let me sell 100
boxes of fruits today,
I'll offer you 5 coconuts



Thank You Lord by Your mercy
I am well again



O Krishna make me Your devotee
Let me understand what You
want me to do with my life



You are the supreme father please
help me give up my bad habits
I am helpless.



Krishna please forgive our husband.
Kaliya is very fortunate to have the
dust of your lotus feet.



O Lord I have an exam today
Please let there be questions only
from the sections, which I have
studied

Prayer is when we talk to God
It is important to understand why we pray
Do we pray only for ourselves?
Do we pray because we want something?
Do we pray because we are sad?
Do we pray whenever we feel like?
Do we pray as a ritual?
Do we follow the prayers with proper actions?

All these people are praying to Krishna, which is
very good.
We must remember that the Lord knows what is
best for us.



How did Krishna's dance help Kaliya?

Was Krishna pleased by the prayers of the Nagapatanis?

The easiest and the simplest prayer is .

.....

.....

.....



It is easy to pray for ourselves because we understand our problems. When we take the trouble to understand others' problems and pray for them the Lord is very pleased.

Let's pray for



- Everyone sit in a circle .
- Pass a picture of Krishna to the singing of the Hare Krishna mahamantra.
- When the singing stops, the child who has the Krishna picture in his hand stops for a minute and thinks of someone he would like to pray for.
- He then says a little prayer for that person.
- The music starts and the picture is passed.... continue until everyone has had a turn to pray.

Bookmark



On the coloured page you will find an outline of Krishna's lotus foot. Cut it out and decorate it to make a bookmark. Write a special prayer you want to offer to Krishna



8 Krishna swallows the Forest Fire



When Krishna and Balarama grew up a little They started taking Their cows to the forests of Vrindavana. They were accompanied by many other cowherd boys who had their own herds of cows.

The forests of Vrindavana look very beautiful. There are shady trees and lush green grasses. Water sprayed by the waterfalls keeps the place cool and fresh. Breezes blowing over the lakes and rivers carry the pollen of lotuses and water lilies and other fragrant flowers. Flowers decorate the forests of Vrindavana and many varieties of birds and animals fill it with sound. There are deer, peacocks and honey bees.

Krishna ,Balarama and the cowherd boys used to decorate themselves with peacock feathers, flower buds and coloured minerals or anything that they could find. In the forest they all enjoyed themselves very much by dancing, singing and wrestling. They played flutes, hand

cymbals and buffalo horns. They played with bilva, kumbha and amlaki fruits. They played blindman's buff, hide and seek and many other games. They had great fun whirling about, leaping about, hurling, and mock fighting. Sometimes they would jump like frogs, swing from the branches like monkeys and imitate the animals of the forest. In this way Krishna, Balarama and the cowherd boys, along with their cows, wandered among the rivers, hills, valleys bushes, trees and lakes of Vrindavana.

One day the boys were busy having fun. They did not notice that the cows had wandered into the deeper part of the forest looking for more grass. Suddenly the cowherd boys realised that the cows were missing. Feeling anxious they quickly set off in search of the cows. At first they were confused and did not know in which direction to go. At last they found a trail of hoof-prints and broken grass which had been trampled by the cows.

Finally the boys reached the Munja forest and found their lost cows. Forgetting their own hunger and thirst they herded the cows onto the path back home Krishna called out to the cows in a loving voice. The cows were overjoyed to hear Krishna call out their names and mooed to the Lord in reply.

Suddenly a great forest fire appeared on all sides A strong wind was fanning the flames which were spreading in all directions It seemed as if the huge tongues of flame were about to destroy all the creatures of the forest. Seeing this terrible sight the cowherd boys and cows became fearful.

They called out to Krishna and Balarama to help them. 'O Krishna, O Balarama Please save Your devotees. We have come to take Your

shelter. The Supreme Lord Krishna said, "Just close your eyes and do not be afraid". With full faith the cowherd boys closed their eyes.

Krishna, the master of all mystic power, opened His mouth and swallowed the great fire and saved His friends from danger. The cowherd boys opened their eyes and were amazed to find that they and the cows had been saved. Besides this they had all been brought to the part of the forest where they had been playing earlier.





Activity Time

Discussion:

We all have friends

In your group discuss what qualities you would like to have in a friend.
Fill in the qualities here.



Do we have the qualities we would like our friends to have ?
It is nice to have a friend and to be a friend.

A Friend ?

We all have friends and we love to be with them. Madhava also has many friends. He enjoys being with his friends. His Mother often complains, 'Madhava, all you want to do is play all day long.'



Madhava's best friend is Shyam. Both of them spend a lot of time together. They love playing outdoors.

One Saturday morning Madhava waited for Shyam to come. He



waited for a long time but there was no sign of Shyam. Madhava could hear the shouting and laughter of the boys playing outside and was becoming impatient. Finally Madhava telephoned Shyam's house. Shyam's mother answered the call. She said, 'Madhava, I'm so happy you called. Shyam is not feeling well. Maybe you could come and spend some time with him. I'm sure he will cheer up when he sees you'

'I'll surely come to see Shyam this afternoon', replied Madhava.

Madhava left for Shyam's house. Madhava's mother had packed some



soup for Shyam. Madhava carried the bag carefully.

On the way Madhava met Shrinivas, Shesh and Sunny. They seemed to be having a great time. Madhava decided to spend some time playing with them before going to Shyam's house. He was so engrossed in playing that he didn't notice the time fly by. It was just too late to go to Shyam's house now.

He trudged home feeling very guilty as he thought of Shyam alone in bed. When he reached home his mother greeted him. "Oh. You're back! How is Shyam? Did he like the soup?" The soup! Madhava had forgotten all about it, it was probably still lying on the park bench.

Tears welled up in his eyes. His mother said sympathetically, "It's all right. Shyam will be well soon."

What did Madhava say?

Have you ever felt like that? When?

- ◇ It's very easy to be with our friends when it is fun.
- ◇ We have to ask ourselves, am I a fair weather friend?
- ◇ Am I there when my friends need me?

Meanwhile at Shyam's house...

Shyam's mother was sitting by his bedside and reading to him. She read the story 'Krishna Swallows the Forest Fire'.

Shyam said, "The cowherd boys were so fortunate to have Krishna as

their friend. He always helped them when they were in trouble. They had such fun together in the forest."



His mother said, "Yes the cowherd boys are very special devotees. Krishna spent so much time with them. But do you know Krishna is with us too?"

"Really!?"

"Yes He is living in our heart, near us all the time. In good times as well as bad times He is always with us. He witnesses all our thoughts and actions and guides us from within. When we are about to do something wrong, we hear a little voice that stops us. Krishna is waiting for us to call out to Him just as the cowherd boys did."

"How do we do that mother?" asked Shyam.

What did his mother reply?

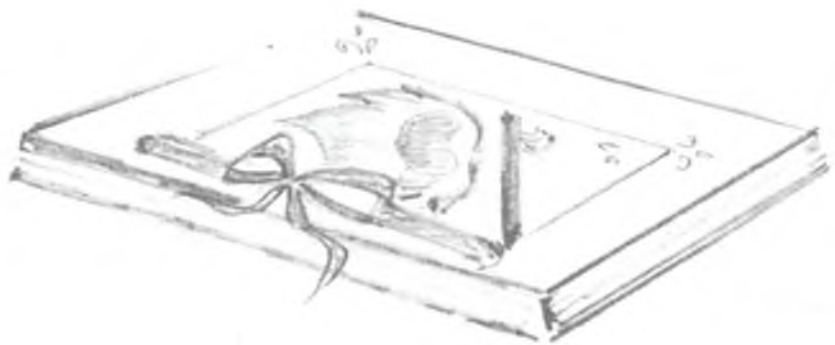
Did you know...

- Krishna is with everyone humans, animals and even plants.
- We must be nice not only to our friends and family but to all living beings.



Here's a fine little notepad you could make for your friend.

- ◇ Take about ten rectangular sheets of paper 5" by 7".
- ◇ Punch holes on the left hand side as shown in the figure.
- ◇ Lace all the pages together with a ribbon or colourful thread. It now looks like a little book.
- ◇ You could stick a picture of Krishna on the cover and decorate around it.
- ◇ You could write something about Krishna at the top of every page.
- ◇ Give this gift as a token of appreciation to your friend.





Play : Krishna Says



In this Pastime we saw that Krishna told the boys to close their eyes and they immediately did so.

Now let us play a game where we learn how to listen to instructions.

One person is chosen to act as Krishna's representative.

He calls out different instructions to the rest of the children.

He may ask them to jump like forest monkeys, dance like peacocks, close their eyes and so on.

But the children will follow the instructions only if he says "Krishna says" before the instruction, for example he will say "Krishna says stamp your feet". The children start stamping their feet and he may suddenly say "Stop". Anyone who stops will be out of the game. The children can stop only when the instruction is 'Krishna says stop'.

The last one who is not out is the winner and he can be the leader in the next game.

This game is fun to play, it helps to make us alert and increases our concentration.

9 How Krishna got the name Giridhari

One day Krishna and Balarama saw that the cowherd men were busy preparing for a sacrifice.

Krishna: Dear father, I see that the people are busy. What is the name of the ceremony you are organising? Which demigod are you trying to please? What is the result of such sacrifice?

Nanda remained silent thinking that Krishna was a little boy and would not be able to understand.

Krishna: My dear father, I am just a young boy, but that shouldn't keep you from answering My questions. Nothing should be kept secret from family members and friends.

Nanda: My dear son, our only wealth are these cows. They live on grass which needs rain to grow. Rain comes from the clouds which are controlled by the demigod Indra. Without rains we can't farm or produce grains. We must show our gratitude to Indra, so that he may be merciful upon us and send down rains which are the basis of our livelihood. Therefore we are performing this elaborate sacrifice to please him.

Krishna: I think you need not perform a sacrifice to please Indra. You see, he is pouring his waters everywhere, on the lakes, rivers, ponds and oceans where there is no need of water. We must actually pray to Govardhana hill, who is so kindly providing our cows with the best of grasses and water.



The simple and honest cowherd men, headed by Nanda, accepted Krishna's proposal.

Krishna: Collect grains, milk, fruits and vegetables. Make many tasty dishes as offerings. Invite the Brahmanas to chant Vedic mantras. Decorate the cows and feed them well. Everyone should be fed, even the dogs.

Cowherd men: Yes! Let us begin preparing for the Govardhana festival.

Soon the grand festival started. Everyone bought offerings for Govardhana. The beautifully dressed gopis were chanting the glories of Krishna's pastimes. There were singers and dancers too. It was a majestic sight.

Suddenly Krishna assumed a huge, transcendental form and declared to the inhabitants of Vrindavana that He, Himself, was Govardhana hill. He started accepting the offerings and finished them all. Then suddenly all the offerings reappeared. Thus He performed this wonderful pastime for the pleasure of the people of Vrindavana.

Actually Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He knew that Indra was feeling proud of his position and therefore He wanted to help His dear devotee overcome his pride.

Meanwhile Indra was sitting in his palace, heart burning with anger.

Indra: Just look at these foolish cowherd men! They are following the instructions of a mere child!
They have impudently stopped my sacrifice. Now just see how they suffer. Ha! Ha! Ha!

In a fit of rage, he called out to the Samvartaka clouds. These clouds pour down torrents of rain upon the universe at the time of destruction. With a thunderous sound, the Samvartaka clouds entered.



Indra: Go! Go to Vrindavana, and submerge the entire village. Not a single person or animal should be spared. Those simpletons will pay for their offence

Samvartaka: (hesitatingly) We ..er don't think it will beuh...possible O king.

Indra : Fear not! I will follow you on Airavata, thunderbolt in hand. Be gone now.

Samvartaka : Yes master! We will do as you say. We will shower down torrents of heavy rain. We will cause strong icy winds to blow. The whole of Vrindavana will be flooded.

These dark dense clouds gathered above the village of Vraja and began to pour down torrents of rain. It looked as though there would be a great flood. All the inhabitants of Vrindavana ran to Krishna, their one and only shelter, knowing He would protect them.

Cowherd men : O Krishna! O Govinda! You are just a simple cowherd boy, yet Your face shows no fear. Our hearts are captivated by Your moon like face. O Krishna please protect us from this devastation.

Krishna could understand that Indra was showing his anger in the form of this storm, thus misusing the power given to him.

Krishna : I will save My devotees by My mystic powers.

He immediately picked up the Govardhana hill on the little finger of His left hand. He picked it up as easily as a child picks up a mushroom from the ground.

Krishna: My dear father, My dear people of Vrindavana. You can safely enter under the umbrella of Govardhana. Bring your animals along with you. Do not be afraid.

The inhabitants of Vrindavana and their animals remained there for seven days and seven nights. They were not disturbed by hunger or thirst or any other discomfort.

Seeing the extraordinary mystic power of Krishna, Indra was amazed. He realised that he had committed a great offence. Along with the Surabhi cow he arrived at Vrindavana to beg forgiveness from the Lord.

Indra: My dear Lord please forgive me. I have committed a great offence unto Your lotus feet. I was falsely proud of my material opulence. I did not know Your unlimited powers. I acted out of anger. You are the Supreme Personality



of Godhead. You are so kind that you bestowed Your mercy upon me and destroyed all my false pride. Please forgive me and accept me as Your eternal servant.

Krishna: My dear Indra. I stopped your sacrifice just to remind you that I am your eternal master. I am not only your master, but the master of all demigods as well. Now please resume your position as the king of heaven.

Indra bowed down humbly and started bathing the Lord with the milk of the Surabhi cow and the water from the Ganges. All the demigods and residents of the higher planets came to worship the lord and offer prayers. There was a joyful celebration. Krishna was very pleased with all of them. Finally Indra took permission and returned to his heavenly kingdom.





All Glories to Giri Govardhana

Krishna and the gopas of Vrindavana

Love to play here at Govardhana

They decorate themselves with flowers and clay

Red, Yellow, blue, green, white and grey.

Govardhana is covered with grass so sweet

For all the cows and calves to eat.

Waterfalls and fresh bubbling springs

For washing, and cool water to drink.

Sweet honey, mango and pilu juice.

Soft roots and delicious fruits.

Smooth rocks in which they see their faces

Rocks also make nice sitting places.

Giriraj Govardhana is so very dear.

Krishna and Balarama spend so much time here.

Celebrate Govardhana Puja

Make Govardhana out of cooked rice.

Make the eyes, nose, mouth and tilak with dry fruits and vegetables or even cookies.

Decorate Govardhana with flowers, crown and flute

Everyone can bring small offerings for the lord


You can have a wonderful festival with chanting, dancing and feasting!



Teacher will read to you how the residents of Vrindavana celebrated Govardhana puja. This pastime is described in the 'Krsna' book.

Now you can make a list of the things you require to celebrate this festival in your class.

We Need....





Activity Time

Discussion:

Indra was so proud that he forgot Krishna is the Supreme Lord and he, Indra, was accepting offerings on Krishna's behalf.

PRIDE

Can you read the above word and understand the hidden meaning?

What would you do?

We often come across pride in some form or the other. How would you behave in the following situation? Put a tick according to your choice

Vikram has just had a wonderful birthday and is telling every one about it

- 1) You listen for a minute and start describing your own birthday party.
- 2) You encourage him to talk and praise his party.
- 3) You listen quietly with no expression on your face.



You have come second in a race

- 1) You think you will try much harder next time and come first in the race
- 2) You tell everyone that the boy who came first was wearing special running shoes.
- 3) You are happy and grateful that you took part and managed to come second in the race.



You are walking and dash into someone

- 1) You say sorry and move on
- 2) You retort, 'Are you blind?'
- 3) You say, 'Please be more careful next time.'

You and your friend are not talking to each other because you just had an argument with her.

- 1) You say sorry and become friends again.
- 2) You say nothing and wait for things to become normal again.
- 3) You wait for your friend to say sorry.



Discuss your answers with each other.

If you think deeply about it; we will realise that there is nothing to be proud of because everything we have come from Krishna.

When we are proud, we think only of ourselves. We must try to see things from someone else's point of view.

Take the above examples and try to imagine yourself as Vikram and the rest of the children.

Actually-----

Everything we see, any good qualities in ourselves and in others all come from Krishna.

Krishna has made all of us different and given us different qualities, talents and appearance.

He is living in everyone's heart.

Therefore we should respect every living entity and everything in Krishna's creation.

Lord Krishna says in Bagavad Gita (10.41)

Know that all opulent, beautiful and
glorious creations spring from
but a spark of My splendour.



10 Krishna the friend of the Brahmanas

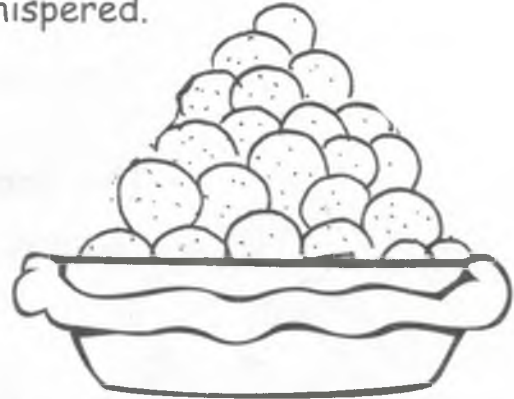
All the gopis were busy collecting ghee, sugar and other ingredients to make laddoos. Krishna and the cowherd boys had gathered in Chikhsholi village, where the gopis were making laddoos. Krishna's friend, Madhumangala loved laddoos.

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."

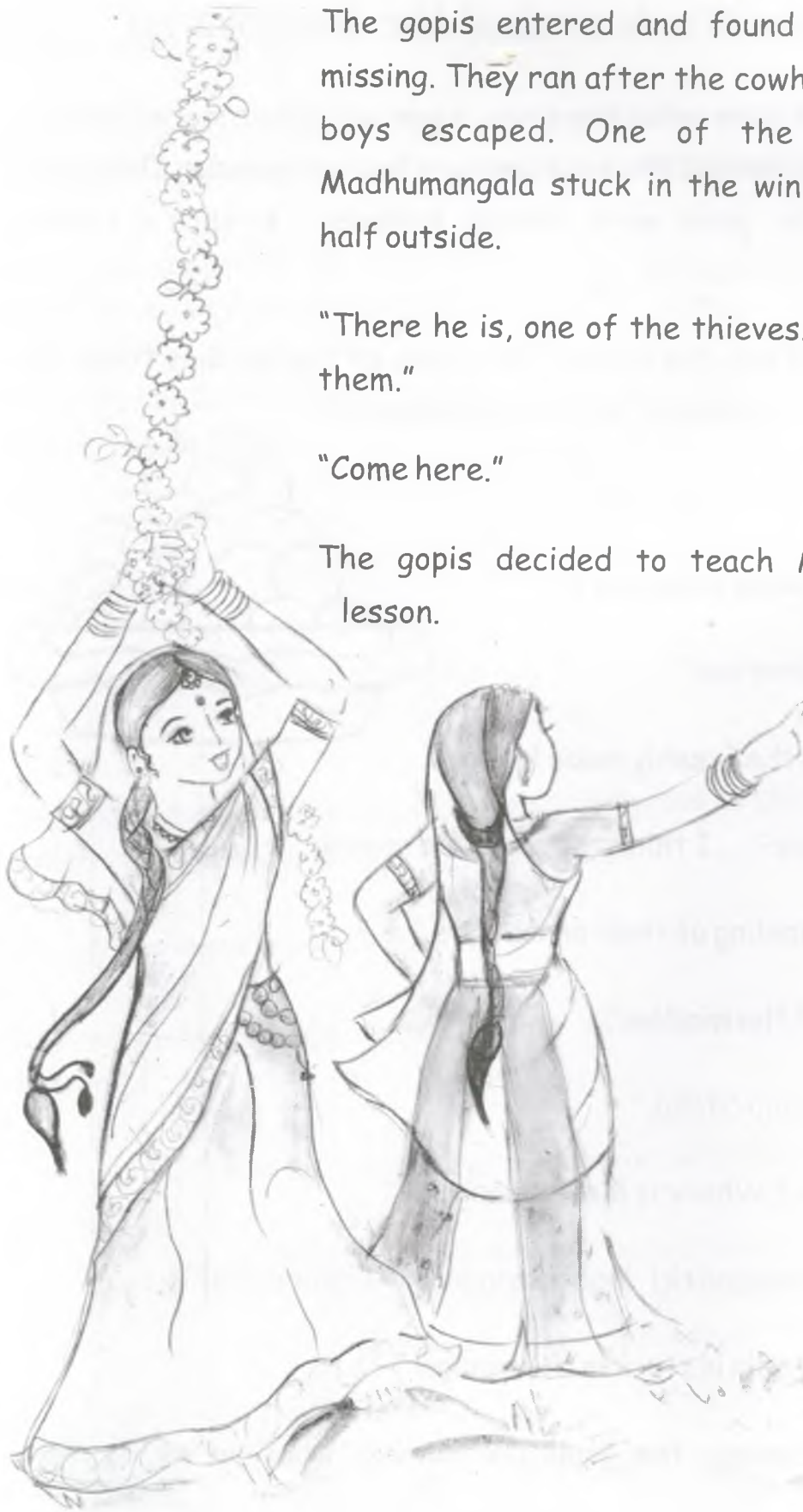
"The gopis are coming, the gopis are coming, what do we do, Run, Run, Run!"

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.



I draw very well

I am very good in my studies. I came first in my class



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

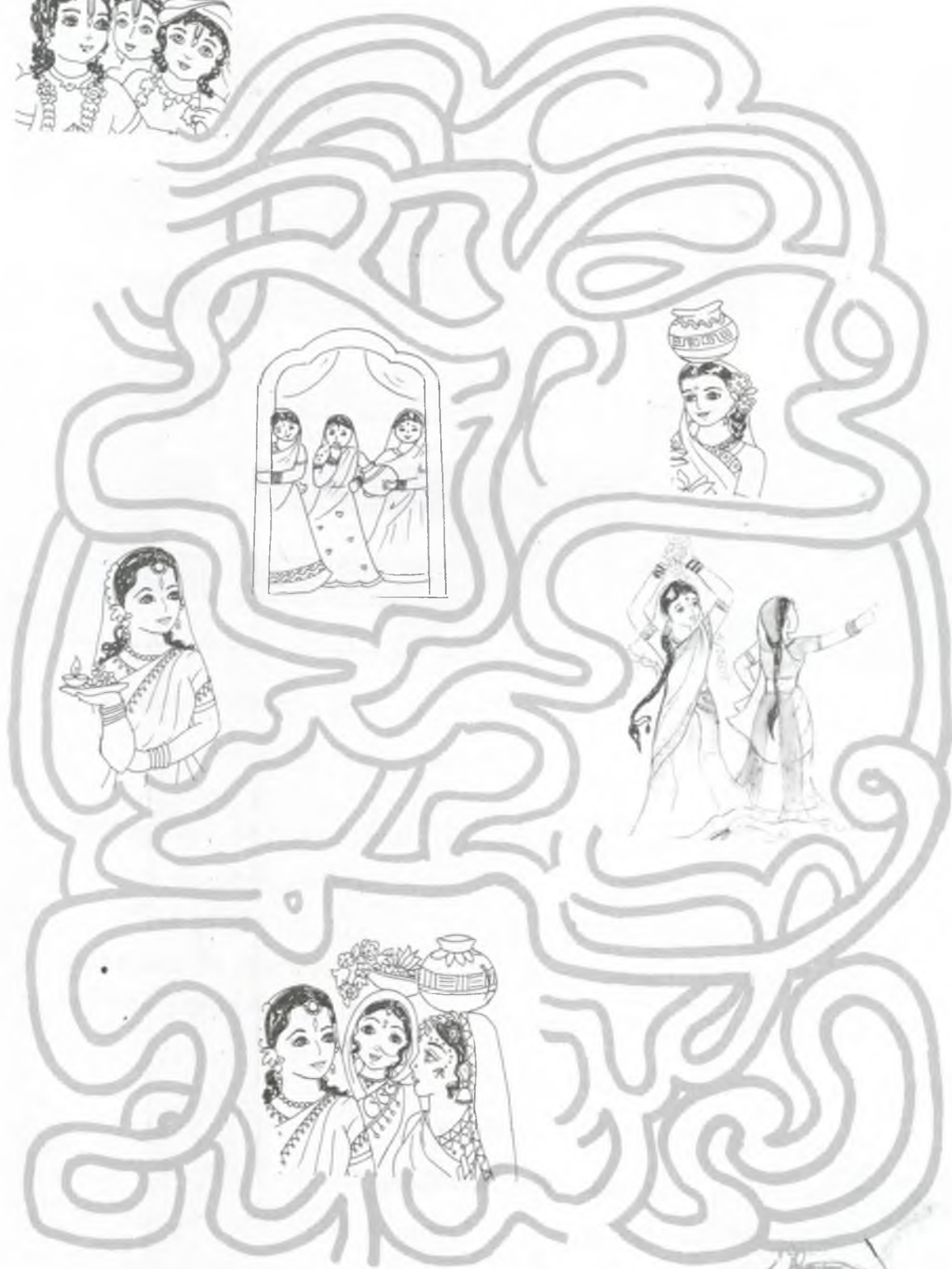
Make these laddoos, they are simply wonderful!

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

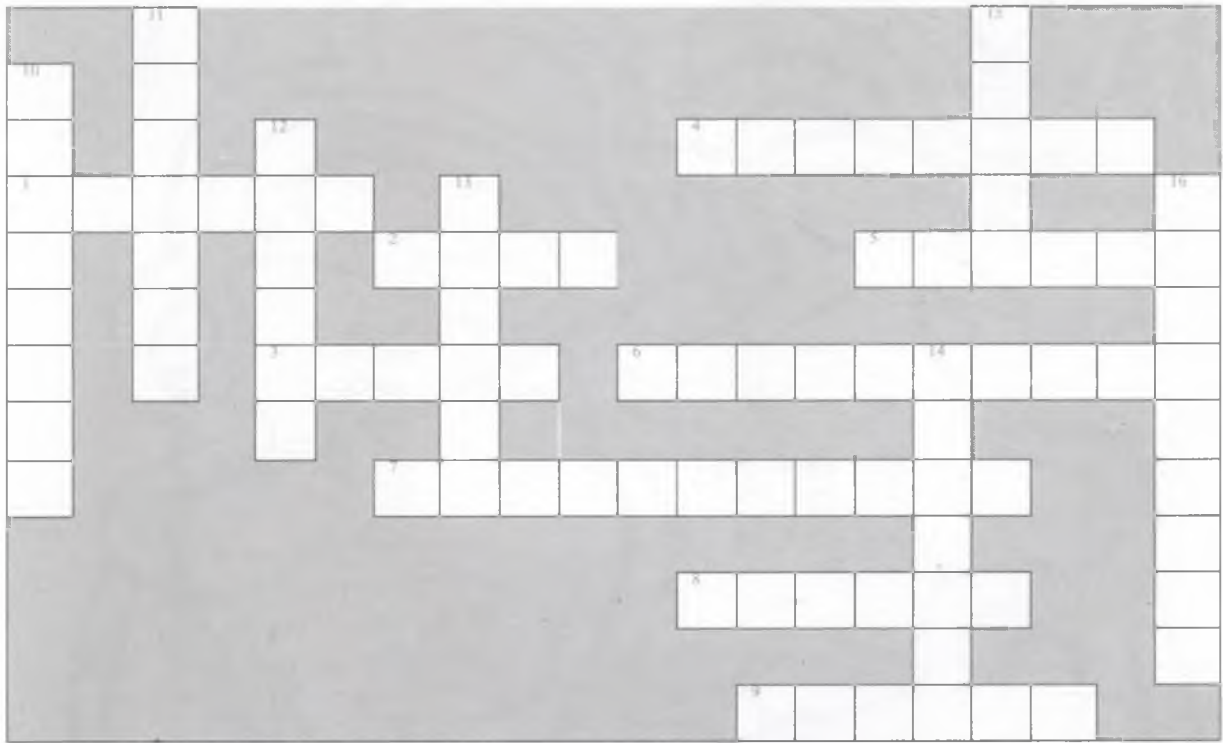


Make a smooth dough of the above ingredients. Roll into small balls and store in the fridge. Offer to Krishna and enjoy the Prasad.

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.

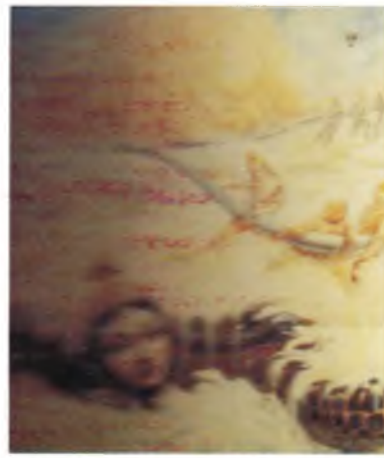
To respect our elders we must learn.
The demigods are empowered by You.
You give endless gifts in return,
To those whose hearts are humble and true.

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.









His Divine Grace
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Shрила Prabhupada
Founder Acharya
International Society for Krishna Consciousness



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