

Caitanya Reader Book Two

Śrī Kṛṣṇa A Children's Reader

Adapted from the writings of
His Divine Grace
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Vrindāvana Moon

Vrindāvana moon is high and wide.
It shines all over the countryside,
Giving light to the grass and trees.
They sparkle in the evening breeze.

The sky is full of silver threads
Spun from the moon to the forest beds.
The Vrindāvana moon is giving light.
The forest shines in the dark of night.

Questions

1. What are forest beds?

The Voice in the Sky

The day of Devakī's wedding was very nice. Devakī's father had given her many fine gifts to please her. He had given her four hundred elephants. Each elephant had a golden garland. He had also given her many horses, carts and young girls to serve her. He was very happy and so was her new husband, Vasudeva.

After the wedding, Vasudeva and Devakī were going home on a golden cart. Devakī's brother, Kāmsa, was driving the cart. As they passed through the streets they heard drums, conch shells, bugles and songs. Everyone was joyful on the day of the great wedding.

Suddenly in the sky there was a loud voice.

“Kāmsa, you are such a fool!” boomed the voice. “You are driving the cart of your sister. You do not know that the eighth child of this sister will kill you!”

Kaṁsa was a great demon. He jumped out of the cart and grabbed Devakī by the hair. He wanted to kill her with his sword.

Vasudeva began to speak very sweetly to the demon Kaṁsa. “Please do not be afraid, dear Kaṁsa. I do not think a child of Devakī will kill you. We do not even have eight children yet. So you do not need to kill your sister out of fear. If we ever have any children I will bring them to you.”

Kaṁsa was pleased to hear Vasudeva’s promise. He let go of Devakī’s hair and Vasudeva took her home.

The sinful Kaṁsa did not know that Kṛṣṇa would be Devakī’s child. Only Kṛṣṇa is strong enough to kill Kaṁsa!

New Words

elephant
sword
Kaṁsa

enough
promise

Vasudeva
Devakī

The Birth of Lord Kṛṣṇa

The cruel demon Kāmsa was always afraid of the eighth child of Devakī. He wanted to save himself from death. So he put his sister and his brother-in-law in prison. Each time a child was born to them, Kāmsa would come and kill it.

The eighth child of Devakī was born in the night. Vasudeva saw that the child was very beautiful. He had four hands, holding a conch shell, club, disc and lotus flower. He was dressed in yellow silk clothes with many jewels. He dazzled like a bright black cloud.

Vasudeva and Devakī offered many nice prayers to the child because they knew that He was really Kṛṣṇa. Lord Kṛṣṇa blessed them and said, “I order you to take Me to Gokula and put Me with Yaśodā. In return you should take her newly born girl child and bring It to Devakī.”

The Lord then changed Himself into a normal child.

Vasudeva picked up the child and began to leave the prison. All of the doorkeepers were fast asleep. All the doors opened up, although they had been well locked. The night was very dark but as soon as Vasudeva went out with Kṛṣṇa, he could see everything, just as if the sun were shining.

Great thunder struck in the sky. The rainfall was hard and cold. But Lord Śeṣa spread his great hoods over the head of Vasudeva and saved him from the rainfall. The Yamunā river was roaring with huge waves. But when she saw Vasudeva, she opened up and let him cross with the child Kṛṣṇa.

At last Vasudeva got to Nanda Mahārāja's house. He went to the sleeping room of Yaśodā and put the child Kṛṣṇa down. Taking the little girl, he returned to the prison. The demon Kāmsa had been tricked.

Kṛṣṇa was growing up happily as the son of Mother Yaśodā.

New Words

happily

newly

although

Word Study

Read and Spell

hop	hot	floor	hook	boat
mop	rot	roar	took	coat
pop	pot	tore	brook	float
top	tot	boar	look	wrote
drop	trot	more	book	goat

Read and Answer

1. Add more words to the above lists
2. Find and spell three words that rhyme with each of these words:

soup rope home bone

Write

1. The Lord appeared as a giant boar.
2. Kṛṣṇa's hand felt like a hot iron rod.
3. The pious man took a book.

The Butter Thief

When Kṛṣṇa was a baby boy, He was very, very beautiful. His older brother Balarāma was very beautiful too. Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma were very naughty boys. Sometimes They crawled in the middy clay. They liked to smear clay on Their bodies and then crawl onto Their mother's lap. Sometimes They caught the tail of a baby cow and tried to stand up. When the cow ran away out of fear, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma were dragged along through the mud. Seeing Kṛṣṇa made the gopīs very happy.

When Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma began to walk, They had many friends who played with Them. In the morning They took the baby cows and let them all drink the mother cow's milk. When the gopīs came to milk the mother cows, they found no milk. Then they had to go home with empty pots. At home they found that Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma had stolen their butter and yoghurt. They said to Kṛṣṇa, "Whey have You stolen our butter and yoghurt?"

Kṛṣṇa answered with a smile on His face, “We have not stolen your butter and yoghurt. There is butter and yoghurt at Our house.”

The gopīs wanted to trick Kṛṣṇa. They churned butter. They then hung the pot of butter from the ceiling. “Kṛṣṇa won’t get the butter now,” thought the gopīs.

When the gopīs were out of the house, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma came in. Kṛṣṇa stood on Balarāma’s back. He stole butter from the hanging pots. He then fed butter, milk and yoghurt to the monkeys.

When Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma could not eat any more and the monkeys could not eat any more, Kṛṣṇa called out to the gopīs, “Your butter is not any good. Even the monkeys won’t eat it!” They then broke the pots and threw them everywhere.

New Words

thief

ceiling

through

answer

Kāliya

Once upon a time a giant [picture of a snake] came to the Yamunā [picture of a river]. This [picture of a snake] was called Kāliya. He was full of poison and he wanted to kill [picture of Kṛṣṇa].

He was so poisonous that all of the [picture of trees] near the [picture of a river] were dying. If a [picture of a bird] flew over the [picture of a river] it would fall down and die.

When the [picture of a cow and calf] drank the water they fell down on the ground. And when the [picture of an elephant] drank the water they also fell down as if dead.

[picture of Kṛṣṇa] saw the Kāliya [picture of a snake] in the [picture of a river]. Quickly [picture of Kṛṣṇa] climbed into a big [picture of a tree] near the [picture of a river]. He made his [picture of a dhoti] tight and flapped His [picture of Kṛṣṇa's arms]. [picture of Kṛṣṇa] then jumped into the [picture of a river]. He began to swim around just like a strong [picture of an elephant]. The [picture of a snake]

Kāliya saw [picture of Kṛṣṇa], who looked very beautiful. His body was the colour of a [picture of a rain cloud] and his legs looked like [picture of lotus flowers].

But the [picture of a river] was a demon; his heart was full of anger. He grabbed [picture of Kṛṣṇa] with his tails and began to fight with Him.

For two hours [picture of Kṛṣṇa] fought with the [picture of a snake]. Everyone in Vrindāvana was filled with fear. When [picture of Kṛṣṇa] saw that everyone was afraid, He jumped on the head of the [picture of a snake]. [Picture of Kṛṣṇa] started to dance on the demon's head. He danced and danced.

At last the [picture of a snake] became so tired that he could not fight anymore. The [picture of a snake] had been touched by the [picture of Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet] of [picture of Kṛṣṇa]; he wanted to become [picture of Kṛṣṇa]'s servant.

On [picture of Kṛṣṇa]’s orders, [picture of a snake] left the [picture of a river] and no one ever saw him in Vrindāvana again.

Pūtanā's Song

Pūtanā! Pūtanā! is my name.
Killing little children is my game.
I've come from Kāmsa, the sinful man
And I'll kill Kṛṣṇa if I can!

I am kecarī; you can see
I fly in the sky on an uprooted tree.
I like to kill children in the city and town
And I'll even kill those in the pasturing ground.

Now you see me with a pretty smile,
Earrings, flowers and perfect style.
Now I can wander anywhere
Dressed like a goddess, fine and fair.

Pūtanā! Pūtanā! is my name.
Killing little children is my game.

Pūtanā Witch

Vrindāvana is a very nice forest. There are green trees with red fruits and flowers, green grass and cool blue lakes. Kṛṣṇa is there, Balarāma is there. The gopīs and the cows are there. Everyone is happy in Vrindāvana.

One day a beautiful goddess came to see baby Kṛṣṇa. She was dressed very nicely. She had jewels, flowers, earrings and a very nice smile. All of the gopīs thought that she had come to see Kṛṣṇa.

The gopīs did not know that the beautiful goddess was a witch named Pūtanā. She had come to kill the baby Kṛṣṇa. On her breast was a very strong poison. If she would feed Kṛṣṇa her breast milk then Kṛṣṇa would die.

Pūtanā saw baby Kṛṣṇa. She put Him on her lap. When she put her breast in Kṛṣṇa's mouth, she thought that Kṛṣṇa would drink the milk and die.

But Kṛṣṇa is God. He never dies. He sucked out the milk from her breast and then He sucked out her life air. Pūtanā cried, “Leave me child. Leave me!” But it was too late.

Pūtanā fell down on the ground. She didn’t look like a goddess any more. She looked like a demon. Baby Kṛṣṇa was not afraid. When the gopīs and cowherd men saw Pūtanā, they took Kṛṣṇa off of her lap. They built a big fire and burned the big body of the witch. When it was burning it smelled very sweet. She had been touched by the Lord and that had made her pure.

Questions

1. Was Pūtanā a witch or a goddess?
2. When did everyone see Pūtanā’s real form?
3. Why did she smell sweet when she was burning?

New Words

witch
Pūtanā

goddess

style

life air

Word Study

Read and Spell

hat	dress	boots	coat
cap	shoes	kirta	shawl
shirt	scarf	skirt	underwear
socks	dhoti	blouse	sweater
pants	sari	belt	turban

Read and Answer

1. Which clothes can we wear in the temple?
2. Which clothes do we wear in cold weather?

Write

1. “When Kṛṣṇa was preparing to kill demons like Aristāsura, He would take care to arrange His belt very nicely.”

To The Forest

In the early morn
Kṛṣṇa blows His horn
And the cowherd boys come to play.

Each with a stick,
They assemble quick,
To the forest for the day!

Picking up leaves
Or twigs, as they please,
They engage in sportive play

And in their games
They chant His names,
Blissfully throughout the day.

New Words

assemble
sportive

The Gopīs Song

Kṛṣṇa has soft lotus feet,
When He tends the cows in the forest,
The dry grass pricks His feet.
The tiny stones prick His feet.
We are sad when Kṛṣṇa goes to the forest.

But when He comes home His face is bright.
He is covered with red clay and leaves.
He smiles as He brings the animals home.
His face is dusty with the cow's hoof-dust.
We are happy when Kṛṣṇa returns from the forest.

Lost in the Forest

The day had faded into night,
We were alone and full of fright.
The rain came down, and thunder too.
We could not go to our guru.
The forest night was cold and damp.
We could not find the master's camp.

Then sun's rays brought the morning light.
The sound of friends dispelled our fright.
We were saved for they knew the road
To take us home to our abode.

New Words

dispelled

abode

Word Study

Read and Spell

red	pink	gold
green	grey	brown
black	white	purple
blue	yellow	orange

Read and Answer

1. What colour is Lord Rāma?
2. What colour is Lord Balarāma's dhoti?
3. What colour is Lord Caitanya?
4. Who has skin that is white?
5. Who has skin that is black?

Write

2. "Sometimes Kṛṣṇa wears a red dhoti, a golden shirt and an orange turban on His head."

Kṛṣṇa's Headache

Once upon a time Kṛṣṇa had a headache. He called for Nārada Muni and said, “My dear Nārada, I have a headache. The cure for my headache is dust from the feet of My pure devotees. Please get this dust for Me.”

Nārada left at once. He went to a place where some brāhmaṇas were making an offering to the Lord. Nārada said, “My dear brāhmaṇas, Lord Kṛṣṇa has a headache. Only the dust from His devotees' feet will soothe his head. Can you give me some dust?”

The brāhmaṇas bowed before Nārada Muni. With fear in their eyes they said, “Dear Nārada, we cannot give you dust from our feet. We will go to hell for putting our foot-dust near the Lord.

Nārada Muni went on. Soon he saw some gopīs chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa. “My dear gopīs,” said Nārada, “Lord Kṛṣṇa has a headache. He needs your foot dust to soothe the pain. Can you give some dust for Him?”

The gopīs began to collect the dust from their feet. They were very happy. Nārada asked them, “Aren’t you afraid that you’ll go to hell if you give foot dust to the Supreme Lord?”

The gopīs smiled. “We do not care if we go to hell. We just want to please Lord Kṛṣṇa. Please send this foot dust for His headache.”

Question

1. Does Kṛṣṇa very really get a headache?

New Words

headache

soothe

collect

Nārada Muni

Dvārakā City

Dvārakā was ready that festive day.
The city sparkled in every way.
The crossings of roads glittered with gold.
The peacocks strutted proud and bold.
Water and yoghurt were sprinkled around.
Fresh grass and roses covered the ground.

Water pots sat on the palace floors
Mango leaves garlanded palace doors.
Everyone waited that happy day,
For Kṛṣṇa to enter and pass their way.

New Words

strut

garland

Dvārakā

Lord Kṛṣṇa's Day

In Dvārakā, Kṛṣṇa lived just like a king. He had sixteen thousand one hundred and eight wives. He also had sixteen thousand one hundred and eight palaces.

Each morning the cock crowed. Kṛṣṇa smelled the sweet pārijāta flower and heard the honey bees hum and the birds chirp. He rose from His bed and washed His hands, mouth and feet. The Lord then sat down to meditate.

Later on, Kṛṣṇa bathed and dressed in clean clothes. He worshipped the sun god and other demigods. He then worshipped the brāhmaṇas by giving them many cows.

Each cow that the Lord gave had a silk cloth and a pearl necklace. Each was tame, peaceful and full of milk.

Kṛṣṇa was always beautiful. Sometimes He dressed Himself in yellow clothes and put on nice necklaces. He wore flower garlands on His chest and sandalwood paste on His feet.

When He was dressed, He visited temples of the demigods and looked at marble statues of cows and calves.

Riding in His golden cart, Kṛṣṇa sometimes left the palace to travel. He went to the meeting house called Sudharmā. At Sudharmā the jokers, dancers, singers, drummers and actors all pleased the Lord.

In this way Kṛṣṇa spent happy days in Dvārakā.

New Words

pārijāta

meditate

statues

Sudharmā

The Story of King Nṛga

The princes of the Yadu family once found a great lizard in a forest well. The animal was trapped and could not get free. The young boys tried and tried to help him get out but they could free him.

When the princes returned home they told Lord Kṛṣṇa the story. They asked Him to free the lizard from the well. So Kṛṣṇa went to the forest. He got the lizard out by stretching His left hand.

Upon being touched by Kṛṣṇa's hand, the lizard gave up his body. He appeared as a beautiful demigod. His body glittered like gold. He was dressed in fine clothing and costly jewels.

Lord Kṛṣṇa said, "My dear demigod, your body is so beautiful. Who are you? How did you get into that lizard body? Please tell us."

The demigod bowed to the Lord. His dazzling helmet touched the ground. Then he spoke to Kṛṣṇa, “My dear Lord, I am King Nṛga. I was once a very great king. I gave many cows away in charity. The number of cows I gave away was equal to the amount of dust on the earth.

“My cows were very special. They were all young, full of milk, peaceful and healthy. Their horns were gold-plated. Their hooves were silver-plated. They wore silk wrappers and pearl necklaces. I gave the cows to good brāhmaṇas. I also gave the brāhmaṇas land, gold, houses, horses and elephants.

“Sometimes I did pious work like digging wells, planting trees and building ponds.

“One day I gave a cow to a brāhmaṇas. That cow wandered back to my pasture and I have it to another brāhmaṇas. The two brāhmaṇas began to fight over the cow. They charged me with taking back a cow which I had already given away.

“I begged them to forgive me. I offered them one hundred thousand cows but they would not agree. They were very angry.

“At the time of my death I took the body of a lizard. I lived in that well for a long time. In spite of that low life, I simply thought of you, My Lord.”

King Nṛga had offended the brāhmaṇas. Therefore he lived in a lizard’s body. But he had also performed many pious acts. Because of his piety, the king was able to see Kṛṣṇa face to face.

King Nṛga prayed, “My dear Lord Kṛṣṇa, I beg for your mercy. Please bless me so that I will never forget Your lotus feet. Even if I am in a lowly form of life, I want to think of You.”

The king walked in a circle around Kṛṣṇa and bowed down before Him. An airplane came from heaven and King Nṛga got in it. He returned to his planet, having seen the Supreme Person.

Questions

1. Was King Nṛga a good king?
2. List some of the good things he did.
3. What blessing did King Nṛga ask Kṛṣṇa for?
4. Were the two brāhmaṇas Kṛṣṇa conscious?

New Words

lizard
charity

stretch
gold-plated

dazzling
King Nṛga

silver-plated
yadu

Word Study

Read and Spell

marble	flowers	chairs
desk	vyāsāsana	silver
incense	pictures	pillows
books	pencils	rugs
candles	peacock fan	ghee wicks
curtains	conch	notebook
deity	paper	eraser
jewels	bookcase	crayons

Read and Answer

1. Which of these items belong on an altar?
2. Which things belong in the classroom?
3. Can you name other items on the altar? In the classroom?

Write

1. “We should offer Kṛṣṇa fruit, flowers and incense.”

Review Questions

1. A. You have read these stories in your book.

Tell what each story is about.

Voice in the Sky

The Birth of Lord Kṛṣṇa

The Butter Thief

Lost in the Forest

Kṛṣṇa's Headache

King Nṛga

B. Which story did you like best? Why?

C. Read the story that you liked best to your class or read it again to yourself.

2. A. Learn by heart one of the poems you have read in your book and recite it to the class.

B. Copy the poem you like best.

Important Words

From The Caitanya Reader

Book Two

spun	deep	heavy	newly
fold	glow	storm	cross
grab	morn	smash	trick
dear	fade	enter	crawl
disc	damp	water	muddy
lock	rays	shout	smear
huge	rose	there	thief
wave	cock	grave	prick
open	abode	stone	clay
giant	shine	alone	tail
anger	sword	abode	fair
style	cruel	strut	such
smile	lotus	proud	suck
mouth	cloud	pearl	dust
leave	bless	pious	dirt

witch	order	agree	breeze
answer	statue	himself	forest
ground	calves	prayers	golden
strong	lizard	thunder	eighth
sinful	prince	roaring	afraid
wander	costly	return	sister
nicely	helmet	happily	enough
breast	simply	naughty	prison
around	circle	perfect	dazzle
loudly	stretch	change	palace
glitter	sparkle	normal	humble
monkeys	ceiling	asleep	famous
sparkly	through	struck	tongue
evening	quickly	spread	leaves
threads	anymore	caught	fright
wedding	servant	mother	master
garland	goddess	stolen	soothe
husband	thought	butter	yellow
marble	morning	yoghurt	promise

brother	protect	earrings	wonderful
respect	shoulder	dispelled	shortly
suddenly	crossings	swallow	mountain
door-keeper	animals	straight	everywhere
return	merciful	blissfully	devotee
surprise	collect	assemble	festive
sportive	charity	hoof-dust	foot-dust
wrapper	forgive	headache	sprinkle
elephant	meditate	children	although
beautiful	rainfall	pasturing	uprooted
whirlwind			