
Lord Kṛṣṇa

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Birth of Lord Krshna

It was month of August, the flowering season. Lord Vishnu decided to be born in this world. He chose Devaki and Vasudeva as his parents. Devaki was the sister of Kamsa, a cruel King, who made people suffer. One day Kamsa heard that one of Devaki's children would kill him. So, to save himself, he put Devaki and Vasudeva in prison. One by one he killed their seven newborn babies in prison.



But he failed to do the with the eighth child. The child was Lord Vishnu. He was born at night when the whole city was asleep. Soon after his birth, the baby took the form of the Lord and said to Devaki, “ Mother , I am Lord Vishnu. I have chosen you as my mother. I know Kamsa will try to kill me. So let father take me to Nanda, who is the chief of the Yadavas in Gokula. I will grow up there with my brother Balarama”. Saying this, Lord Vishnu took the form of the baby again. Devaki and Vasudeva were very happy with the Lord's darshan and did as were told.



To get out of the prison without being caught by the guards, Vasudeva carried the child to Gokula in basket kept on his head.



Because he was carrying the Lord himself, the prison gates opened by themselves. He found the guards of the prison in deep sleep. Vasudeva came to a large overflowing river. He was not sure how he would be able to cross it. But with a strong faith in the Lord, he stepped in to the river. The river, as though bowing to the Lord, parted. It created a path for Vasudeva to walk through. As he was crossing halfway, it started to rain heavily, “Oh! My child

is going to get wet,” he said to himself. Suddenly, a huge snake rose from the river and covered the basket with its five-headed hood.



At Nanda's house, except for the sound of a baby's gurgle, there was total silence. Vasudeva looked around to see where the baby's laughter was coming from. He saw a beautiful girl happily playing by the side of Yashoda who was fast asleep.



Vasudeva gently lifted his son out of basket and placed him next to Yashoda. Then he wrapped the baby girl and placed her gently in to the basket. Vasudeva then rushed out of the house.

He was back at Dwarka before sunrise. Since Yashoda had given birth to the baby that night, nobody in Gokula had got to the news of the birth.

The next morning, the people of Gokula celebrated the birth of Yashoda's son. Thus, the eighth child of Devaki was safe in Yashoda's lap. During the child's naming ceremony, the priest blessed Yashoda's son and named him Krishna, as he was blue in colour. The priest said, "This is no ordinary child. He is Lord Vishnu himself who has taken birth to fight evil". Both Yashoda and Nanda were very happy.

Shri Krishna's Birth (cont)

Vasudeva presumed that since it was a baby girl, Kamsa would not kill her. He then made the journey back to Mathura and he took the baby girl with him.

As soon as Vasudeva reached the dungeon, the dungeon doors closed behind him and the baby girl started to cry. Awakened by the cries, the guards rushed to tell Kamsa of the birth of the eighth child.

Hearing the news, Kamsa rushed to the dungeon and picked up the child and was about to dash it to the ground. Vasudeva begged Kamsa not to kill the child as it was only a girl and that a girl could do him no harm. The wicked Kamsa paid no heed and dashed the baby to the floor.

But instead of being killed, she rose to the skies. as the eight-armed form of Goddess Durga, dressed in fine garments and jewels. She said, "The enemy you contemplate is born and is living somewhere else. You are a fool to hurt innocent children. Krishna will kill you."

Kamsa became remorseful and begged Devaki and Vasudeva to forgive him for his sins. He released them from their shackles and fell down on their feet, crying tears of regret. The next day, however, Kamsa's ministers advised him to give up his sentimental attitude and take action to kill Krishna.

Meanwhile, there was great rejoicing in Gokul, hailing the birth of a son in the household of Nanda. Nanda named the child Krishna. Entire Gokul wore a festive appearance. The streets were swept clean and all the houses were decorated with flags and flowers. Cows were smeared with turmeric, and adorned with peacock feathers and garlands. All people of Gokula danced in joy and flocked to Nanda's house to see baby Krishna and to offer gifts.

Yashoda invited many to celebrate the janmadina mahotsavas (birthday) of Lord Krishna. After bathing him, they decorated him with beautiful ornaments.



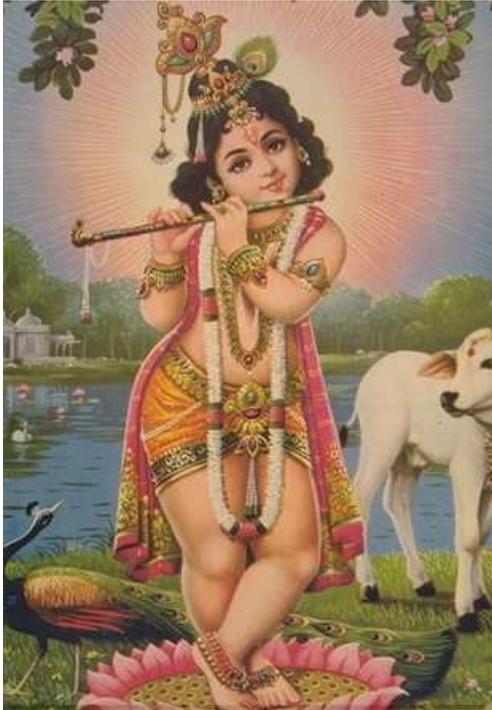
Moral:

The story of Lord Krishna's birth shows how powerful and loving God is. Whenever evil in the world like Kamsa's wicked rule becomes unbearable, God Himself comes to save us in the form of an Incarnation like Lord Krishna. Against God, not even the mightiest evil can do anything. Hence, daily we should pray to God and remember Him by chanting (repeating) His Name in everything we do – be it getting ready, eating, walking, playing or going to bed.

The Story of Lord Krishna and Kalia

Vasudeva was Lord Krishna's father and Devaki his mother. He was raised by cowherd (milk-man) Nanda and his wife Yashoda. They loved him very much. Lovingly they used call him as Kanha! Krishna (Kanha) did amazing things in his childhood.

All of you have seen a picture of child Krishna. He has a flute in his hand. He wears a peacock feather on his head. He loves them. Child Krishna was full of Pranks. Every one in Gokul loved him. Women gave him curd and butter to eat. They loved him as if their own child.



Krishna's childhood was full of fun and frolic. He was dark and handsome. Krishna had many friends and he went playing with them in the village. He was the leader of the group. He loved to play tricks on people but never with a bad intention. But everybody still loved him. Krishna became a cowherd. He liked cows and the green fields in which they grazed.

All the cowherds were his friends and every morning they use to take out the cattle to the jungle for grazing. Krishna and all his friends use to play in the jungle. Krishna would play his flute sitting on a branch of tree or on a big rock. The cows and even the wild animals got addicted to the sweet music of Krishna's flute.

One fine day, a huge snake by the name of Kaliya came to live in the river Yamuna, the only source of safe drinking water for the cows and the cowherds! Kaliya was a poisonous snake and soon the whole river became poisonous. All the fish in the river died and other water animals including the crocodiles left the river. There was hue and cry everywhere. Krishna decided to teach the wicked Kaliya a lesson.

One day, Krishna and his friends were playing by the riverside. While playing with the ball, they got very close to the river Yamuna. Accidently, one of Krishna's friend dropped ball in the river. All puzzled, how to get ball back? Nobody dared to jump into the river and get it back. They thought that they lost the ball. Suddenly, Krishna said, "let me jump into the river and get the ball back". All cried, Krishna! Don.t go! There is a snake inside. It is very dangerous". But Krishna was not afraid at all!

Krishna went to the river looking for Kaliya and found that Kaliya lived in the deepest part of the river. Krishna jumped into the river. Kaliya got angry at the very sight of Krishna and immediately pounced to kill Krishna. But Krishna slipped away! He rushed towards Kalia.s tail. He twisted Kalia's tail so badly that Kalia cried, "Ahhhh!!!!".

In a flash Krishna got hold of Kaliya.s head. He stood on it. Kaliya tried to shake off Krishna but Krishna stayed on his head. Kaliya then dived deep into the river, trying to drown Krishna but Krishna could hold his breath as long as he wanted.



Meanwhile, a big crowd already gathered on the banks of Yamuna. Nanda and Yashoda also arrived there. Everyone was afraid and worried about Krishna. Yashoda was recklessly crying, “Kanha!! Oh, Kanha! Where are you?”

Oh! God, please save my Kanha from that poisonous snake!!”

Meanwhile, in the river, battle was going on between Krishna and Kalia. At last, Kaliya was forced to come up to save himself from Krishna. Kalia tried to escape but could not! Krishna began kicking Kaliya left and right on his head. Soon Kaliya was badly injured and also began losing strength. Kaliya started vomiting poison and Krishna kept stamping his head until all the poison came out. Kaliya gave up the struggle and begged Krishna, “Hey Krishna! I beg you. spare me. I will not bother anyone”. Krishna ordered Kaliya, “You must leave the river immediately and do not come back here again”. Kaliya bowed his head and quietly left the Yamuna.

People including Nanda and Yashoda, standing on the banks of the river, were watching this battle. They were amazed and also surprised, “How can such a small child fight a poisonous snake?” But when Kalia left the river, everyone rejoiced. Krishna became a Hero and sweet-heart of everyone!

Activity in class

1) _____ was Krshna's father and
_____ was his mother.

a) Devaki b) Vasudeva c) Yashoda d) Nanda

2) He was raised by _____ and

b) Devaki b) Vasudeva c) Yashoda d) Nanda

3) Lovingly Nanda and Yashoda used to call Krshna as
_____.

a) Rama b) Hanuman c) Kanha d) Ganesha

4) A poisonous snake, Kalia came to live in the river
_____.

a) Yamuna b) Ganga c) Saraswati d) None of these

5) Krishna taught _____ a lesson.

a) Rama b) Kalia c) Ravana d) Ganesha