

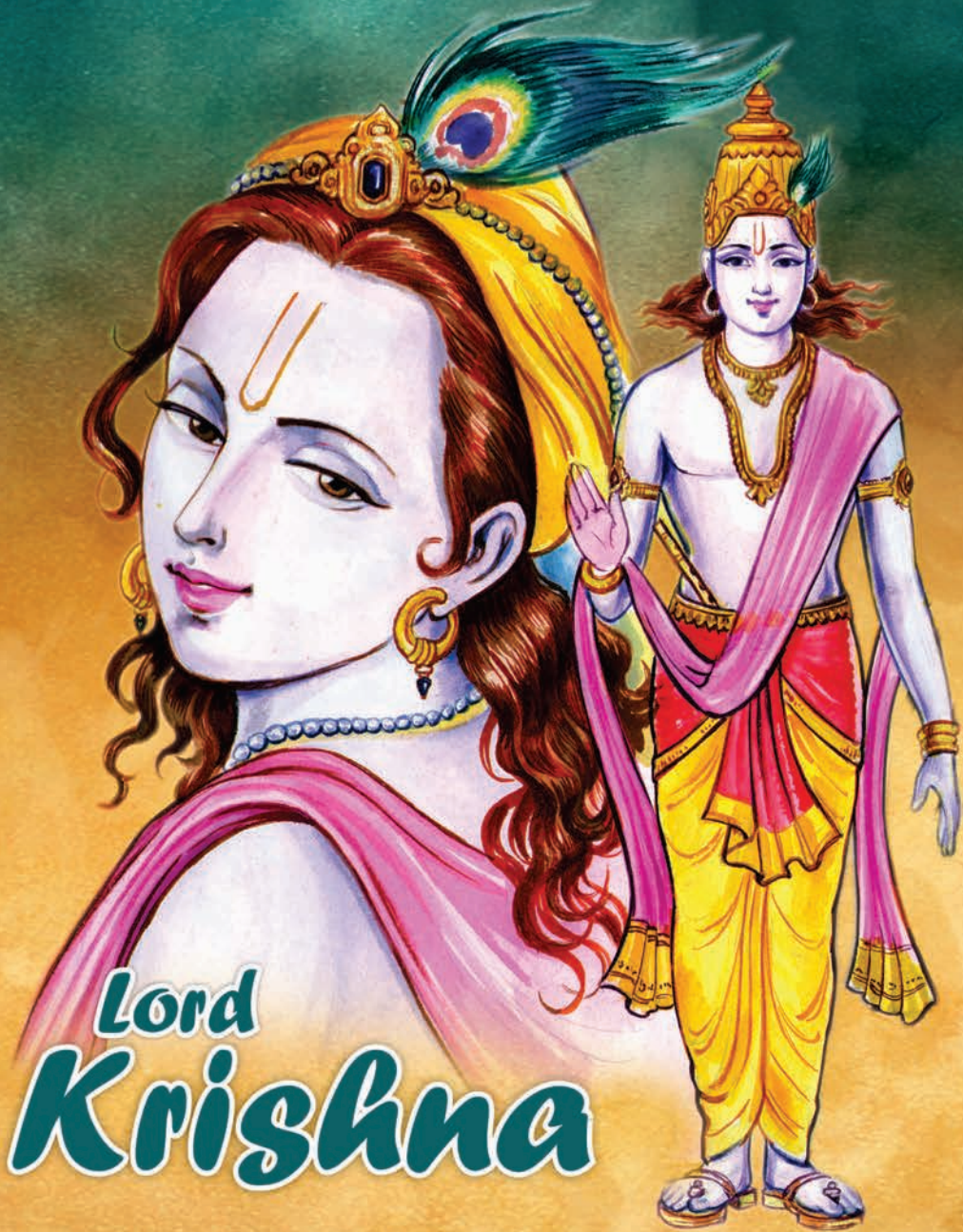
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Dada Bhagwan Parivar's

AKRAM

Express



Lord
Krishna



Editorial

Friends,

*Govind Bolo Hari Gopal Bolo...
Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna,
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare...*

'Shravan Vad Atham' (also known as 'Janmashtami') is a date in the Hindu calendar, which marks the divine birth of Lord Krishna. The Lord's birth took place approximately 5,000 years ago on this date. His antics as the miraculous baby Krishna through to His image as Lord Krishna in adult form are recognized world-wide.

But despite this, there are so many other amazing facts about Him that you would not have heard before.

So come, with His birthday not far away let's learn some new things about Him and let's revel in His devotional worship.

- Dimple Mehta

Lord Krishna

Akram Express

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Gnanis Say...



Niruma: Lord Krishna's character is beautiful. Starting from the Lord's childhood behavior to the time He became *Yogeshwar Shree Krishna* (Lord Krishna in adult form), which is when He was killed by a hunter's arrow, He possessed a formidable character. The Jain *Mahabharat* (an epic narrative) also features some amazing stories of Lord Krishna. He was known as '*Vasudev*', which means extremely powerful. He was so powerful that he was King of half the world.

The one who crushes his own karmas (the ongoing cycle of cause and effect due to one's own deeds) is known as Krishna. Everyone comes with their own karmas. But when some karmas unfold with force they blind us and end up crushing us. In other words, they end up destroying us instead of us destroying them. Whereas Lord Krishna had overpowered his karmas; he had won against them. He was therefore a victorious being.

Deepakbhai: *Krishna Bhagwan* (Lord Krishna) was considered a *Naishthik Brahmachari*. It means the one in whom there is constant inner intent of devotion and sincerity towards celibacy (purity of mind, speech and body). His discharging karmas unfold depending on how they were charged in his previous life. Lord Krishna's intent was always fixed in a continuous and constant state of *brahmacharya* (celibacy). And that is how He was a *Naishthik Brahmachari*. Even though He had 16,000 queens, to this day He is known as a *brahmachari* (celibate). How can this be? Well, to dwell in that which is Real, i.e the Soul / Self is the ultimate stage of *brahmacharya*. Being in a continuous state of the Self allowed Him to become a *brahmachari*.

Niruma: In the battle fields of Kurukshetra (a city in the Indian state of Haryana), Lord Krishna had imparted unto Arjun (one of the *Pandava* brothers in the ancient Indian epic, *The Mahabharata*) the knowledge of the Self. The Lord introduced His True Self to him. Till then Arjun used to identify Lord Krishna as a friend, a charioteer and his wife's brother. He was not able to recognize Him with the

true vision. Lord Krishna was his senior and a well-wisher thus he had respect for Him, but he was not aware of the Lord's Real form.

It was for that reason that Lord Krishna had to tell Arjun to recognize the Lord's true Self. He then revealed to Arjun that 'I am the embodiment of the absolute Self, I am not the body. Despite staying close to me for so many years you have not been able to recognize Me'.

He also said, the enlightened one (a *Gnani*) is very dear to me. Do not differentiate between a *Gnani* and Me. *Gnani* is My true Self.

How can we forget this?

Who was Lord Krishna?

In current times, Lord Krishna is being worshipped in two physical forms: as *Balkrishna* (Krishna in baby form) and *Yogeshwar Krishna* (Krishna in adult form). There is only one person who knows Lord Krishna's true form and that is the one who has realized the Self (*Gnani Purush*), because his awareness of the Self is the same as that of Lord Krishna. Such *Gnanis* are extremely rare to find.

Many associate Lord Krishna with fighting battles, killing many people, having 16,000 queens and having a comfortable and luxurious life. And they therefore question how he can be called God in such circumstances. So then why do people all over the world worship him?

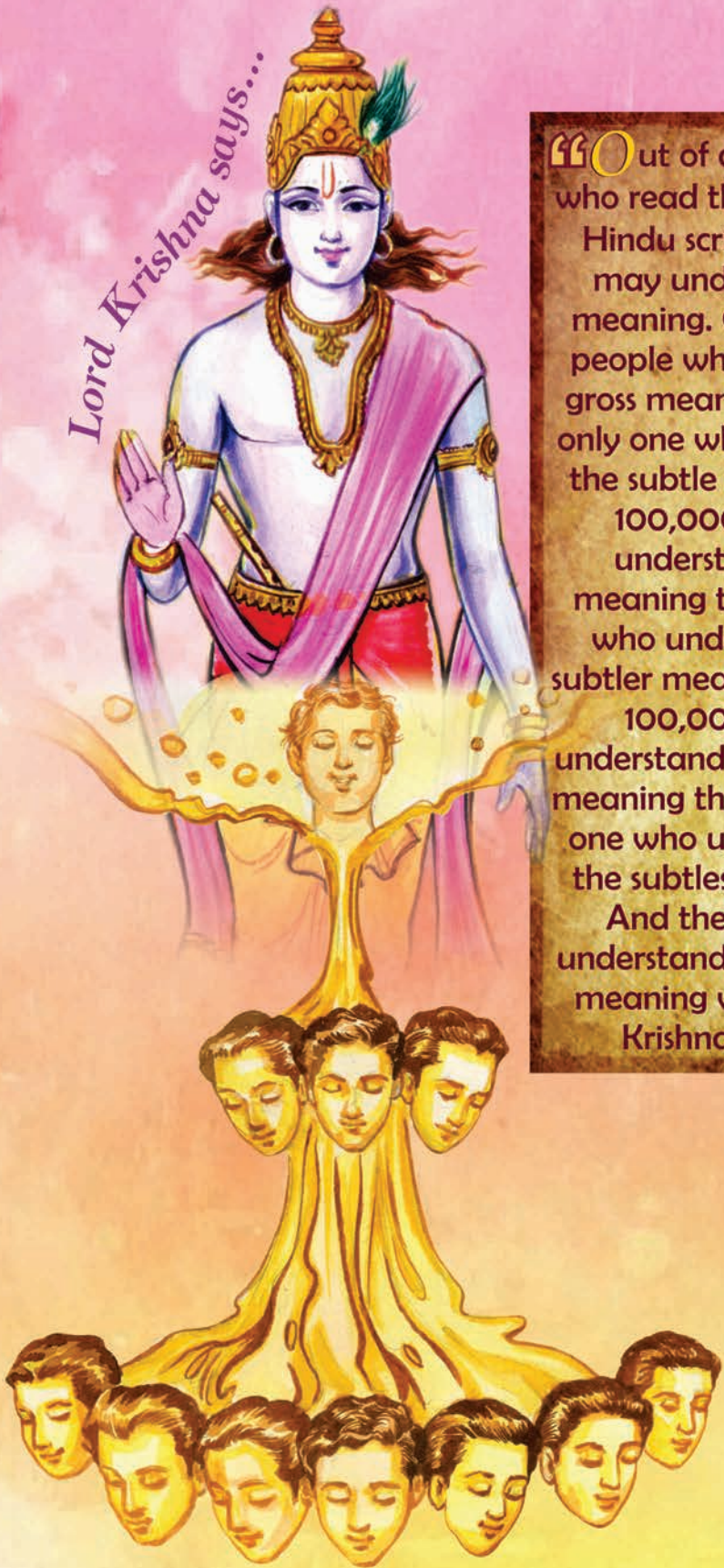
The fact is that the true Self manifested in Lord Krishna. In other words, He was a self-realized being. He was in constant awareness of the Self. (Constant awareness that 'I am Pure Soul and this body is separate from Me'.)

Even though He was physically involved in mundane worldly interactions, He always had the continuous awareness of 'I am not the doer'. Although He had so many queens and lived in opulent surroundings, His resolution was always firmly fixed in *brahmacharya* and that is why He is known as a *Naishthik Brahmachari*. It is not possible to be free from your *karmas* (deeds) and you have no choice but to suffer the impact of your *karmas* with awareness. He lived with such awareness of His true Self.

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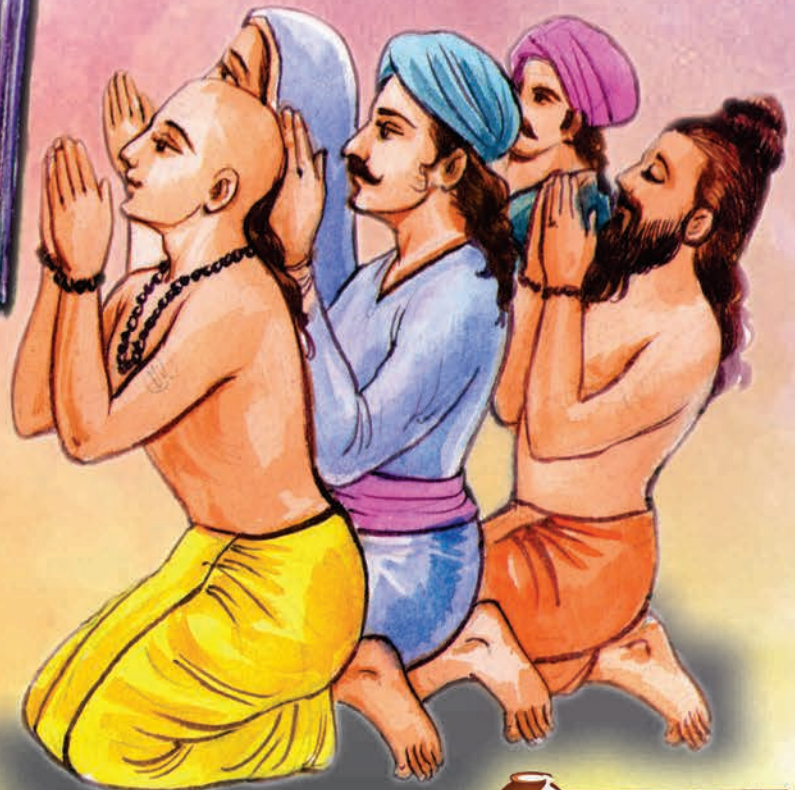
Lord Krishna says...

“Out of a 100,000 people who read the *Gita* (one of the Hindu scriptures) only one may understand its gross meaning. Out of a 100,000 people who understand the gross meaning there may be only one who will understand the subtle meaning. From a 100,000 of those who understand the subtle meaning there may be one who understands the subtler meaning. From a 100,000 who understand the subtler meaning there may be one who understands the subtlest meaning. And the one who understands the subtlest meaning will verily be Krishna Himself! ॐ”



Absolutely
New

Arjun felt weak and sickened at the thought of killing his relatives on the battlefield. Lord Krishna enlightened him and he felt re-energized. The time it took for Arjun regain his strength was the time it took for the entire *Gita* (one of the holy Hindu scriptures) to be spoken by the Lord. Today, even after 5,100 years, the *Gita* can make people strong again. Taking its support, people are able to come out of their miseries. Thousands of years later if people are finding relief from their miseries after reading the *Gita*, just imagine the power of the Lord's words when they were raining like a beautiful waterfall from His divine mouth. The grace and majesty of the Lord left nothing to chance as He showered Arjun with His compassion.



And
Different!



Lord Krishna and the 22nd Tirthankar (the fully enlightened one), Neminath Bhagwan, were first cousins. Their respective fathers were brothers.



Shree Neminath Bhagwan



Lord Krishna's mother, Devki, and elder brother Baldev are also going to be born as Tirthankars in the next cycle of 24 Tirthankars.



In the next cycle
of 24 Tirthankars,
Lord Krishna will
be incarnated as
the 12th
Tirthankar and
will be called
Amam.

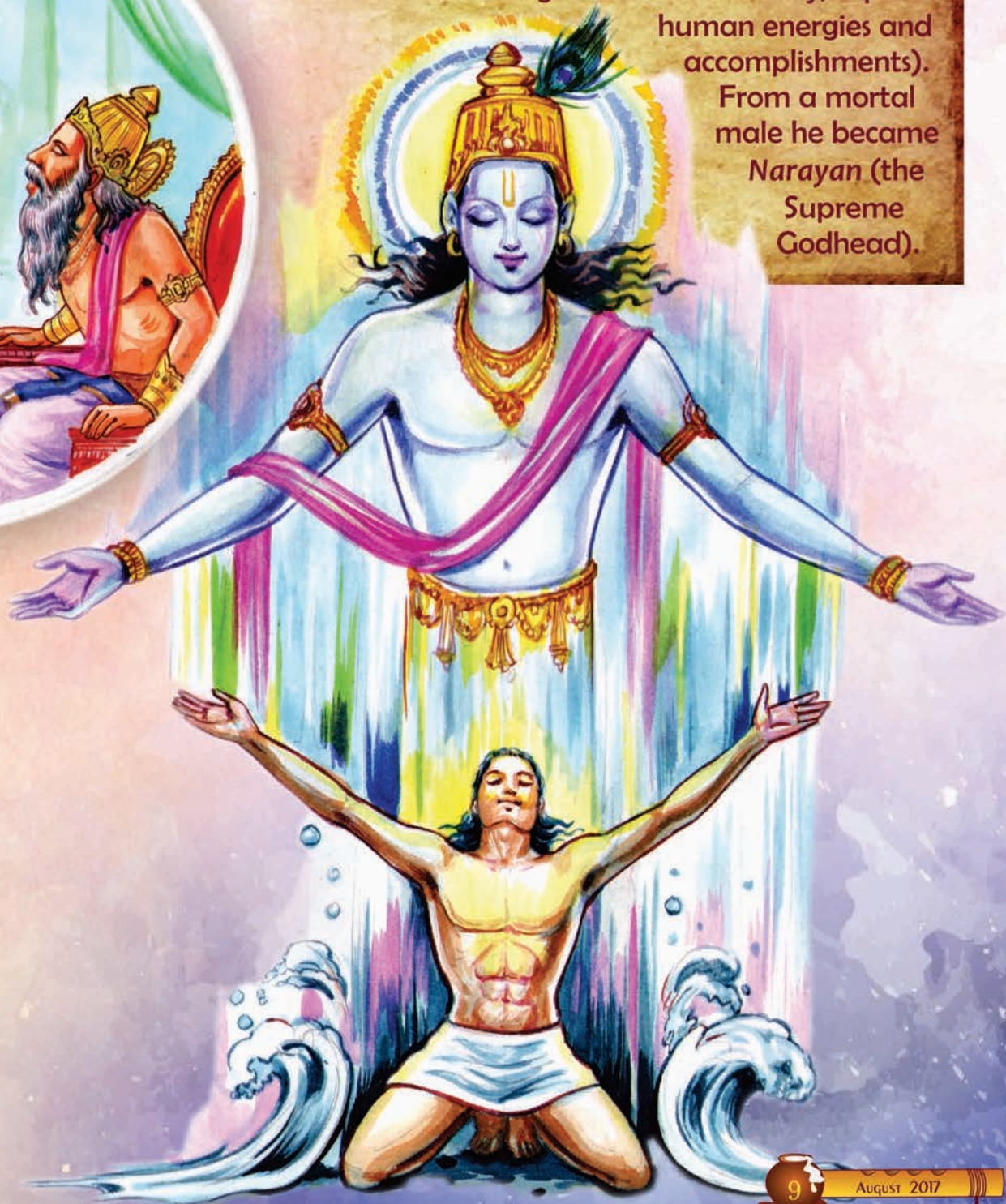




While Lord Krishna was imparting the knowledge of the Self unto Arjun, Sanjay (who was advisor and charioteer for the blind king, Dhritarashtra), heard this conversation and narrated it to the king. However, only Arjun became enlightened but neither

Sanjay nor Dhritrashtra obtained the realization of the Self. There is therefore a need for a person to be physically present where the Gnani is imparting knowledge of the Self.

Lord Krishna was *Vasudev* (one of the 64 *Salakha Purush* – human beings with extraordinary, super human energies and accomplishments). From a mortal male he became *Narayan* (the Supreme Godhead).



Importance of Inner Intent

Saint Durvasa once wanted to visit Vrindavan. At that time, the holy river Yamuna was over-flowing so there was no way of crossing it to get into Vrindavan. Saint Durvasa had no choice but to sit and wait near the banks of the river.

Hearing this news, Lord Krishna asked his devotees to prepare some food for the Saint. The devotees put together a variety of fancy dishes, fruits and delicious sweets. The food was all prepared - but how were they supposed to get it across the river? Saint Durvasa was well known for losing his temper and because of this the devotees were perplexed. In the end they took their problem to Lord Krishna.

Lord Krishna told them to ask river Yamuna that if Krishna was a true *brahmachari* (celibate) to give way to them.

And so the devotees went to the banks of the river and as per Lord Krishna's instructions they asked the holy river Yamuna to grant them the way.

Immediately the waters parted to create a walkway for the devotees to pass.

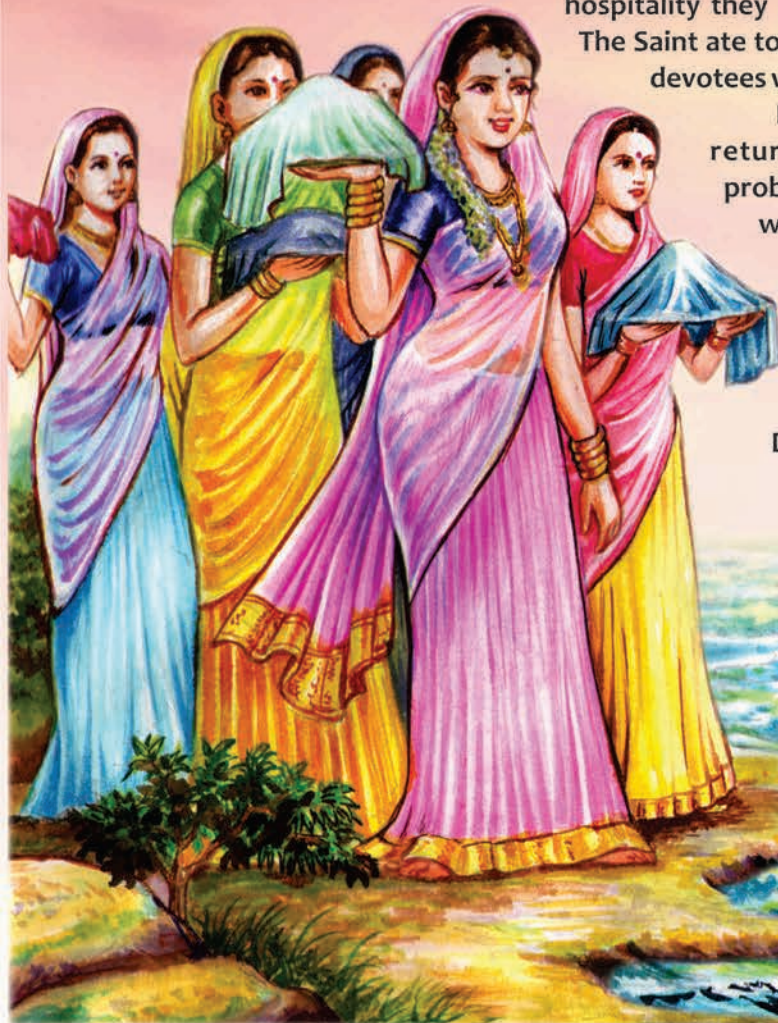
The devotees were very pleased indeed. With a lot of excitement and hospitality they presented the food to Saint Durvasa.

The Saint ate to his heart's content and showered the devotees with blessings.

Now it was time for the devotees to return. However, they faced the same problem again. Both banks of river Yamuna were flooded. How were they to get across?

They went back to Saint Durvasa to ask his advice.

The Saint said to ask the holy river to show the way if Saint Durvasa is on a perpetual (endless) fast.



The devotees bowed down and returned to the river. At the river bank they put their request to the river. And to their amazement the river yet again allowed them to cross.

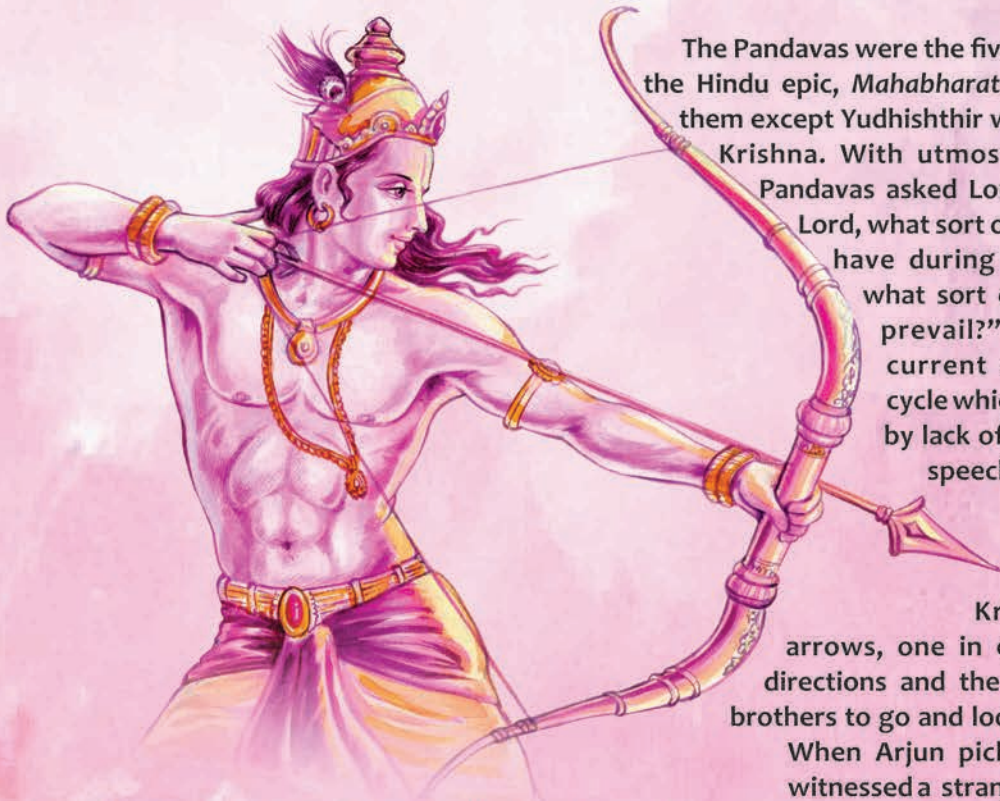
The devotees reached Vrindavan safely. However, a curiosity arose within them. If Lord Krishna has so many queens, how can he be called a *brahmachari*? And Saint Durvasa had a healthy meal in front of us, so how can he be on a perpetual fast?

After thinking hard about it they understood the difference between actions and inner intentions.

Despite having so many queens Lord Krishna's resolution was always for celibacy and he therefore became known as a *Naishtik Brahmachari*. Similarly, Saint Durvasa, despite having eaten a lavish feast hadn't done so with even an ounce of greediness in his inner intent.

Lord Krishna was absolutely untouched by worldly happenings.





The Pandavas were the five sons of Pandu in the Hindu epic, *Mahabharata*. One day all of them except Yudhishtir went to meet Lord Krishna. With utmost humility the 4 Pandavas asked Lord Krishna, “Dear Lord, what sort of a life will people have during the *kaliyug* and what sort of conditions will prevail?” (*Kaliyug* is the current era of the time cycle which is characterized by lack of unity in thought, speech and action)

When he heard this question, Lord Krishna shot four arrows, one in each of the four directions and then asked the four brothers to go and look for the arrows. When Arjun picked an arrow he witnessed a strange phenomenon.

A cuckoo was singing in a spellbinding tune. Arjun was mesmerized. When he looked at the cuckoo its eyes were wide open with surprise. The same cuckoo which was singing in a melodious voice was also eating the flesh of a live rabbit. The rabbit was in great pain but the cuckoo was still eating it and singing.

When Bhima went to look for an arrow, he too saw something peculiar.

Four wells surrounded a single well. The four surrounding ones were all overflowing with water. However, the fifth well was completely dry. Bhima could not understand why the fifth well was empty when all the surrounding ones were full of water.

Another brother, Nakul, went to look for the third arrow. He stopped at place where a cow was about to give birth. After giving birth the cow started licking her calf. But even after the calf was completely clean she continued to lick it. The calf started to bleed as its skin was so soft but the cow just carried on licking it.

The fourth brother, Sahdev also witnessed a bizarre occurrence where he found his arrow.

There was a huge boulder falling down a very big mountain. It was crushing small rocks and big trees on its way down, but it was brought to a halt by a small shrub.

When all four Pandavas came back they narrated what they had witnessed to Lord Krishna and asked Him to explain the meaning of these incidents.

Lord Krishna said,

“These four occurrences depict different aspects of what the *kaliyug* will be like.

There will be priests speaking in sweet voices who will exploit devotees by pretending to



want to free them of their miseries, much like the cuckoo was doing with the rabbit.

Four out of the five wells were overflowing with water but the central well, which was right next to them, was not given a single drop of water. In the same way in *kaliyug* the rich will have enormous amounts of wealth but they will not share with the poor.

In *kaliyug* parents will make their children so delicate and fragile by over protecting them and this will harm them.

People in terms of their character and conduct, will fall like the boulder from the mountain. But nobody will be able to stop this downfall. Only the name of the Lord or some spiritual connection will be able to hold them from doom – just like the small shrub which stopped the boulder from falling further.”



NATURE OF KALIYUG



The Pandavas
now understood
what the conditions in
kaliyug would be like.

Arjun once asked Krishna, “Lord, why do people consider Karna more generous than the elder brother, Yudhishtir? No matter what anyone asks for, neither of them have ever refused. So then why is Karna considered greater than Yudhishtir?”

Bhagwan smiled and answered, “Come, let me show you why!”

Disguised as Brahmins both of them first went to Yudhishtir’s court and asked for sandalwood for a sacrificial fire ritual. The king immediately told his soldiers to go and fetch some sandalwood for them. As it was the rainy season the sandalwood that the soldiers brought was quite damp. It was not going to be possible to light the sacrificial fire with waterlogged sandalwood.

Then Krishna and Arjun went to Karna’s court and requested the same again. Karna thought for a few seconds and then replied, “As it has been raining for a few days it will not be possible to find dry sticks of sandalwood. But there is another solution. Please wait.”

Karna then started to break down the doors and window frames of the court as they were made of sandalwood. After chopping them into pieces he gifted them to the Brahmins so that they could go ahead the sacrificial fire ritual. They accepted the wood and left.

While they were walking back Krishna asked Arjun, “Arjun, now do you understand the difference between the two? See, if we had asked Yudhishtir for the frames of the doors and windows of the court, he would have given it without giving it another thought. But he was not able to come up with the idea for himself. Whereas Karna just went ahead and did it. Yudhishtir helped us because it was the right thing to do. Whereas Karna did what he did because he likes to give. This is the difference between the two and that is

ARJUN'S





CURIOSITY

why Karna is considered to be the greater one. Whatever work you do will be an act of generosity if it is given with love.”

We all do things for different reasons. For example - when someone asks us to do something, or because it is our duty to do it, or we do it simply because it's the right thing to do or we do something because we gain happiness by doing it.

The most important thing is that whatever work we do, we should do it out of love and gain happiness from it.



There are ten wonderful incidents to be found in the Jain Scriptures.

The following extract about Lord Krishna is considered to be one of them.

What once happened was that in Lord Krishna's time, Draupadi had been abducted to another planet.

In the cosmos there are five *Bharat Kshetras*, five *Mahavideh Kshetras* and five *Airavat Kshetras* where humans exist. We exist in the *Bharat Kshetra* of Jambudeep. There lived King Padmanabh in one of the *Bharat Kshetras* of another zone called Ghatki Khand. Naradmuni, a Vedic sage, was describing to him the amazing beauty of Draupadi and from then on King Padmanabh was besotted with her. He got some deities to kidnap her.

The king then asked Draupadi to marry him. Draupadi was a chaste and virtuous woman and there was no way she was going to accept the king's request. However, she requested the king to give her a month to think about it. He accepted her request.

During that month Draupadi fasted and was deeply involved in worship and adoration of Lord Krishna. She prayed to be saved from the situation she was in.

The laws of nature are such that it is not possible to go from one planet to the other. But Lord Krishna was able to do it. He went there and defeated the king and brought Draupadi back. During the journey back he blew his conch shell.

At that time on that planet, there was another *Vasudev* called *Kapildev* (*Vasudev* refers to the one who has evolved from being an ordinary human into becoming God). On planet Earth this refers to Lord Krishna. When Krishna blew the conch shell, *Kapildev* was sitting at the assembly of the *Tirthankar* then present. When he heard the sound of the conch he immediately asked *Tirthankar Bhagwan*, "How has it been possible for another being to blow the conch like me? As there is only one *Tirthankar*, one *Vasudev*

and one *Chakravarti* (Emperor) present on any given planet at the same time, there cannot be two *Tirthankars*, two *Vasudevs* and two *Chakravartis* present all at the same time. This is the law of nature. So how was it possible?"

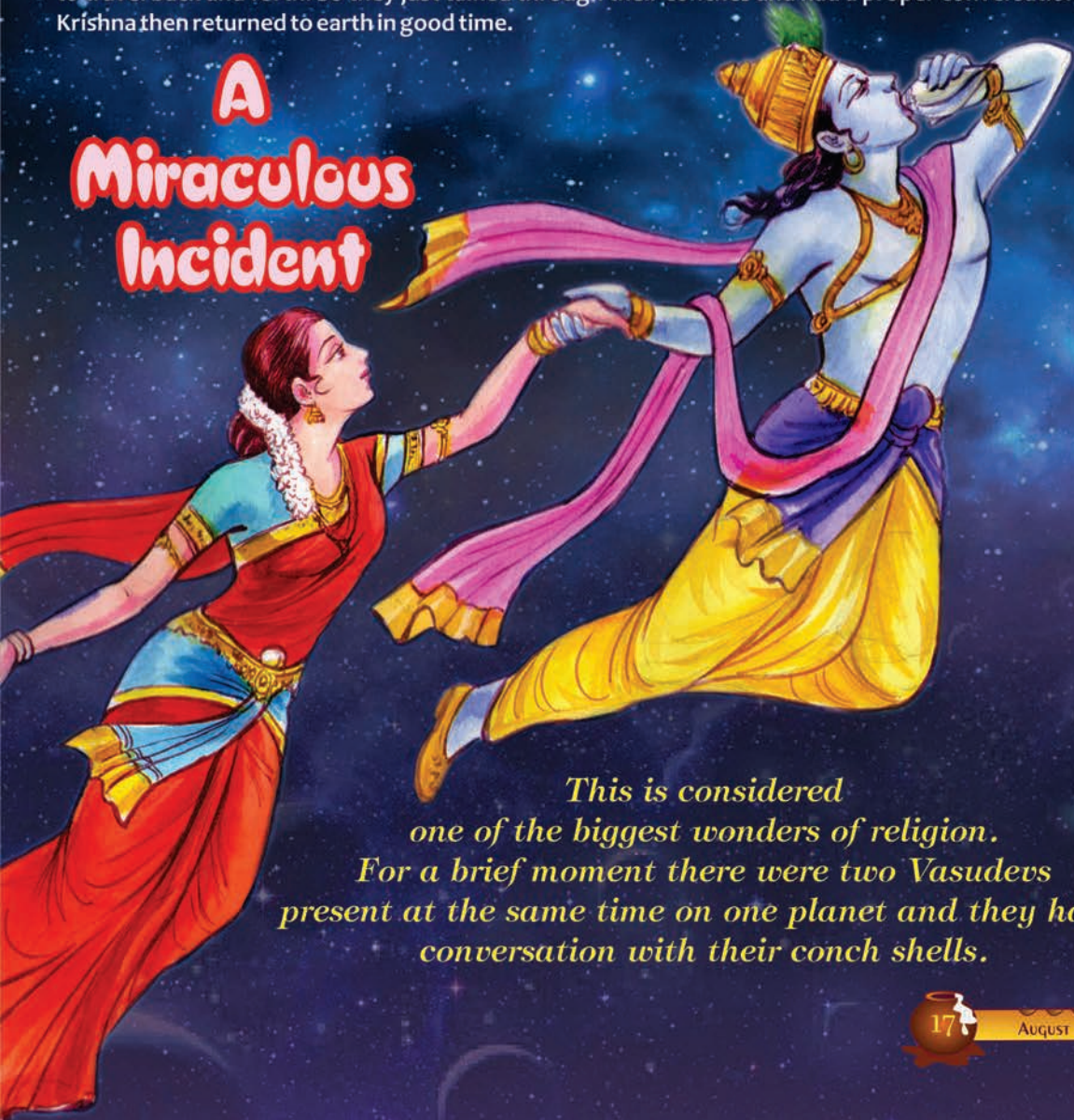
Tirthankar Bhagwan replied saying that 'this is one of the wonders'. The *Vasudev* of planet Earth, Lord Krishna, was able to come here. Due to His immense strength he was able to defeat King *Padmanabh* and blew his conch in victory.

When he heard this, *Kapildev* wanted to meet Lord Krishna. He expressed his wish to do so and as soon as *Tirthankar Bhagwan* agreed he went to meet Lord Krishna. But by then Lord Krishna, along with *Draupadi*, had already gone beyond the boundary where *Kapildev* was not able to go.

Then *Kapildev* blew his conch and had a conversation with Lord Krishna in this manner. Just like how we have a conversation on the telephone, they did the same through their conch shells. Imagine the kind of shell it must have been! It was identical to having a telephone conversation.

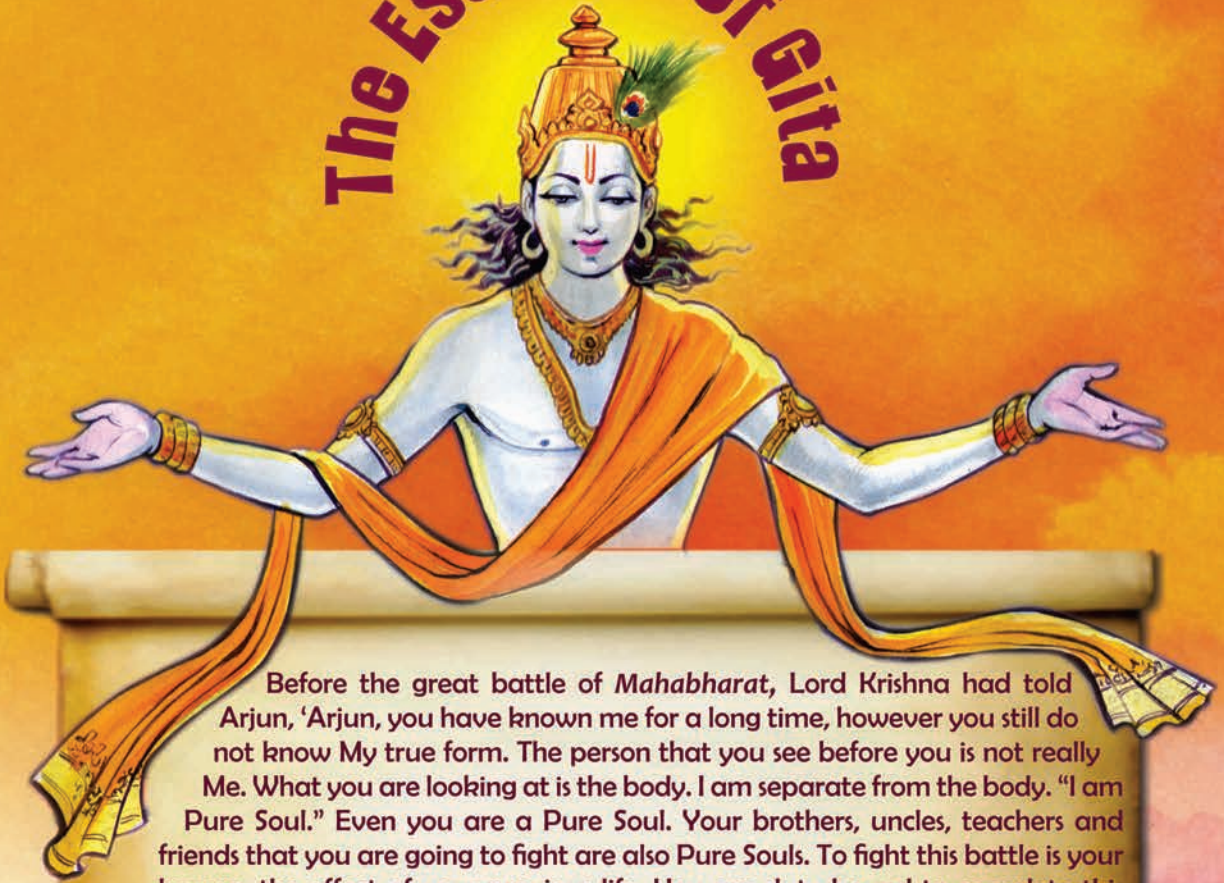
It all started with *Vasudev Kapildev* expressing a wish to meet Krishna. Krishna said that he had already gotten quite far and that it would be very difficult to return. It would take a lot of time and effort to travel back and forth. So they just talked through their conches and had a proper conversation. Lord Krishna then returned to earth in good time.

A Miraculous Incident



This is considered one of the biggest wonders of religion. For a brief moment there were two Vasudevs present at the same time on one planet and they had a conversation with their conch shells.

The Essence of Gita



Before the great battle of *Mahabharat*, Lord Krishna had told Arjun, 'Arjun, you have known me for a long time, however you still do not know My true form. The person that you see before you is not really Me. What you are looking at is the body. I am separate from the body. "I am Pure Soul." Even you are a Pure Soul. Your brothers, uncles, teachers and friends that you are going to fight are also Pure Souls. To fight this battle is your karma, the effect of your previous life. You are duty bound to complete this karma. If you fight this battle with the awareness of the Soul then you will not bind any new karmas (the perpetual cycle of cause and effect). Thus, your previous life *karmas* will come to an end and you will attain ultimate liberation (*moksha*).'

In this way Arjun stayed in the awareness given by Lord Krishna. A lot of great men were killed in the war, but he did not bind any new *karmas*. Indeed he attained *moksha* in the same lifetime.





*Cultural show
and exhibition
during
Gurupurnima*



And Lastly...

Krishna was born on a very dark night in a jail. When he was born all the guards were asleep, the chains broke and the door automatically opened.

In the same way when Krishna (self-awareness) is born within us, immediately the darkness of wrong belief goes away; the chains

of the ego and my-ness are broken; and the prison doors of caste, religion, society and mundane occurrences of daily life automatically open up.

That is the significance and importance of Janmashtami (the birth of Krishna).



Happy Janmashtami!



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