

Krishna Janmashtami

Geetha Prasad

Story of Lord Krishna's Birth

- In Dwapara yuga, King Ugrasena ruled over Mathura. He had a son Kamsa and daughter Devaki. She was married to Vasudeva.
- Kamsa was very cruel. He put his father in prison. As Kamsa knew that eighth child (boy) of his sister would kill him, he put both Devaki and Vasudeva in prison.
- Kamsa killed first six children of Devaki and Vasudeva. Their seventh child was saved and taken to Rohini another wife of Vasudeva. He grew up as Balarama.

Story of Lord Krishna's Birth

(Continued)

- On the eighth day of Krishna paksha of Sravana month, at mid-night, Lord Krishna was born to Devaki and Vasudeva. The baby right after manifested with chakra (discuss) and shankha (conch-shell)
- The Lord Krishna told Vasudeva to exchange him with the girl child of Yashoda and Nanda. All the guards were made to sleep and gates were opened by Lord. Vasudeva went to Gokul and exchanged the babies.
- Kamsa was surprised to know the eighth child was a girl. Still he threw the baby to kill, but the baby manifested as Goddess Durga and told Kamsa that Lord Krishna in Gokul is born to kill him.

Celebration

- Build and decorate mantap and many fruits are hung from mantap's ceiling. In the mantap a cradle with Krishna's deity is kept. Little feet imprints are marked on the floor to indicate Krishna's coming.
- Pooja is done with rituals, chants and bhajans. Many different types of dishes are made and offered for Krishna. Arathi is done at mid-night. A pot with curd is kept and Krishna's play is enacted.
- Krishna means "attractive to everyone" Let us seek the blessings of Lord Krishna