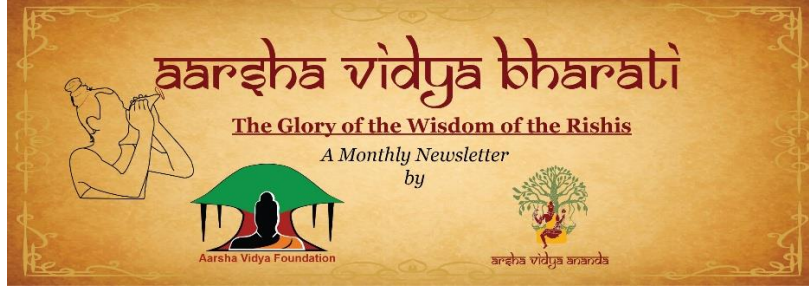

Aarsha Vidya Bharati - Aug 2022

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A monthly newsletter that will bring you more happiness, more wisdom and more freedom



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Celebrating Janmashtami

By Gunjan Arora, New Delhi

Hey anand umang bhayo, Jai ho Nand lal ki
Nand ke anand bhayo, Jai Kanhaiya lal ki
Braj mein anand bhayo, Jai Yashoda lal ki
Haathi Ghoda Paal Ki, Jai Kanhaiya lal ki

And thus was born our Baal Gopala, later known in Gokula as Kanhaiya, Kanha, Makhanchor, Mohan and with many such names, providing immense pleasure and satisfaction to *Mātā* Yashoda & Nand Baba.

Shri Krishna, known to be the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu was born in the *Dvāpara* Yuga as the son of Vasudeva & Devaki in Mathura, to re-establish *Dharma*. Kansa (Devaki's brother), aware of the prophecy that Devaki's son would indeed kill him, enslaved and imprisoned them and slayed all her children at birth. At the time of *Bhagavān's* *avatāra* in that auspicious moment, by the grace of the lord, the guards fell asleep, the parents were set free and thus Vasudeva carried their new born Krishna across Yamuna ji to Gokula leaving him in the care of Yashoda and Nandlal.



The birth of Bhagavān Krishna, is celebrated as Janamashtami, on the Aṣṭamī of Krishna Paksha in the month of Bhādrapada generally in August.

The life of *Bhagavān* Krishna, a manifestation of love & compassion who delivered the *Bhagavad Gītā* to Arjuna during the battle of Mahabharata and showed the world the path of Karma Yoga & *Mokṣa*, is an inspiration for many and there is something to learn and relate to for everyone in his glorious tale.

Baal Gopala (young Krishna) spent his early years in Gokula and is known for his many miracles, mischiefs, his raas leela with the Gopis, the eternal love between Radha & Krishna and for playing the flute, the sound of which could melt any heart.

At the destined time, Krishna was summoned by Kansa to Mathura. He returned to fulfil the cause of his birth by killing Kansa and establishing the rule of *Dharma* & peace in Mathura. In due course, he married princess Rukmini in another enchanting tale of love!

One of his most significant roles was that of a charioteer to Arjuna in the battle of Mahabharata, a *Dharma Yuddha* between the Pandavas on one side and the Kauravas on the other, where the Pandavas under the eldest brother Yudhishtira sought to establish a rule of justice and peace while Kauravas led by Duryodhana pursued the greed for power.



Arjuna, chose to have Krishna on his side without any of his great army or weapons (yet another confrontation between Arjuna and Duryodhana where Duryodhana chose Krishna's entire fleet and weapons) - *Īśvara* himself in the form of Krishna as his charioteer in the war. ***Arjuna requested Krishna to take them to the middle of the battlefield where he had second thoughts as he gazed at his relatives whom he was supposed to slay in the war. He eventually surrendered to Krishna as his Guru which is when Bhagavad Gītā was delivered which continues to bless and guide us all until today.***



Bhagavad Gītā means the song, *Gītā*, of the Lord, *Bhagavān*. *Bhagavān* Krishna, taught Arjuna the knowledge of the *Gītā* which is described as the shower of *amṛta*, nectar of non-duality and knowledge of the self. It presents both the lifestyle of activity through *Karmayoga* and a life of renunciation through *sannyāsa* ultimately leading to *Brahmavidyā* – knowledge of Brahman.

Krishna is known as Gopala-nandana, the joy of cowherds. Just as smoothly as he milked the cows, he was able to milk the Upanishads. He was the destroyer of evil. He was the greatest joy of Devaki, this most attractive charmer.

Krishna's life was one of sacrifices spent defending *dharma*. He spent his entire life on the side of *dharma*, fighting and ending evil wherever it existed. He showered love & compassion on all who came to his refuge and had a playful smile on his lips all the time.

Krishna is indeed the teacher of the world, Jagadguru. On this auspicious occasion of Janamshtami, I offer my prayers and take refuge in the Supreme Lord and rejoice in the celebrations of the birth of Laddoo Gopal.

Anand se bolo sab, Jai ho Braj Lal ki
Hathi Ghoda Paalki, Jai Kanhaiya Lal ki.

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