



the *Lord*
and His land



Krishna.

Who has transcended time.

Who has wooed generations of devotees.

Who is the Past.

The Present.

&

The Future.






बिनु गोपाल बैरिन भई कुंजै।
तब ये लता लगति अति सीतल, अब भई विषम ज्वाल की पुंजै।
बृथा बहति जमुना, खग बोलत, बृथा कमल फूलै अलि गुंजै।
पवन, पानी, धनसार, संजीवनि दधिसुत किरनभानु भई भुंजै।
ये ऊधो कहियो माधव सों, बिरह करद करि मारत लुंजै।
सूरदास प्रभु को मग जोवत, अंखियां भई बरन ज्यों गुंजै।

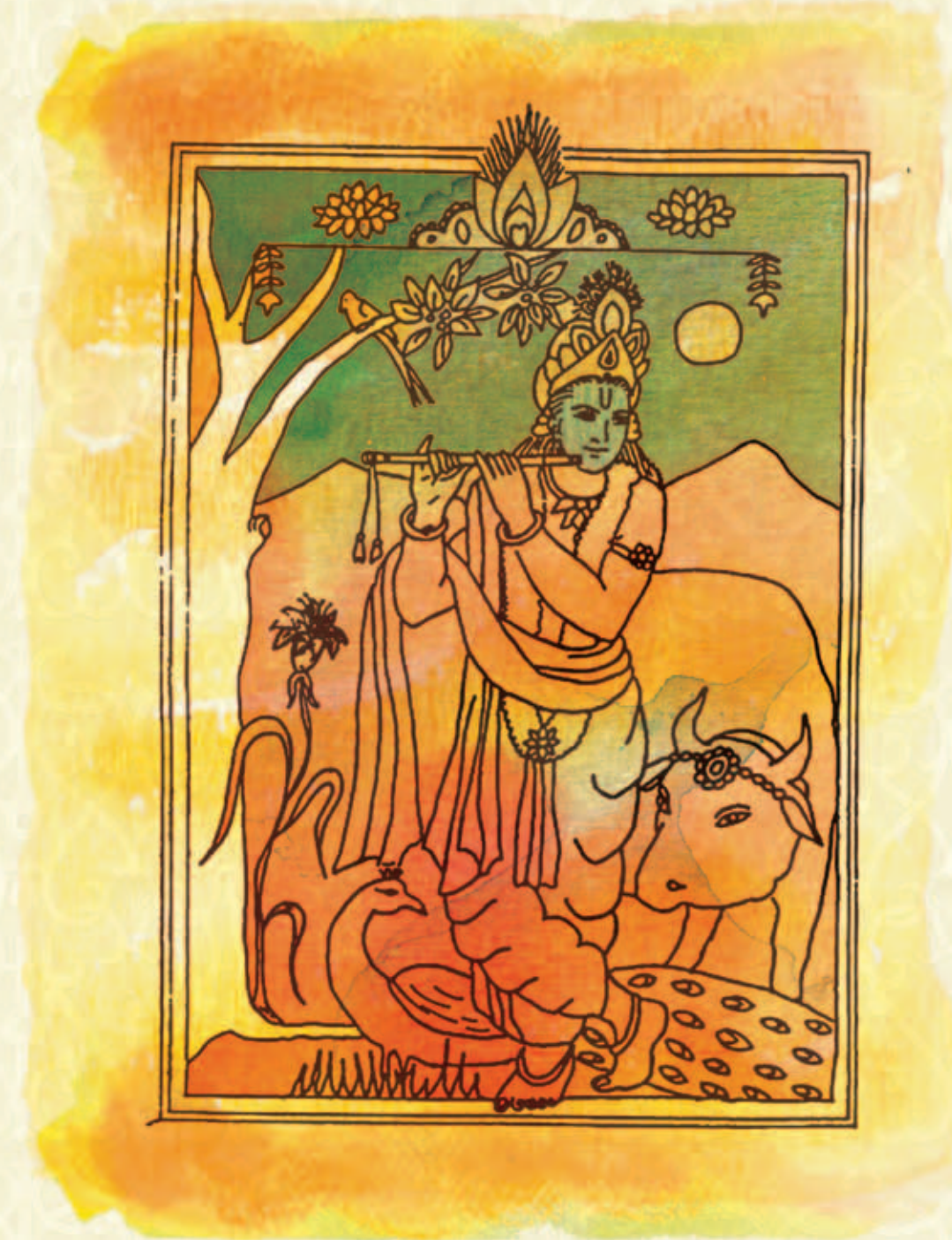


*Without Gopala this forest is lifeless.
With him the trees have life, without him they're lifeless as if without water.
The Yamuna seems a river that is dead; nor does the lotus bloom anymore.
The air, earth, water and sky all seek Him and are lifeless as if without the light of the Sun.
O Surdas, plead with The Lord; our eyes only seek Him and Him alone...*

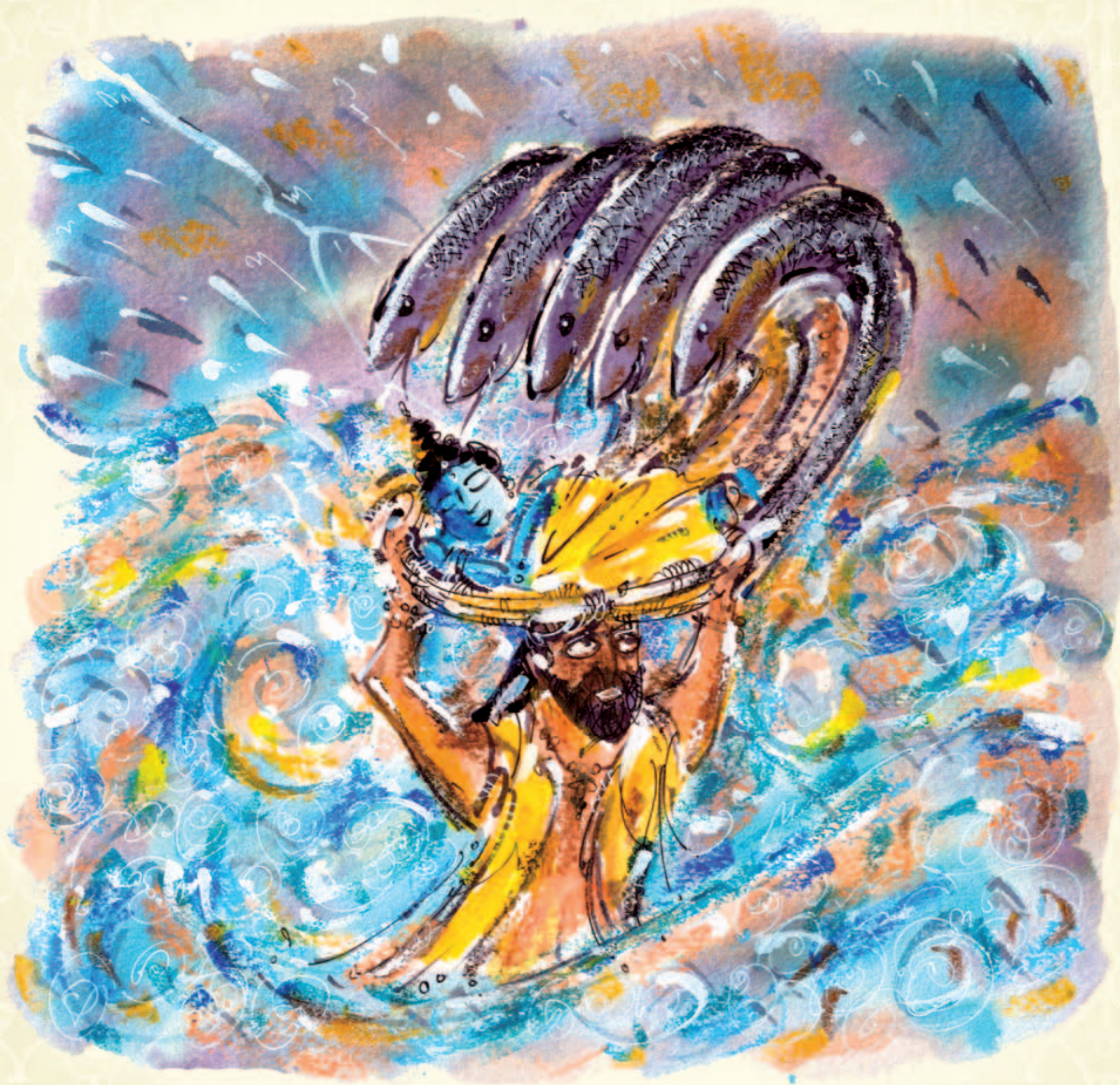


I am Krishna*
I am everywhere
I am etched in hearts and
consciences of those who
consider me to be the
Supreme Truth...

*Krishna's form is symbolic. Deep blue is the colour of eternity. It is the colour of the sky, and of the deep ocean. Yellow is the colour of the earth. A deep blue god-image in yellow clothes symbolizes the spirit clothed in the body. Krishna is a symbol of the body and spirit, a symbol of each one of us in our enlightened form. When we become aware of our true self, we realize that there is no difference between us and Krishna.



Irrepressible Child
Incorrigible Prankster
Enchanting Musician
Divine Lover
Ruthless Vanquisher
Valiant Protector
True Friend
Astute Statesman
Profound Philosopher



Vasudeva crossing the Yamuna carrying Krishna on his head on a stormy night

Irrepressible Child

I was born in
the darkness of
a dungeon.
Yet I emanated light.

The river Yamuna parted her ways and helped Vasudeva to bring Krishna to safety to Vrindavana. He was then left in Nanda and Yashoda's blissful home and brought up as their loving son in Gokula. Devaki and Vasudeva, Krishna's biological parents were held captive by Kamsa, Krishna's evil uncle, who wanted him killed right when he was born.



Krishna stealing butter from villager's homes

Incorrigible Prankster

I played
innumerable pranks.
I was loved
nevertheless.

Gokula or Vrindavan was the Lord's playing field. Along with his friends, he was known for stealing butter and curd from homes. The pranksters would throw stones at the pots hanging from the ceilings and lick up the goodies. All complained about Him to Yashoda, His mother, but no one really stopped Him from entering their homes.



Krishna enchanting Radha and other Gopis near the Yamuna

Enchanting Musician

I was murali; the one
who plays the flute.
I only played the tunes,
but the gopis were left
enchanted.

Lord Krishna was Gopala – the cowherd who played His flute and danced on the green pastures of Vrindavan with His herd of cows. Krishna also danced on the banks of the Yamuna with the Gopis. This dance is popularly known as 'Rasaleela'. 'Leela' means play. It meant calling the beautiful Gopis and Radha. For the Gopis, this was not merely music or dance; it took on a different dimension of transcendence.



Meera Bai worshipping an idol of Radha-Krishna

Divine Lover

I transformed Putana.
I enamoured Radha.
I enchanted the Gopis.
I even became the divine
lover for Meera.

Krishna first saw Radha when He was seven years old, and she was twelve, in the forests of Vrindavan that had abundant grasslands next to the Yamuna river. Radha and He were twin souls and spent many happy hours together in Braj, entranced with each other. For Radha, Krishna was her world. It was the same for Meera who spent her life worshipping Krishna.



Krishna vanquishing Putana

Ruthless Vanquisher

I did not only annihilate.
I released an imprisoned
soul and gave it moksha.

Kansa ordered his demon sister Putana, to go to Gokul and kill all infants. Putana took the form of a woman, filled her breasts with poison and went about her mission. When she reached Nanda Raja's home, she proceeded to feed baby Krishna. Bal Krishna sucked the life out of her morphed body and forced her to revert to her original self, while she writhed and screamed in pain and finally died. Putana was ultimately liberated. When her huge body was consigned to flames, there arose fragrant fumes to indicate that she had been purified.



Krishna lifting Govardhan Parbat

Valiant Protector

I protect generations
of humans who invest
their faith in me.
I even reason with
the Gods.

Every year the residents of Vrindavana worshipped Lord Indra for creating rain. One year, a young Krishna requested his father to worship Govardhana Hill instead, arguing that the community was dependent on Govardhana Hill and Vrindavana forest for its welfare. King Nanda finally agreed and offered a sacrifice to Govardhana Hill. This angered Lord Indra, who sent a storm to devastate Vrindavana. All the people and animals came to Krishna for shelter, and in a miraculous show of strength, Krishna lifted Govardhana Hill with his little finger, converting it into a huge umbrella. All took shelter underneath it and remained safe till the rains stopped. Later, Lord Indra realized his mistake and apologized to Krishna.



Krishna embracing his childhood friend Sudama

True Friend

I offer myself completely in
friendship. Sometimes they
recognize me instantly;
sometimes it takes an entire
lifetime!

Sudama came from a poor family. But the difference in their social status did not come in the way of his and Krishna's friendship. They lost contact over the years and while Krishna became a military leader and King of great repute at Dwaraka, Sudama continued to be a humble and somewhat impoverished villager. One day, his wife Kalyani reminded him of his friendship with Krishna. Overcoming initial resistance, Sudama agreed to approach Krishna for help. He left with nothing but some beaten rice tied in a cloth as a present. Krishna was greatly pleased to see his old friend. He treated him royally and with much love. An overwhelmed Sudama forgot to ask for help. When Sudama returned home, he found a palatial mansion instead of the hut he had left behind!



Krishna driving Arjuna's chariot at the Kurukshetra battlefield

Astute Statesman

I was never for war.
I was only for peace
and justice and all that
was right.
The war came in between.

In the great battle of Kurukshetra, Arjuna, one of the five Pandava brothers, resisted killing his opponents, the Kauravas, as they were his own family. Krishna then gave him the Gita Gyan, which constitutes the Bhagavad Gita. Krishna explained to Arjuna that his primary duty was to restore peace and well-being even if it meant killing his own people. Order being restored was more important than the fear of consequences or the hope of reward.



Krishna allowing Arjuna to witness His 108 avatars

Profound Philosopher

I am the Holy Spirit.
I am the Consciousness.

Krishna's Philosophy was for Everyone.

Each one of us is not the material body but an eternal spirit soul, part and parcel of God (Krishna). Krishna is eternal, all-knowing, omnipresent and all-powerful. He is the source of all incarnations of God.

The Vedas are the oldest scriptures in the world. The essence of the Vedas is found in the Bhagavad Gita, a literal record of Krishna's words spoken 5,000 years ago in India.

We can perfectly understand the knowledge of self-realization through the instructions contained in the Bhagavad Gita.

अंखियां हरि-दरसन की प्यासी।
देख्यौ चाहति कमलनैन कौ, निसि-दिन रहति उदासी॥
आए ऊँधै फिरि गए आंगन, डारि गए गर फांसी।
केसरि तिलक मोतिन की माला, वृन्दावन के बासी॥
काहू के मन को कोउ न जानत, लोगन के मन हांसी।
सूरदास प्रभु तुम्हरे दरस कौ, करवत लैहौं कासी॥



Gopis after Krishnas departure from Gokul become very sad and this is a song by them:

"Our eyes are thirsty for a glance of lord.

they want to see His lotus eyes and so they remain sad each day.

He, who has a mark of saffron on His forehead and who wears a necklace of pearl and

is the resident of Vrindavan,

He Who has bound us in the bond of love has left us like a wisp of straw and it seems

that he has fastened our necks with a noose, such is the pain of His absence.

He who can read his devotees' mind laughs to Himself seeing their haplessness.

Oh Lord, without your Presence, even Kashi is restlessthen what will become of us ?"