



Leela : Putana Vadh Katha (The story of the killing of Putana)

When Shri Krishna was a child, He performed several Leela's killing the demons sent to Gokul by His uncle, the demoniac King Kansa. Kansa repeatedly sent demons to kill Shri Krishna after a prophecy predicted that the Shri Krishna, the 8th child of Kansa's sister, Devaki, would be his killer.

One such demon was Putana, who was instructed to kill all the children in the area, since Kansa was unsure about which of the children was Shri Krishna. Putana entered the village, taking the form of a beautiful woman when actually she was an ugly demon. As she walked into Gokul, everyone was enchanted by her beauty and thought she was the queen of a nearby town.

As she entered Nandalay, Yashoda Ma was dazzled with Putana's beauty and pleasant smile. Putana quickly engaged Yashoda Ma in conversation as a ploy to get closer to Shri Krishna. She quickly gains the trust of Yashoda Ma, due to her charm, and as Yashoda Ma tended to some housework, she put Lalan in Putana's arms. When she held Him in her arms, she knew instantly that He was no ordinary baby.

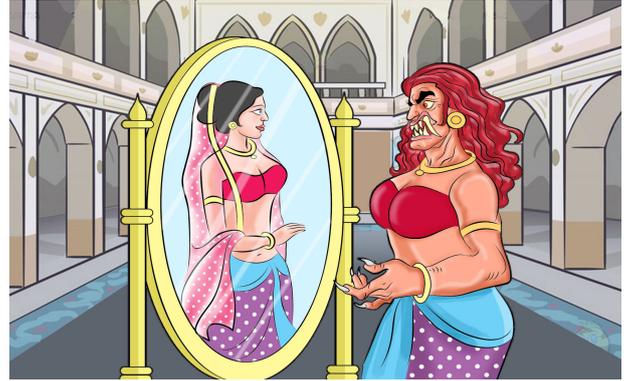
In order to kill Shri Krishna, Putana had smeared poison on her breasts, and thought that when she would feed Him milk, Shri Krishna would suck the poison and it would kill Him.

Seeing Putana approach, Shri Krishna closed His eyes. There are several reasons given for this. It is said that Putana represents *Avidya*, lack of knowledge, and Shri Krishna is full of knowledge. Hence, if Shri Krishna, the all knowledgeable, was to glance at Putana, the lack of knowledge, He would instantly destroy her, and the Leela would not happen. Another reason that is given is that Thakorji thinks, "My favourite food is *Makhan Mishri* (Butter and Sugar) - it is Mahadev who consumes poison" and so when He closes His eyes He is remembering Mahadev. Another explanation given is that this *Leela* is a *Pushti Leela*, and Thakorji closes His eyes to turn away from the fault of Putana and focus on the good qualities - feeding poison is a *dosh* (fault), feeding milk is a *guna* (good quality). Further, Thakorji closes His eyes to think "How many mothers do I have! Devaki Ma, Yashoda Ma, Rohini Ma and now Putana too is feeding me milk so is she another mother?".

As she fed Shri Krishna, He quickly sucked the poison out, and with it, her breath. There was a crash of lightning and a massive vibration on earth and all the other planets, so much that people thought lightning bolts were falling from the sky. As she gasped for air, she screamed "Let me go" and fell with a loud thud to the ground, revealing her true visage as a giant demon. Her arms and legs spread wide enough to cover twelve miles and smashed all the trees, which fell on her, as if to form her funeral pyre.

Hearing the loud thud, Nanda Baba, Yashoda Ma and the gopis all came running out to find Little Shri Krishna was still playing on Putana's lap without a care in the world. Yashoda Ma, Rohini, and other older gopis performed the cleansing rituals by circling a cow tail around His body, washing Him with the urine of a cow, and scattering the dust off a cow's hooves over Him.

Putana gave Shri Krishna poisoned milk and still, Shri Thakorji gave her the position of a mother. This is how full of love our dear Thakorji is. If Putana was given the position of a mother and she was feeding Him poisonous milk, imagine how much love Shri Krishna has for His *Vaishnavs* that give Him *Makhan Mishri* everyday during *Seva* with so much love and care.



Meet One Of Our Youth Members

Sahil Datta

"The youth group has been a great platform to meet young vaishnavs and discuss topical issues which help all of us grow in different areas of life. Although, Pushtimarg's foundations are more than 500 years old, it has always been a challenge I feel for the youth to relate to it predominantly due to language barriers and not having the right guidance. Thanks to Jeje shree, we now have a platform to discuss not just spiritual wisdom, but to do extracurricular activities as well such as group cooking via Zoom. During the lockdown, I feel that we have formed a good bond with each other which allows everybody to express themselves freely. I would encourage the youth to join this group not just to get spiritual wisdom but to meet like-minded individuals."



Basics Of Pushtimarg : Sodash Granths (16 Doctrines)

Shri Vallabhacharyaji has given us a legacy of great literature. His works are based on the Srimad Bhagwat, the Vedas, Srimad Bhagavad Gita and the Bhrahma Sutra. The Sodash Granths mainly deal with narrations as an introduction to the *Shastras* (holy scriptures), their relevance and various implications. They form the principle teachings and code of conduct and also define the practical theology of Pushtimarg.

The Sodash Granths are also sometimes referred to as Shri Mahaprabhuji's Gitaji. The way Shri Krishna's Gitaji was Shri Krishna's responses to Arjun's questions, most of the Sodash Granths are answers that Shri Mahaprabhuji gave to Vaishnavs' questions on *Pushti Bhakti*, *Seva* and our relationship to Shri Thakorji.

Through the principles of Pushti Bhakti, Shri Mahaprabhuji gives us the core message of the Sodash Granths which is, "Total surrender to the lotus feet of Shri Krishna."

The Sodash Granths serve as a lighthouse for bhakts and they speak volumes about cultivating *Prem-Bhakti* (love and devotion) for Shrinathji through *Seva* (service) and *Smaran* (remembrance - e.g. through chanting His name and reading Paths)

The Sodash Granths as narrated by Shri Mahaprabhuji are:

- 1) **Shree Yamunashtak**: Eight versus sung in praise of Shri Yamuna Maharani
- 2) **Bal Bodh**: A guide for beginners on the path of bhakti
- 3) **Siddhanth Muktavali**: String of pearls forming the principles of Pushtimarg
- 4) **Pushti-Pravaha-Maryada-Bhed**: Characteristics of the different types of souls
- 5) **Siddhant Rahasya**: The secret principles of Pushtimarg
- 6) **Navratram**: The nine jewels that sum up 9 important instructions
- 7) **Antah-Karan-Prabodh**: Giving good advice to one's heart
- 8) **Vivek-Dhairya-Ashray**: Shelter of Lord Shri Krishna
- 9) **Krishna-Ashray**: Surrendering and taking refuge of Shri Krishna
- 10) **Chatuh Shloki**: Verses illustrating the four main principles of life: *Dharma* (Duty), *Arth* (Wealth), *Kam* (Desire), *Moksh* (Salvation)
- 11) **Bhakti Vardhini**: Instructions on increasing devotion
- 12) **Jal Bhed**: Difference in waters, the different types of speakers
- 13) **Panch Padyani**: Five instructive verses on the different type of listeners
- 14) **Sanyas Nirnaya**: Decision on taking renunciation
- 15) **Nirodh Lakshanam**: Identifying characteristics of detachment
- 16) **Seva Phalam**: Rewards of performing seva of Shrinathji.



Excerpt taken from *Pushti Marg a Primer* by Lalit Sodha (D.C)



Message From Our Spiritual Head Vaishnavacharya Shri Dwarkeshlaji Mahodayshri

Lohana Mahajan Mandal - Shri Bhagwat Saptah 2013

"All the characters we see in Krishna Katha are not just characters of a *Leela*, but are the negative characteristics that we find in ourselves. Putana for example represents *Avidya*, the lack of knowledge, and by killing Putana, Shri Krishna removes *Avidya* from the Vrajasis' lives.

We have to be careful to identify these characteristics, and these *asuras* that might be in our minds and our lives, the negative qualities that keep us away from Shri Krishna. By performing our *Seva*, we ensure that Shri Thakorji is always in our lives, looking out for us, destroying any of these bad characteristics that might hinder us in our *Seva* and in our relationship with Him."

Thakurani Teej

On 23rd of July, Vaishnav's all around the world celebrated Thakurani Teej.

Thakurani Teej is the day when Shri Mahaprabhuji reached the banks of Shri Yamunaji for the first time. Here he started the praise of Shri Yamunaji and gave the world Yamunashtak, just as he started with 'Namami Yamunamaham...'

Shri Yamunaji manifested out of the waters and came to him. He bowed down to her and sought her permission to start Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan on her banks. With Yamunaji's blessing, he started the same, and for the next 7 days, kept going. Then came gyaaras on the 8th day, when the Bhagwat Parayan came to an end. The day Prabhu himself manifested to Shri Mahaprabhuji. The day we today know as Pavitra Gyaaras.

It was with the blessing of Shri Yamunaji that Shri Vallabh could find Shri Thakorji. She is the gateway to our Lord.

Thakurani Teej happens to be a celebration of the days of hindola by Shri Swaminiji and Shri Yamunaji in honour of Shriji at their *nikunj* (abode). Thakorji presided at their abode thereby fulfilling all their Manoraths. Thakorji along with Shri Thakuraniiji or Swaminiji presided over the Hindola are decorated with garlands and ornaments. The divine couple gives darshan to their devotees on this day.

August - Pushtimarg Calendar

Ekadashi/Jayanti Dates	Full/No-Moon Dates
Wed 12th : Janmashtami	Wed 19th : No-Moon
Sat 15th : Aja	
Thur 13th : Nand-Mahotsav	
Sat 29th : Shri Vaman Jayanti	