



Leela : Brahma Steals The Gopas

After having slain Aghasura and rescuing the cowherd boys, Thakorji, along with His gopa (cowherd) friends sat down to enjoy their lunch on the banks of the river Yamuna. They led their cows off to graze in a nearby field, before having their meal and enjoying His company.



While having lunch, the boys noticed that their calves had moved further away, and wanted to bring them closer to ensure their safety. Thakorji told all His friends to sit and enjoy lunch, and He went to look for the little calves Himself, still carrying a morsel of rice in his hand. He searched everywhere in the mountains: the bushes, the caves, the paths, and the little forests. But they were nowhere to be found.

Lord Brahma had been watching all the happenings of the previous lilas, and was astonished at the *balak* (child) Thakorji's powers. He had decided to see them for himself and had hidden the calves as a test. When Thakorji returned to the banks of the river where He had left His friends, they too were missing. Brahma had hidden them too. Krishna knew immediately that this was Brahma's work and decided to teach him a lesson about the limitation of his powers.

To spare the gopi mothers their worry for their children, Krishna took on the form of all the *gopas* and their calves and went to each of their households. In this manner, Shri Thakorji fulfilled the *manoraths* of all the gopis and the cows, who had wanted to serve Thakorji as their own *balak* (child). The gopis unwittingly welcomed Him with open arms and doted on Him even more than their own children. Even the cow mothers loved the calves more than their own. They were showering the Lord Himself with love.

After a year (a speck in time for Brahma), Brahma saw Thakorji playing with the cowherd boys and tending the calves. Brahma was awestruck; hadn't he hidden them all only a while ago? He was unable to discern whether Thakorji might have found the boys he had hidden or had somehow made them of His own creation. Brahma became silent and Thakorji knew the lesson had been learned.

Shri Thakorji removed the Maya, and Brahma was enlightened to see himself and the universe in perfect clarity again. Brahma realised his mistake, and came down to earth to lay at Thakorji's feet, understanding that he should never do something like this again.

This Lila of Shri Thakorji is a reminder to all Vaishnavs to never cast a doubt on Shri Thakorji's true identity as *Purna Purshottam* - Shri Thakorji performs all of these Lilas to fulfil our *manoraths*, sometimes taking the form of a child and stealing butter, and other times taking the form of a *Kishor* (young adult) and performing *Raas* with the gopis. Ultimately He is the cause of all causes, He is *Purna Purshottam*. It is a reminder of the *krupa* (mercy) we have of Shri Thakorji, that He performs all these Lilas for us to experience.



Message From Our Spiritual Head Vaishnavacharya Shri Dwarkeshlalji Mahodayshri

Shrinathdam Haveli Pratham (1st) Patotsav

"It gives me immense *Anand* to be celebrating the Pratham Patotsav of Shrinathdham National Haveli with all our *vahala* Vaishnavs. This marks a milestone in our journey to spread the Pushtimarg Dharam in the UK. Our goal with this Haveli is to provide a base that everyone, from children and youth to adults and the elderly can come to and nourish their relationship with Shri Thakorji.

What would give me even more *Anand* is when our children in the UK are proud to say that we are Pushtimargiya Vaishnavs, these are the teachings of our religion and Shrinathdham Haveli is our place of worship.

We have embarked on this path, with the start of Balpushti and Vaishnav Youth Group, and I am incredibly proud of the activities these groups are undertaking. It was a pleasant surprise to see the Balpushti children perform Manglacharan, and the Vaishnav Youth Group perform their *Natika* (drama) on Shri Thakorji's Lilas. I look forward to the growing enthusiasm in these activities from all of you."

Basics Of Pushtimarg : Shrinathji's Swaroop

For the next few newsletters, we will look at the significance of the different parts of Shrinathji's Swaroop.

Shrinathji's Vangmay Swaroop (Shrinathji's physical Swaroop and the meaning behind the Swaroop)



Shrinathji Himself, as seen above, is swaroop *atmak* (representing Shri Thakorji's physical form) & Shrimad Bhagwat is His *lilatmak* swaroop (swaroop representing Shri Thakorji's pastimes). Shrimad Bhagwat has 12 *skandhs* (parts), which are Shrinathji's 12 body parts. They are as follows:-

Shrimad Bhagwat Skandh (Canto/Part)	Shriji's Body Part
Pratham (1st) Skandh	Right Foot
Dwitya (2nd) Skandh	Left Foot
Tritya (3rd) Skandh	Right Hand
Chaturth (4th) Skandh	Left Hand
Pancham (5th) Skandh	Right Thigh
Shasth (6th) Skandh	Left Thigh
Saptam (7th) Skandh	Right Palm
Ashtam (8th) Skandh	Right Breast
Navam (9th) Skandh	Left Breast
Dasham (10th) Skandh	Heart
Ekadash (11th) Skandh	Head
Dwadash (12th) Skandh	Left Palm

The Dasham Skandh of the Shrimad Bhagwat is the heart of Shrinathji and is of most significance to Pushtimarg Vaishnavs as it contains the auspicious lilas of Gopalprabhu's birth and time in Gokul.

Excerpt taken from Shrinathji a Primer by Lalit Sodha (D.C)



Benefits Of Regularly Reciting Yamunashtak



- All sins and sorrows are removed.
- She enables an individual to become dear to Shri Krishna.
- She removes all obstacles that come in the way between the devotee and Shri Krishna.
- She bestows the individual soul a relationship with Shri Krishna.
- Pure love, affection and devotion towards Shri Krishna is awakened and enhanced.
- One is able to receive all kinds of divine powers and accomplishments.
- Shri Krishna is pleased towards His devotee.
- She removes the faults of Kali from His devotees.
- One is able to conquer their inner self turning base passions into better affection.
- Attainment of the *tanunavatva* (divine body) for performing Seva.
- Leela Darshana (The Divine sight of Shri Krishna's different kinds of Divine sports).
- The capacity enabling one to experience divinity in the Divine sports of Shri Krishna.
- Development of divine feelings.
- Experience the presence of Shri Krishna in all and all in Shri Krishna.
- To have Shri Krishna's blessing even during difficult days.
- To feel the pleasure of *krupa* (Shri Krishna's grace).

Who is Shri Yamunaji?

Shri Yamuna is the fourth element of Shrinathji. She is the 4th *patrani* of Krishna. She is the beloved of Shri Krishna and not the wedded wife. Shri Yamuna is the daughter of *Surya* (sun) and sister of Yamraj. She is the symbol of *mukti* from the evils of Yamraj. Yamunaji is the "1st Devi" of Pushtimarg. She is also known as Kalindi. Yamunaji had emerged from the heart of Surya Narayan and landed at Mount Kalindi. She had flown on the earth for the benefit of its disciples to have *bhakti bhaav*. Yamunaji is the melted form of *Bhakti Raas*. Shri Vallabhacharya has described her in the Yamunastak. Yamunaji has come to earth to be holy and sacred. *Bhakti Bhavs* image is the meaning of Yamuna. One who drinks Yamuna water becomes firm devotee of *Bhakti Bhav*.

September - Pushtimarg Calendar

Ekadashi/Jayanti Dates	Full/No-Moon Dates
Sun 13th - Indira	Thurs 17th : No-Moon
Sun 27th - Kamala (Adhik-Maas)	Shraddh & Saanzi end