



# Damodar Term Reader



**Stories and more about our devotional themes**

By Jaya Dayini dd



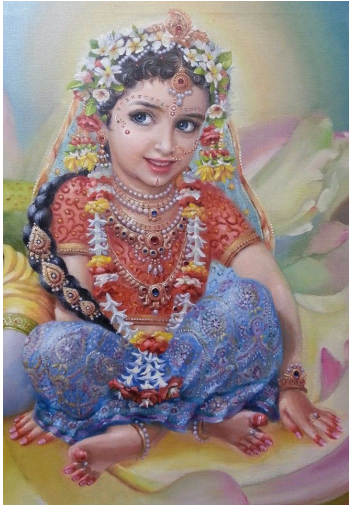
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## A Beautiful Little Girl is Born

### Who is Shreemati Radharani, anyway? Why do we worship Her?



Shreemati Radharani is very special to devotees. She is special because She is the dearest devotee of Lord Krishna. By taking Her example, all devotees can learn to worship the Lord. Shreemati Radharani knows how to cook **delicious** dishes for the Lord; She makes Him beautiful garlands, and decorates His sitting places so wonderfully. Everything Shreemati Radharani does is perfect - She is exactly the way a devotee of Lord Krishna should be.

Here in Vrindavan, the local people say, “Radhe, Radhe!” because they know that it is only by pleasing Shreemati Radharani that one can reach the Lord. The mercy of Krishna comes to a devotee who serves Shreemati Radharani - She goes to the Lord, and begs for His mercy.

1. What special things does Radharani do for Lord Krishna?
  - a. She \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. She \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. She \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do the local people here in Vrindavan say “Radhe, Radhe!”? Because they know that  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What’s one way to get the Lord’s mercy?  
We can get the Lord’s mercy by \_\_\_\_\_ing  
\_\_\_\_\_



## *Do you know these words?*

midday	grave	consort
floating	previous	infant
waded	performed	overjoyed
radiant	austerities	newborn
gleamed	rosy	lay
smoky	plump	gem-studded
eyelashes	rites	cradle
rocked	feared	dumb
sadness	blind	exquisitely
joyful	squeezed	crawled
anxiously	peered	forward
transcendental	whimper	adorable
charming	assembled	amazed

Many of these words have *-ed endings*. That means that they are **past participles** of verbs used to talk about **past time**, OR that they are participles used as **adjectives** to talk about **HOW** something is. Copy out all of the *-ed ending* words into your notebook. Check them in your dictionary. Make sentences of your own with them to learn them for the future.



Shreemati Radharani was not born like an ordinary baby. As she is a very special personality, she came to this world in a very special way.

*...and she has sooooo much fun dancing with Her Krsna!*





**tapta-kancana-gaurangi, radhe vrindavanesvari  
vrishabhanu-sute devi, pranamami hari-priye**

तपत-कांचन गौरांगी, राधे वृन्दावनेश्वरी ।  
वृषभानु सुते देवी, प्रणमामि हरी प्रिये ॥

**Translation:**

I offer my respects to Radharani, whose bodily complexion is like molten (liquid) gold and who is the Queen of Vrindavana. You are the daughter of King Vrishabhanu, and You are very dear to Lord Krishna.





## Out of a Golden Lotus



Now read this story:

In the Puranas (Vedic scriptures), there is the story of Shreemati Radharani's appearance. King Vrishabhanu lived with his wife Queen Kirtida in a large house in Vraja. Their village is called Rawal. One day, Vrishabhanu Maharaja went to the bank of Yamuna at around noon. He wanted to take a **midday** bath. The sun was hot. At that moment, he saw a golden lotus flower **floating** on the water. The golden lotus flower shone brightly like a thousand suns. Vrishabhanu immediately **waded** into the river. He went near to the golden lotus flower. There he saw the most beautiful and **radiant** baby girl. The lovely baby was lying on the petals of the lotus.

Suddenly, Lord Brahma appeared. He spoke in a **grave** voice. Lord Brahma told the surprised king a story. In his **previous** life, Vrishabhanu and his wife Kirtida had **performed** great **austerities** to get a baby. They wanted Lakshmidēvi, the **consort** of Lord Vishnu, to come and be their daughter. Lord Brahma told Vrishabhanu that this girl was the goddess Lakshmi Herself. He advised him to take good care of Her.

Lord Brahma then picked up the beautiful **infant**. He gently placed the baby girl in the arms of Vrishabhanu.



The king was **overjoyed**. He smiled down at his sleeping **newborn** with wonder in his wide eyes. After some time, he returned home. He



carefully pushed the curtain aside, and found his wife waiting for him. Queen Kirtida quickly dried her hands on her skirt, and rushed to see what the king was carrying so delicately. She looked down and her eyes **gleamed**.

The beautiful baby girl in the king's arms was golden in colour. Her golden face was soft and bright. Her closed eyes had long **smoky eyelashes**. Those eyelashes fell gently onto round cheeks. Her cheeks were **rosy**. Her lips were dark red and **plump** like ripe berries.

Mother Kirtida took the baby into her arms and went off to the bedroom. There she sat and held her daughter for a long, long time.

King Vrishabhanu arranged for all kinds of religious **rites** to be performed. He donated thousands of cows to the brahmanas. Baby Radhika **lay** in a **gem-studded cradle**. The little girls of Rawal came to see Her. They **rocked** Her **cradle** back and forth. They all wanted to be Her sisters and to take care of Her.

One day, one little girl looked up from the **cradle**. She asked Mother Kirtida the question everyone in Rawal had been asking:

"Maiya! Why does Radhika make no noise?"

"Well," said Queen Kirtida slowly, "I don't know..."

"And, maiya?"

"Yes, lalee?"

"When will Radhika open Her eyes?"

This was their secret **sadness**. King Vrishabhanu and his wife **feared** that their baby girl was **blind** and **dumb**. Their **exquisitely** beautiful little creature never made any sound. She never opened Her eyes. She slept. She woke up, and moved Her head this way and that. But She never opened Her eyes.

A few days later, Shrila Narada Muni visited the home of King Vrishabhanu and Mother Kirtida. The **sage** told the king to continue with the birth celebrations. He told him not to worry about the blindness. Vrishabhanu therefore made **elaborate arrangements** for a special birth celebration. He sent out invitations to all the residents of Rawal and





Gokula. He especially invited his dear friend Nanda Maharaja and family.

On the celebration day, the guests came early. Everyone was dressed up in their special clothes. The birth celebration was very **joyful**. There were colourful decorations. There were many delicious dishes to taste and enjoy. Nanda Maharaja and Mother Yashoda came from Gokula. Mother Rohini came, too, and brought their small children, Krishna and Balarama. Kirtida was so pleased to see her friend, Yashoda. She told her that she was very happy to have such a beautiful daughter. Kirtida also told Yashoda about her fears. She **feared** that her child was both dumb and blind. Mother Yashoda **squeezed** Mother Kirtida's hand.



Krishna was one year old. He happily **crawled** around the courtyard. His hands and knees made special prints in the soft dust. He reached the **gem-studded cradle**. Radhika was lying there silently. Krishna held on to the side. He pulled himself up. Mother Yashoda and Mother Kirtida watched **anxiously**.

Krishna **peered** down into the **cradle**. He saw the beautiful moon-like face of baby Radhika. He smiled. His peacock feather fell **forward**. It brushed His long eyelashes.

Baby Radhika smelt the sweet **fragrance** of Krishna's **transcendental** body. She immediately opened Her eyes up wide. She looked up into



Krishna's lotus eyes. They smiled at each other. Radhika looked at Krishna. Krishna looked at Radhika.

Radhika began to **whimper**. She cried softly. Her eyes were smiling.

For the very first time, King Vrishabhanu's **adorable** baby girl made a sound. For the very first time, Mother Kirtida's **charming** child saw the world. The king and Mother Kirtida, and all of the **assembled** Vrajavasis were **amazed** to learn that their beloved daughter Radhika was neither **blind** nor **dumb** after all.

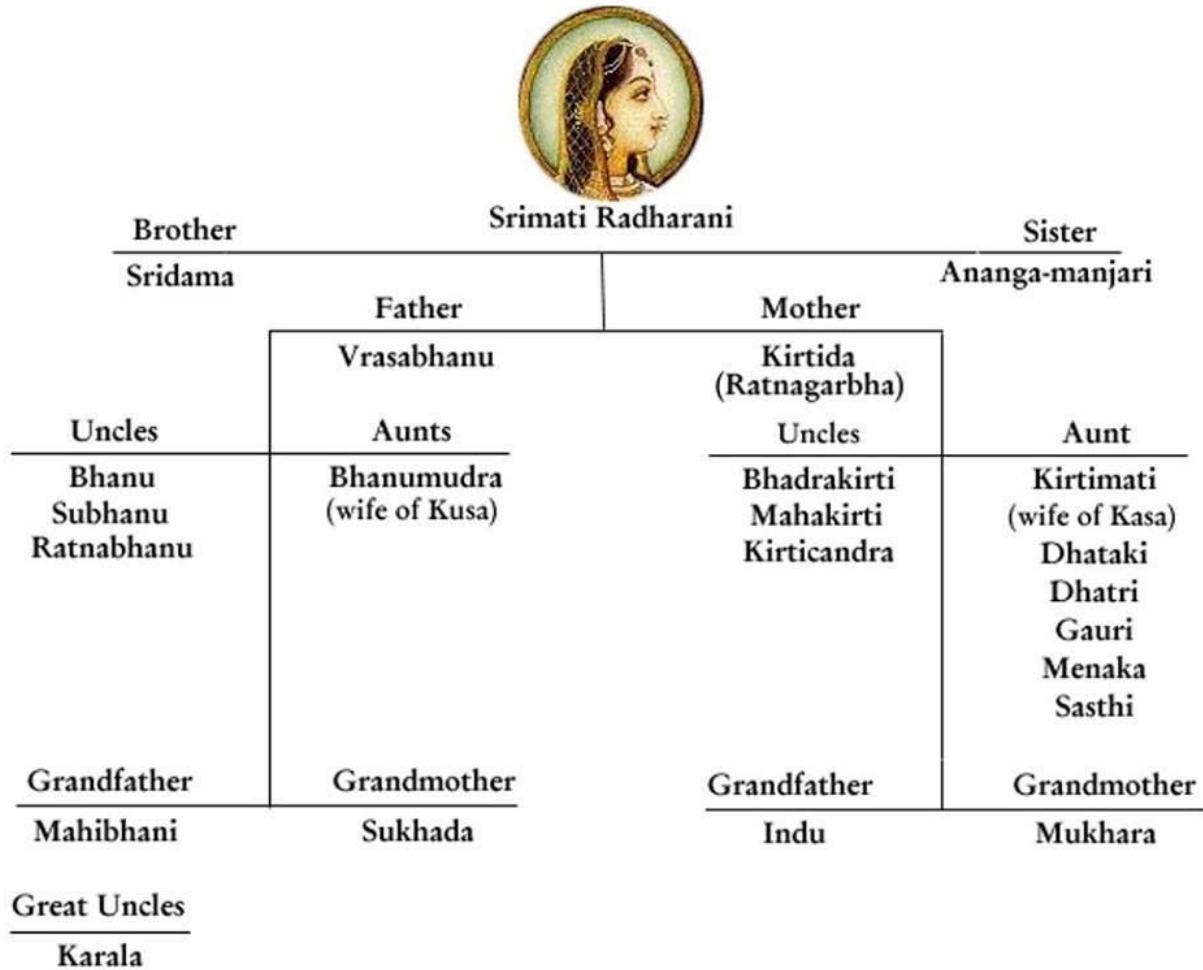


**Remembering what you read** - *can you answer these questions?*

1. How does baby Radhika come to her father, King Vrishabhanu?
2. What is wrong with baby Radhika?
3. What does little Krishna do at the birth celebrations in Rawal?
4. And baby Radhika? What happens when Krishna comes to Her cradle?



# Shreemati Radharani's family members





# Respect



What is **respect**? **Respect** means that you see someone above you, or more than you, and so you show that person how you have understood his or her position (real or imagined) by giving that person some special treatment, honour, or attention.

Students **respect** teachers (why?); citizens **respect** policemen and government officials (why?), and devotees? Who do devotees **respect**? Actually devotees **respect** just about everyone, as everyone is in some way or another serving the Lord!

As Srila Prabhupada explains in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* 4.3.22, “The Lord says in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* that offering **respect** to His devotee is more valuable than offering **respect** to Him. Devotees do not identify with the body, so offering **respect** to a Vaiṣṇava means offering **respect** to Viṣṇu.” So, we **respect** devotees, and we **respect** the Lord as well.

So, why do students respect teachers?

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And why do citizens respect policemen?

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And what about devotees? Who do they respect? Why?

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**Whose feet do you touch? Why?**

Respectable people	Why you respect them



Touching the feet of elders is a tradition in Indian culture. Can you think of other traditional ways to show respect?





What do you think about these school rules?  
Can you follow them? Why not?

Rules you can follow:	
Rules you can't follow:	





11. She is always full of mercy.



Radharani always **searches for** Krsna.  
She only wants to be with Him.



## Sixteen names of Shreemati Radharani

1. Radha – She who is the bestower of ultimate divine bliss
2. Rasesvari – She Who is the Goddess of the rasa dance
3. Rasa Vasini – She Who always lives with the rasa dance
4. Rasikesvari – She Who is the Goddess of those who relish divine mellows
5. Krsna Pranadhika – She Who is dearer to Krishna than His own life
6. Krsna Priya – She Who is Krishna's most dearly beloved companion
7. Krsna Svarupini – She Whose form resembles Krishna is so many ways
8. Krsna Vamanga Sambhuta – She Who is generated from Krishna's left side
9. Paramananda Rupini – She Who is the personification of supreme ecstasy
10. Krsna – She Who bestows the best form of supreme liberation
11. Vrindavani – She Who lives in Vrindavana
12. Vrinda – She Who always lives in the company of Her girlfriends
13. Vrindavana Vinodini – She Who enjoys many pleasures in Vrindavana
14. Chandravali – She Whose form has many moons
15. Chandra Kamta – She Whose effulgence is like the moon
16. Sarach Chandra Prabhanana – She Whose face glows like the full moon of August



## Sri Sri Damodarastakam

(1)

namāmīśvaram sac-cid-ānanda-rūpam  
 lasat-kunḍalam gokule bhrājamaanam  
 yaśodā-bhiyolūkhalād dhāvamānam  
 parāmr̥ṣṭam atyantato drutya gopyā

To the supreme controller, who possesses an eternal form of blissful knowledge, whose glistening earrings swing to and fro, who manifested Himself in Gokula, who stole the butter that the gopis kept hanging from the rafters of their storerooms, and who then quickly jumped up and ran in retreat in fear of Mother Yasoda, but was ultimately caught - to that Supreme Lord, Sri Damodara, I offer my humble obeisances.

(2)

rudantam muhur netra-yugmam mṛjantam  
 karāmbhoja-yugmena sātāṅka-netram  
 muhuḥ śvāsa-kampa-trirekhāṅka-kaṇṭha-  
 sthita-graivam dāmodaram bhakti-baddham

Upon seeing His mother's whipping stick, He cried and rubbed His eyes again and again with His two lotus hands. His eyes were fearful and His breathing quick, and as Mother Yasoda bound His belly with ropes, He shivered in fright and His pearl necklace shook. To this Supreme Lord, Sri Damodara, I offer my humble obeisances.



(3)

itīdṛk sva-līlābhir ānanda-kunḍe  
 sva-ghoṣam nimajjantam ākhyāpayantam  
 tadīyeṣita-jñeṣu bhaktair jitatvam  
 punaḥ prematas tam śatāvṛtti vande

Those superexcellent pastimes of Lord Krishna's babyhood drowned the inhabitants of Gokula in pools of ecstasy. To the devotees who are attracted only to His majestic aspect of Narayana in Vaikuntha, the Lord herein reveals: "I am conquered and overwhelmed by pure loving devotion." To the Supreme Lord, Damodara, my obeisances hundreds and hundreds of times.

(4)

varam deva mokṣam na mokṣāvadhim vā  
 na canyam vṛṇe 'ham vareṣād apīha  
 idam te vapur nātha gopāla-bālam  
 sadā me manasy āvirāstām kim anyaiḥ

O Lord, although You are able to give all kinds of benedictions, I do not pray to You for liberation, nor eternal life in Vaikuntha, nor any other boon. My only prayer is that Your childhood pastimes may constantly appear in my mind. O Lord, I do not even want to know your feature of Paramatma. I simply wish that Your childhood pastimes may ever be enacted in my heart.



(5)

idam te mukhāmbhojam atyanta-nīlair  
 vṛtam kuntalaiḥ snigdha-raktaiś ca gopyā  
 muhuś cumbitam bimba-raktādharam me  
 manasy āvirāstām alam lakṣa-lābhaiḥ

O Lord, the cheeks of Your blackish lotus face, which is encircled by locks of curling hair, have become reddened like bimba fruits due to Mother Yasoda's kisses. What more can I describe than this? Millions of opulences are of no use to me, but may this vision constantly remain in my mind.

(6)

namo deva dāmodarānanta viṣṇo  
 prasīda prabho duḥkha-jālābdhi-magnam  
 kṛpā-dr̥ṣṭi-vṛṣṭyāti-dīnam batānu  
 grhāṇeṣa mām ajñam edhy akṣi-dr̥śyaḥ

O unlimited Vishnu! O master! O Lord! Be pleased upon me! I am drowning in an ocean of sorrow and am almost like a dead man. Please shower the rain of mercy on me; uplift me and protect me with Your nectarean vision.





(7)

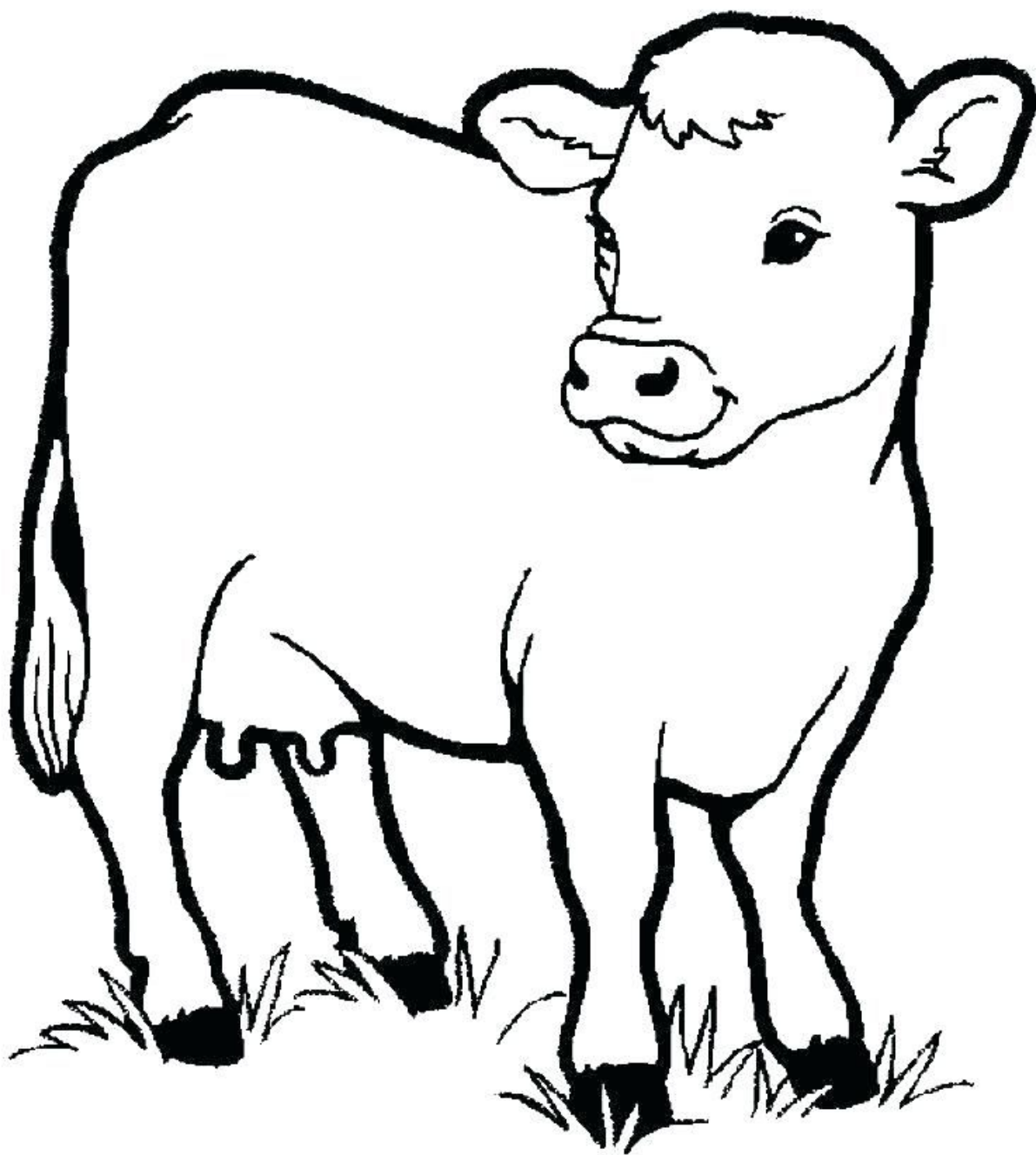
kuverātmajau baddha-mūrtyaiva yadvat  
 tvayā mocitau bhakti-bhājau kṛtau ca  
 tathā prema-bhaktim svakām me prayaccha  
 na mokṣe graho me 'sti dāmodareha

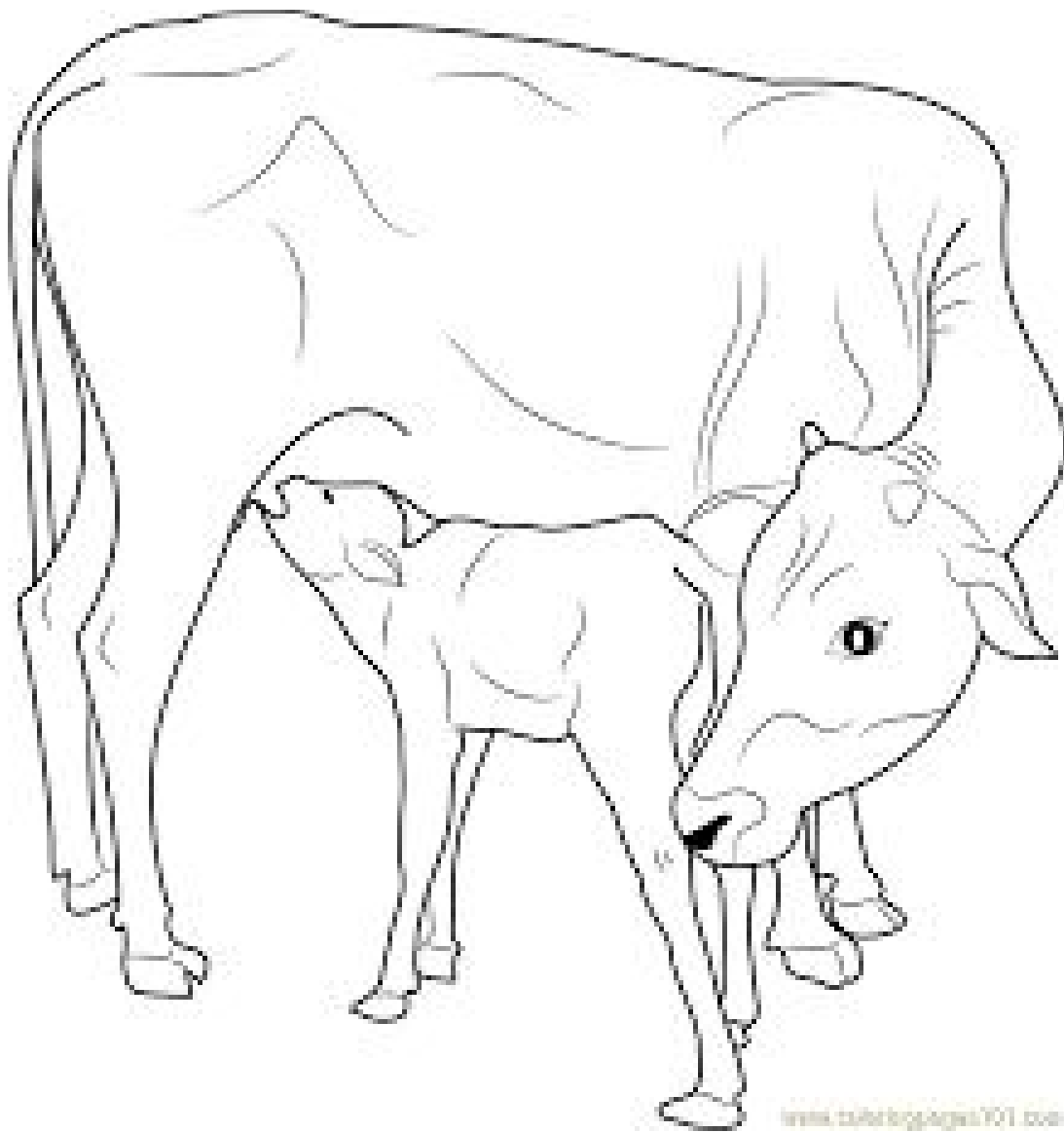
O Lord Damodara, in Your form as a baby Mother Yasoda bound You to a grinding stone with a rope for tying cows. You then freed the sons of Kuvera, Manigriva and Nalakuvara, who were cursed to stand as trees and You gave them the chance to become Your devotees. Please bless me in this same way. I have no desire for liberation into Your effulgence.

(8)

namas te 'stu dāmne sphurad-dīpti-dhāmne  
 tvadīyodarāyātha viśvasya dhāmne  
 namo rādhikāyai tvadīya-priyāyai  
 namo 'nanta-līlāya devāya tubhyam

O Lord, the entire universe was created by Lord Brahma, who was born from Your abdomen, which was bound with a rope by Mother Yasoda. To this rope I offer my humble obeisances. I offer my obeisances to Your most beloved Shreemati Radharani and to Your unlimited pastimes.



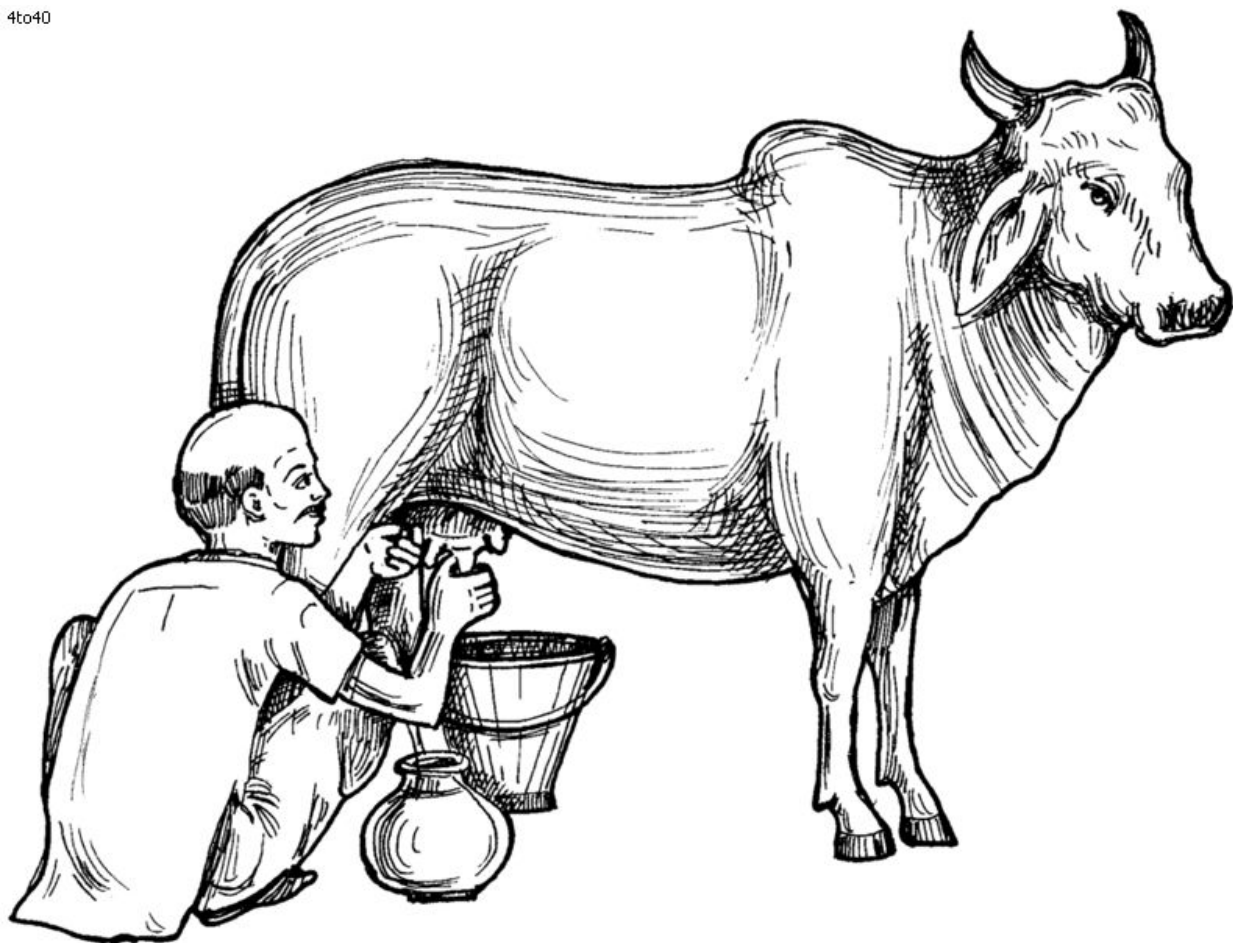


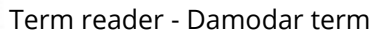
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4to40





- Base of the horns - Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu
- Tip of the horns - all of the holy waters
- Forehead - Lord Shiva
- Middle of the forehead - Mother Parvati
- Nose - Lord Ganesh
- Tip of the nose - Lord Kartikeya
- Heart - Lord Yamaraja
- Cow dung - Yamuna-maiyi
- Tail - all of the demigods
- Hind area - Mother Lakshmi
- Hairs - all of the sages





**नमो ब्रह्मण्य देवाय गोब्राह्मण हिताय च ।  
जगत् हिताय कृष्णाय गोविन्दाय नमो नमः ॥**

**namo brahmanya-devaya, go-brahmana-hitaya ca  
jagad-dhitaya krishnaya, govindaya namo namah**

**Translation:**

My Lord, You are the well-wisher of the cows and the brahmanas, and You are the well-wisher of the entire human society and world.







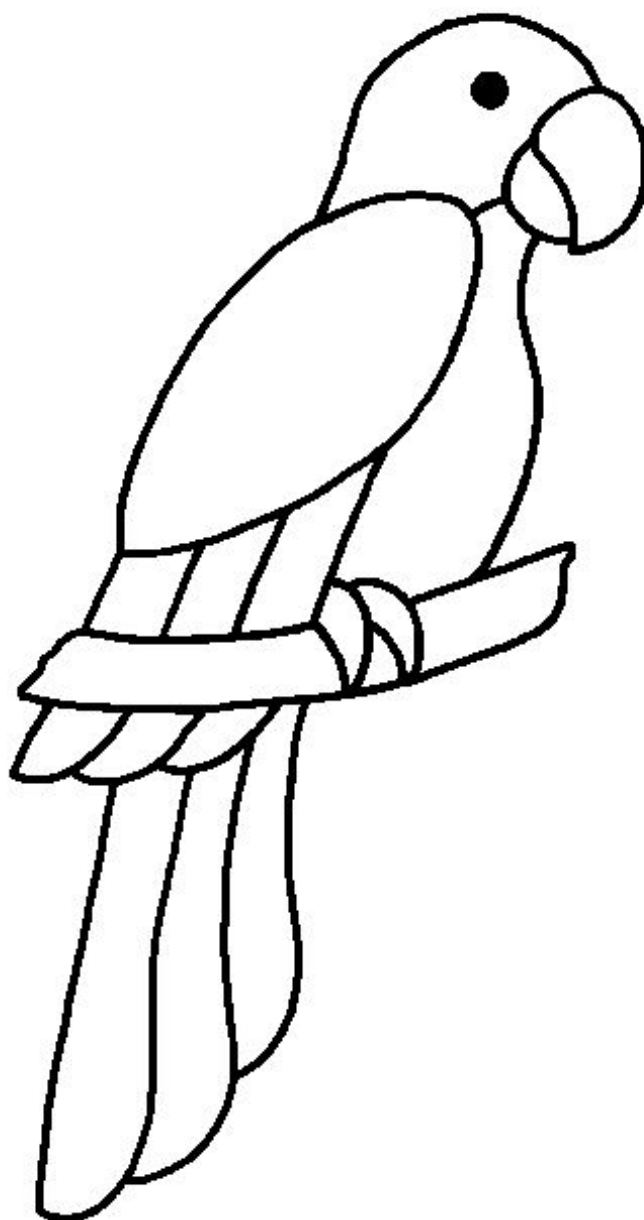
# Who is Tulasi-devi?



**Tulasi-devi holds a green parrot.**

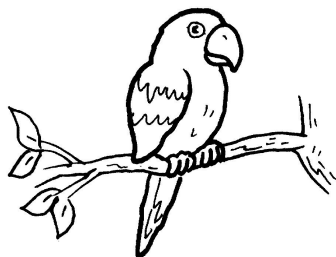


**Colour this parrot green.**





Here's Tulasi devi with so many parrots. Tulasi devi has another name as well, Vrinda devi.

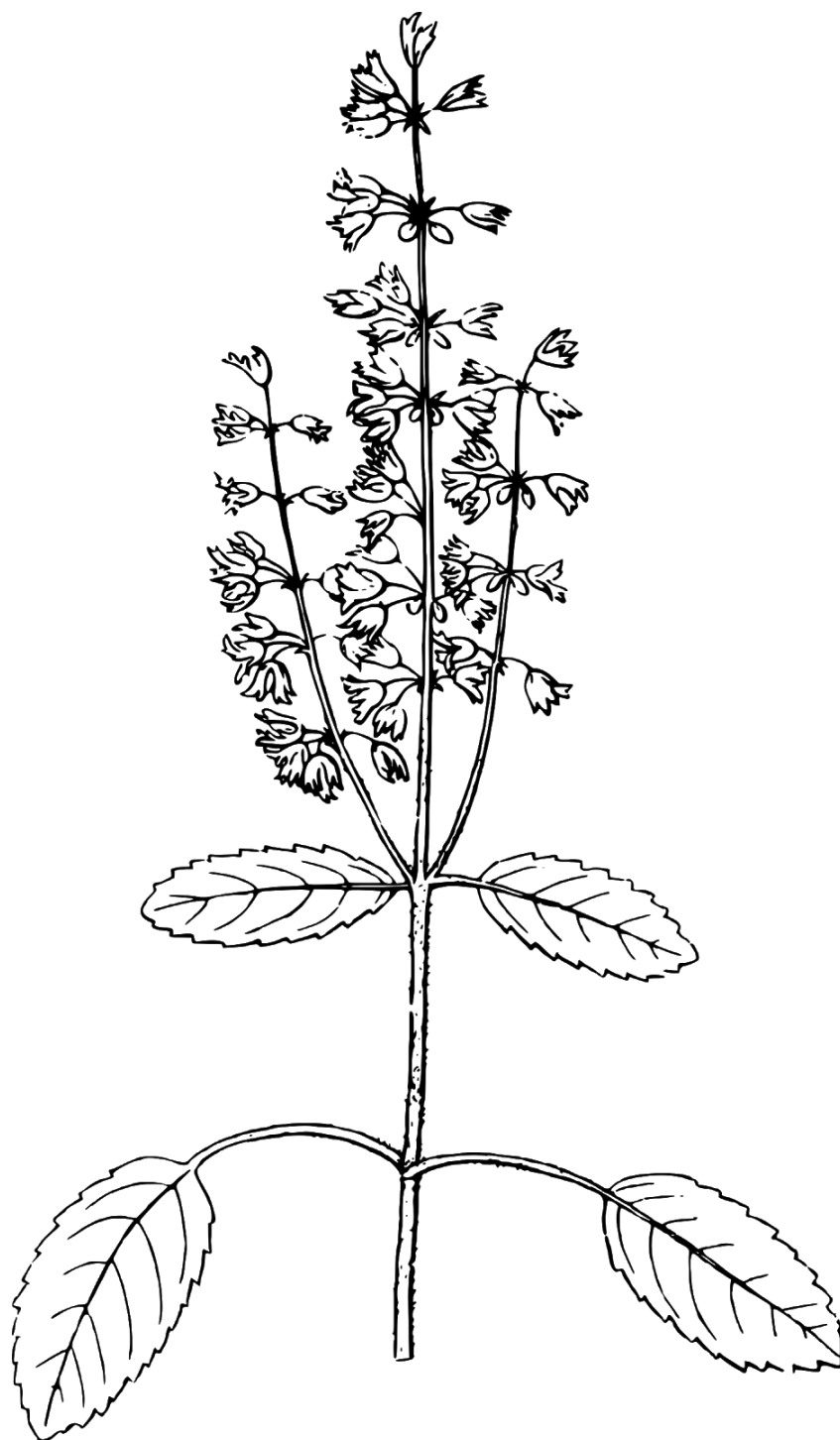


Count the parrots:

How many are green? \_\_\_

How many are blue? \_\_\_

How many are orange? \_\_\_



**Sreemati Tulasi Maharani is a very dear devotee of Lord Krishna**





## Sri Tulasi Pranama

vrindayai tulasi-devyai  
 priyayai keshavasya cha  
 krishna-bhakti-prade devi  
 satyavatyai namo namaha

vrndayai--unto Vrnda; tulasi-devyai--unto Tulasi Devi; priyayai-- who is dear; kesavasya--to Lord Kesava; ca-and; krsna-bhakti-- devotional service to Lord Krsna, prade--who bestows; devi--O goddess; satya-vatyai--unto Satyavati; namah namah--repeated obeisances.

### Original translation

I offer my **repeated** obeisances unto Vrinda, Sreemati Tulasi Devi, who is very dear to Lord Keshava. O goddess, you **bestow** devotional service to Lord Krishna and **possess** the highest truth.

### Simple translation

I offer my obeisances again and again to Vrinda, Sreemati Tulasi Devi. She is very dear to Lord Keshava (Lord Krishna). O goddess, you give devotional service to Lord Krishna. You keep the highest truth.

## From the Skanda Purana:



"Tulasi is **auspicious** in all **respects**. Simply by seeing, simply by touching, simply by remembering, simply by praying to, simply by bowing before, simply by hearing about or simply by **sowing** this tree, there is always **auspiciousness**. Anyone who comes in touch with the tulasi tree in the above-mentioned ways lives **eternally** in the Vaikuntha world."



Something **auspicious** brings good fortune, or luck.

There are seven (7) auspicious activities listed in the verse. What are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ to
5. \_\_\_\_\_ before
6. \_\_\_\_\_ about
7. \_\_\_\_\_



## Tulasi-devi becomes a plant

Once upon a time, Tulasi-devi was born. She was the daughter of King Kushadvaja. When she was old enough, she was married to Jalandara. Jalandara means “one who is born from water”.

Tulasi-devi was very pure, purer than everyone else. A pure wife makes her husband stronger. A pure wife never looks at another man. She only sees her husband.

Jalandara was **evil**. He wanted to become very strong, stronger than everyone else. Jalandara became so strong that no one could stop him. Even Lord Shiva could not **defeat** Jalandara in battle. All the demigods went to Lord Vishnu for help.

Lord Vishnu was very smart, smarter than everyone else. He had an idea. Lord Vishnu changed His form. Now the Lord looked just like Jalandara. He went to Jalandara’s house.

“Dear wife, I am home!” The Lord called out to Tulasi-devi.

Tulasi-devi came to greet Him. She was happy to see her husband.

“Yes, pati. Welcome home,” Tulasi-devi lifted her veil and smiled into her husband’s eyes.

But this was not her husband. Now Tulasi-devi was not pure, purer than everyone else anymore.

Something was wrong. Jalandara could feel a change. In battle, his hands shook. He was confused. Jalandara became weak, weaker than everyone else. The demigods came. They easily killed Jalandara.

Lord Vishnu smiled, too. He changed His form again. Now He was the four-armed Lord. Tulasi-devi understood. She was very angry, angrier than everyone else.

“How could you **trick** me, my Lord? My pati is dead. Why did you do this to me? I am Your devotee!” Tulasi-devi spoke hotly. Her hands shook. A



**lock** of black hair fell in her eyes.

“Lord Vishnu, You have a stone heart. You do not care for Your devotee. I **curse** You. May You become a stone!”

Lord Vishnu knew the heart of His pure devotee. He **accepted** this curse.

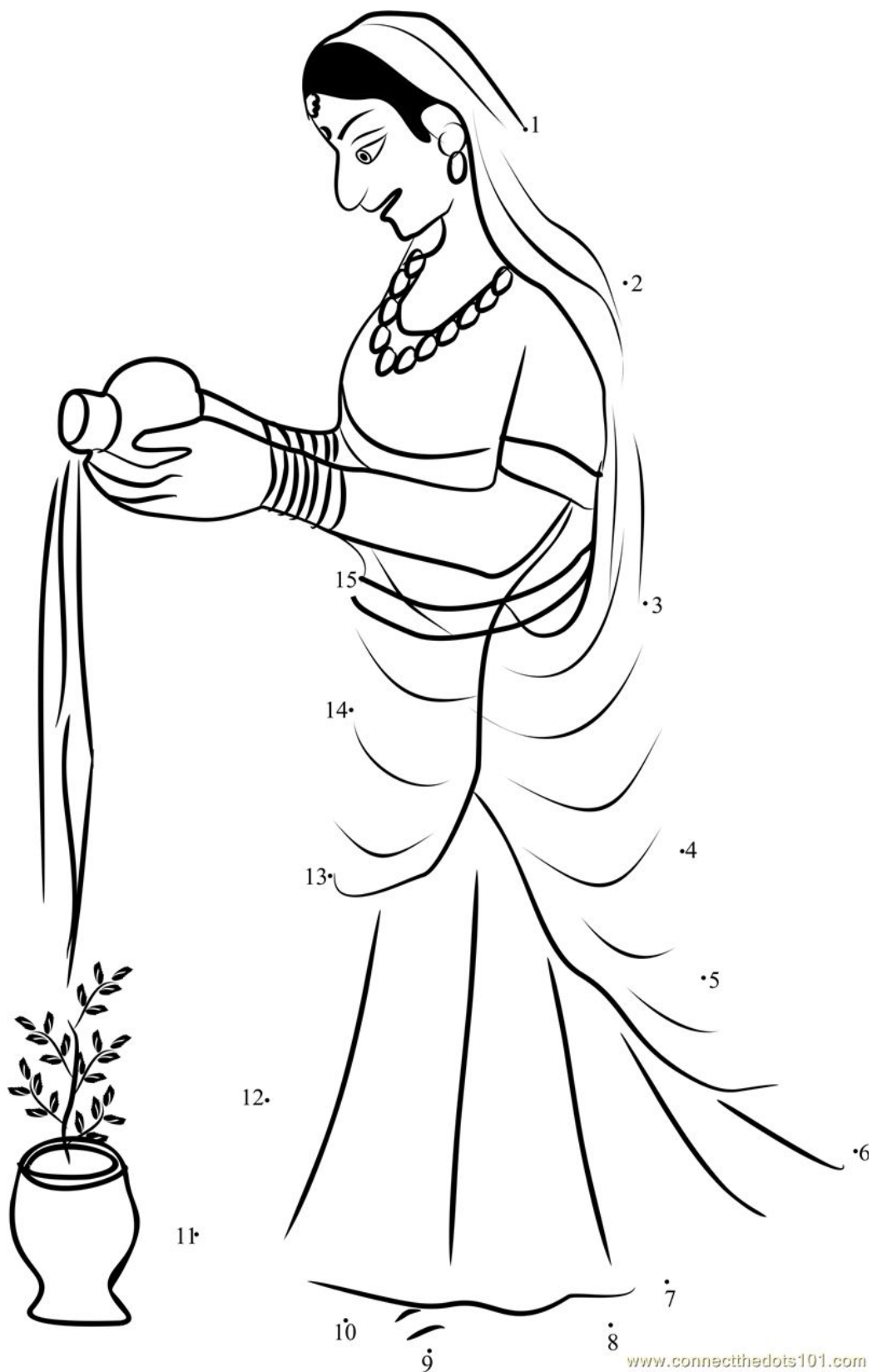
“I promise to **appear** as a stone. I will be the Saligrama-shila. I will be in the Gandika River. My devotees can find Me there. But you are so pure, purer than everyone else. You will stay with me forever in Vaikuntha. Now you are My wife.”

Lord Vishnu spoke softly.

“You will also have another form. You will be a very special plant. My devotees will offer your leaves to Me. They will not be able to offer anything to Me without your leaves. They will make garlands of your leaves. They will offer these garlands only to Me.

Devotees will put your leaves on My lotus feet. Your leaves will be **fixed** on My lotus feet. They will never move. Even Mother Lakshmi will sometimes feel bad. She stays at My lotus **chest**. Sometimes, she has to help her devotees. She has to move away from Me. But you will never move. You are pure, purer than everyone else.

*All glories to Tulasi-devi!*





## Sri Tulasi Kirtana

(1)

namo namaha tulasi krishna-preyasi namo namaha  
radha-krishna-seva pabo ei abhilashi

O Tulasi, **beloved** of Krishna, I bow before you again and again. My desire is to **obtain** the service of Sri Sri Radha and Krishna.

(2)

ye tomara sharana loy, tara vancha purna hoy  
kripa kori koro tare vrindavana-vasi

Whoever **takes shelter** of you has his wishes **fulfilled**. **Bestowing** your mercy on him, you make him a **resident** of Vrindavana.

(3)

mora ei abhilasha, vilasa kunje dio vasa  
nayana heribo sada yugala-rupa-rashi

My desire is that you will also give me a residence in the **pleasure groves** of Sri Vrindavana-dhama. Thus within my **vision** I will always **behold** the beautiful pastimes of Radha and Krishna.

(4)

ei nivedana dhara, sakhir anugata koro  
seva-adhikara diye koro nija dasi

I beg you to make me a follower of the cowherd **damsels** of Vraja. Please give me the **privilege** of devotional service and make me your own **maidservant**.

(5)

dina krishna-dase koy, ei jena mora hoy  
sri-radha-govinda-preme sada yena bhasi

This very fallen and **lowly** servant of Krishna prays, “May I always swim in the love of Sri Sri Radha and Govinda.”



## Sri Tulasi Pradakshina Mantra

Devotees **circumambulate** (walk around) Tulasi-devi at least four times and offer her water by pouring some drops at her roots.

While circumambulating, we chant,

yani kani cha papani  
brahma-hatyadikani ca  
tani tani pranashyanti  
pradakshinah pade pade

### Original translation:

When a person circumambulates Srimati Tulasi-devi, all the sins he may have committed are destroyed at every step, even the sin of killing a brahmana.

### Simple translation:

You walk around Tulasi devi. Every step you take is important. Your steps make all of your sins go away. Even if you kill a brahmana, the sin goes away.





## Picking Tulasi leaves

Because Tulasi devi is a very dear devotee of Lord Krishna, we take care of her. We water her, and keep her in a fresh, clean place. We make sure she has enough sunlight and air. When we pick her leaves, we ask permission. We say this special prayer:

tulasy amrta janmasi  
sada tvam kesava-priya  
kesavartham cinomi tvam  
varada bhava sobhane



### Original translation:

O Tulasi, you were born from nectar. You are always very dear to Lord Kesava. Now, in order to worship Lord Kesava, I am collecting your leaves and manjaris. Please bestow your benediction on me.

