

The kindness of Lord Krishna

When Krishna was young he was strong and brave. He was clever, he could play beautiful music and he loved having fun. Krishna had a very good friend who was not so lucky. He was not strong like Krishna because he was not very well, but he and Krishna loved to play together, and they laughed and joked constantly.

Years later, when Krishna was a man, he became ruler of the land. He lived in a great palace with many servants and everything that he could wish for. His old friend, however, was very poor. He could not work because of his illness, and he and his wife lived in a small shack and they were always short of food.

‘Why don’t you go and see your old friend Krishna?’ suggested the poor man’s wife one day. ‘He might help us.’ The poor man agreed, but wondered what he could take as a gift to such a fine ruler. He had nothing except a little rice, so this he took in a small cloth as a gift.

When the poor man arrived at the palace gates and asked to see Lord Krishna the palace guards laughed at him. How could such a poor, weak man be allowed to visit the great ruler Lord Krishna?

Luckily, Krishna was nearby. He heard the familiar voice of his old friend, and rushed to the palace gates to welcome him in. What a wonderful time they had remembering their old pranks and laughing and joking together, just as they had done when they were boys. Time passed really quickly and soon it was time for the poor man to leave. Krishna bid him a safe journey, and off went the poor man on the road back home with a smile on his face and a happy heart full of good memories.

As he was nearly home he realised how silly he had been. The poor man had forgotten to give Krishna his gift of rice, and even worse, he had forgotten to ask for help. Just then the man’s wife came running out to meet him. She was smiling and waving. ‘A wonderful thing has happened,’ she said. ‘Our shack has gone and in its place is a sturdy house and all the store rooms are filled with food!’ The poor man was amazed. His old friend Krishna had shown such love and kindness without ever being asked.