

Aarti Kunj Bihari Ki

आरती कुंजबिहारी की

Aarti Kunj Bihari Ki is one of the best-loved aartis of Lord Krishna, sung in homes and temples across North India and the diaspora. In a refrain and four stanzas of Braj-flavoured Hindi, it pictures Krishna of Vrindavan beside Radha, with his flute, peacock crown and Vijayanti garland. Families sing it daily, and above all at midnight on Janmashtami.

Refrain

Aarti Kunj Bihari Ki,
Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari Ki

This aarti is for Kunj Bihari, who roams the groves of Vrindavan: Shri Krishna Murari, the lifter of Mount Govardhan.

Verse 1

Gale Mein Baijanti Mala, Bajave Murli Madhur Bala
Shravan Mein Kundal Jhalkala, Nand Ke Anand Nandlala
Gagan Sam Ang Kanti Kali, Radhika Chamak Rahi Aali
Latan Mein Thade Banmali
Bhramar Si Alak, Kasturi Tilak, Chandra Si Jhalak
Lalit Chhavi Shyama Pyari Ki
Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari Ki ॥1॥

A Vijayanti garland hangs at his neck, and the young Lord plays sweet music on his flute. Earrings gleam in his ears. He is Nanda's joy, Nanda's darling son. His body has the dark glow of a rain-filled sky, and beside him Radhika shines, dear friend. The Lord of the forest garland stands among the vines, his curls dark as bees, a musk tilak on his brow, his face aglow like the moon. This aarti is for the lovely form of Radha's beloved, Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari.

Refrain

**Aarti Kunj Bihari Ki,
Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari Ki**

Verse 2

**Kanakmay Mor Mukut Bilse, Devta Darsan Ko Tarse
Gagan Son Suman Raasi Barse
Baje Murchang, Madhur Mirdang, Gwalin Sang
Atul Rati Gop Kumari Ki
Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari Ki ||2||**

A golden crown of peacock feathers gleams on his head, and even the gods long for a glimpse of him. Heaps of flowers rain down from the sky. The murchang and the sweet mridanga play as he moves among the cowherd girls. This aarti is for the one who holds the matchless love of the gopis, Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari.

Refrain

**Aarti Kunj Bihari Ki,
Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari Ki**

Verse 3

**Jahan Te Prakat Bhai Ganga, Sakal Man Harini Shri Ganga
Smaran Te Hot Moh Bhanga
Basi Shiv Sees, Jata Ke Beech, Hare Agh Keech
Charan Chhavi Shri Banwari Ki
Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari Ki ||3||**

From his feet the holy Ganga came forth, Shri Ganga, who captivates every heart. Remembering her shatters delusion. She came to rest in Shiva's matted locks and washes away the mire of sin. This aarti is for the beauty of the feet of Shri Banwari, Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari.

Refrain

**Aarti Kunj Bihari Ki,
Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari Ki**

Verse 4

Chamakti Ujjwal Tat Renu, Baj Rahi Vrindavan Benu
Chahun Disi Gopi Gwal Dhenu
Hansat Mridu Mand, Chandni Chand, Katat Bhav Phand
Ter Sun Deen Dukhari Ki
Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari Ki ॥4॥

The bright sand of the Yamuna's banks glitters, and the flute of Vrindavan is playing. On every side are gopis, cowherd boys and cows. He smiles a soft, gentle smile beneath the moonlit sky, and the snares of worldly life are cut. This aarti is for the one who hears the cry of the humble and the suffering, Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari.

Refrain

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Shri Girdhar Krishna Murari Ki

Source: Traditional Braj/Hindi aarti as printed in popular aarti-sangrah booklets; text cross-checked against BhaktiBharat.com, Drik Panchang (Hindi) and two further lyric collections (chantchalisa.com, hindibhajanlyrics.co.in)

The meanings are our own first draft. A scholar has not reviewed them yet. If you spot a mistake, please tell us.
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