

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Lord Jagannath



Lord Krishna is worshipped as Lord Jagannath in Puri, in Orissa, India (the city is known to many as Jagannath Puri). The term means master (nath) of the universe (jagat). Lord Jagannath is considered to be very merciful. It is said that many people deny coming to a temple and thus the all-merciful Lord Jagannath comes out from his temple annually to shower his mercy upon such people. This great procession is known as Jagannatha Ratha Yatra.

There are two interesting stories associated with this deity. First is the story of how Krishna appeared to a great devotee of the lord, King Indradyumna and ordered him to carve a deity from a log he would find washed up on the sea shore. King Indradyumna found a mysterious old Brahmin carpenter to carve the deity, but the carpenter insisted that he not be disturbed while he was carving the deity. The king waited anxiously outside his room, but after some time, all sound stopped.

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

The impatient Indradyumna worried what had happened and assuming the worst, opened the doors - only to find the deity half-finished and the carpenter gone! The mysterious carpenter was none other than Vishvakarma, the heavenly architect. The king was upset as the deity had no arms and legs. Utterly repentant that he had interrupted the carving, the king was only pacified when the Narada Muni appeared and explained that the form the king now sees is a legitimate form of the supreme personality of godhead. In this way, Lord Jagannath's form was manifested.

The second reason for Lord Jagannath's appearance is the story of how Krishna was eavesdropping on the gopis as they spoke amongst themselves of His pastimes, and how much they loved him. Sister Subhadra was instructed to keep watch and ensure Krishna wasn't nearby while the gopis spoke of Krishna. But after a while Subhadra was so overwhelmed by the gopis' devotion and their stories that she became completely engrossed in listening. She didn't see the brothers Krishna and Balarama approaching. As the brothers listened their hairs stood on end, their arms retracted, their eyes grew larger and larger, and they smiled broadly in ecstasy. That is why Jagannath, Balarama and Subhadra look like they do.