

## ***Krishna (as Govardhan Giridhaari)***

One of the many legends surrounding the Hindu God Krishna is the one of his saving the cowherd and farming community where he was brought up, by lifting up the Govardhan mountain with his little finger.

The story goes that Vrindavan, the home of this community on the banks of the river Yamuna, was lush with crops, and people depended on agriculture and cattle for their livelihood. They offered annual prayers to the god Indra, the king of the gods and presiding deity over lightning, thunder and rain. When Krishna, as a little boy, questioned the need for prayer to Indra, and suggested praying to the mountain instead (as it was the mountain that really contributed to the movement of clouds and corresponding rains), people agreed and switched allegiances, so to speak! This greatly angered Lord Indra, who decided to teach the community a lesson and unleashed the fury of the weather with incessant rain.

The frightened villagers went to Krishna who smilingly told them to gather up their cattle and go to the base of the Govardhan mountain. There, he requested the mountain for help, and then proceeded to lift the entire mountain with his little finger, and directed all the people to shelter under it, and they were saved.

Indra realized his folly after seven days of rains had not affected the people, because the little Krishna was none other than an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, and stopped the rain.

*Govardhan* is the name of the mountain; *Giri* means “mountain” in Sanskrit, and “*dhaari*” means one who bears, holds up, or lifts; *Govardhan Giridhaari* means “The one who holds the Govardhan mountain”, corresponding with the legend.

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giridhar#:~:text=Giridhar%20is%20an%20Indian%20given,after%20holding%20up%20Govardhan%20hill>.
2. <https://bygonetalesofindia.wordpress.com/2021/08/30/the-tale-of-govardhana-giridhari/>
3. [www.livehistoryindia.com](http://www.livehistoryindia.com)
4. [www.heritage-india.com](http://www.heritage-india.com)
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