



Unknown (Rajasthan, Kota)
Shri Nathji Puja, ca. 1840
opaque watercolor on paper, heightened with gold
10 13/16 x 8 1/4 in.
Museum purchase
77.55

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Unknown (Rajasthan, Kota)
Shri Nathji Puja, ca. 1840

This painting from Kota depicts the celebration of the festival Rakhi Bandhan. During this celebration, girls tie silk threads around the wrists of male friends, making them their “brothers.” It parallels the occasion when Lakshmi, the consort of Vishnu, descended to the underworld to free her husband. It would have been immodest for her to address a stranger, so Lakshmi made the ruler of the underworld her brother by tying a cord around his wrist. In this painting, a temple priest (the largest figure) ties the cord of brotherhood around the wrist of a deity form of Krishna. Surrounding attendants play various musical instruments.



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DISCUSS

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This painting depicts a Hindu religious festival.

- What is going on in this scene?
- Where does it take place? What do you see that makes you say that?
- What are the figures doing?

Click on the Explore tab to learn more about this religious ritual. Have you seen or participated in other religious rituals, festivals, or community celebrations? How do those ceremonies and festivities compare with this one? What do they have in common? What differences are there?



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CREATE

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This painting depicts a Hindu religious festival in a temple. The priest is tying a cord of brotherhood around the wrist of a representation of the deity Krishna, while the other figures play musical instruments.

Create an illustration of a religious ritual, festival, or community celebration that is important to you. Examples might include temple, church, or mosque services, holidays, or special community events like parades. Share your illustration with a friend.