

Meditations on Śrī Śyāma-kuṇḍa and Śrī Rādhā-kuṇḍa

Śyāma-kuṇḍa and Rādhā-kuṇḍa are two great floods of the nectar of beauty. They are two great oceans of splendor. They are two beautiful roots from which sweet devotional service grows.

They are two jewel-mines of love. They are two seeds from which grow the jewel-vines of transcendental pastimes. How did they become two splendid and nectar-sweet lakes?

By seeing these two lakes, Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa believe They are present in them. It is as if They directly see each other there. The wise say that by approaching these lakes one directly approaches Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Longing to meet, but forced to remain separate, Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa assumed the forms of Rādhā-kuṇḍa and Śyāma-kuṇḍa. In this way They become splashed with the nectar of meeting each other.

I think that when Rādhā saw Kṛṣṇa She melted with ecstasy and thus assumed the liquid state of the waters of Rādhā-kuṇḍa, and in the same way when Kṛṣṇa saw Rādhā He also melted in ecstasy and became the waters of Śyāma-kuṇḍa. In this way these two lakes bear the names and qualities of the divine couple.

Out of great kindness to the people, so they could directly taste Their sweetness, Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa have become these two lakes. Shining with happiness, the devotees bathe in these two lakes.

I think these two lakes are the divine couple's love. They who are fortunate bathe there. Because bathing there is like bathing in Their transcendental love, these two lakes bear the names of the divine couple. Spelled backwards, the word *sara* (lake) becomes *rasa* (nectar). They who are aware of this great secret bathe in these two lakes.

Wishing to see Their sweet pastimes in the forest, the two lakes have become the divine couple's two pet *cakora* birds. Limitlessly beautiful Śrī Rādhā-kuṇḍa is filled with the divine couple's great love. On every side are the groves of Rādhā's friends and the humming of many bees.

— Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura's *Vraja-riti-cintāmaṇi* 30-39

Meditations on Śrī Rādhā-kunḍa

Within the midst of many groves there is a *kunḍa* full of crystal-clear nectarean water, which is like the essence of the mellows of ecstatic love. The four sides of this *kunḍa* are studded with various jewels, and the bathing *ghāṭas* are decorated with jewel-studded stairs. On the banks of this lake there are many jewel-studded raised platforms under the shade of *kadamba* trees. For the pleasure of the most beloved divine young couple this lake is deep in some places and shallow at other places. Various transcendental drinks are manifesting within different parts of that lake for the pleasure of Their Lordships. For Their pleasure many lotus flowers are repeatedly opening and closing. The groves are reflected within the crystal clear waters of this lake. The water of this lake are the reservoir of unlimited fragrance, and its everlasting sweetness repeatedly overwhelms everyone. Various lotus flowers and water lilies increase the beauty of this lake, which is moistened by honey emanating from the trees on its bank. In the middle of this lake is a beautiful grove meant for the divine couple (or it appears like an amazing jewel-studded residence for the gopis has arisen from the water). The shores on the four sides of this lake as well as the bottom are adorned with jewels. The waters of this lake are full of lotus flowers. Oh, the four jewel-studded banks of this lake are decorated with many wonderful ornaments, bushes, and rows of fully blossomed *kadamba* trees, the flowers of which increase the beauty of the entire lake. This lake certainly increases the ocean of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa's amorous pastimes.

— Śrīla Prabhodhānanda Sarasvatī, *Śrī Vṛndāvana-māhimāmṛta*, *Śataka* 4.107-112



I adore the most dear *kunḍa* of the Queen of Vṛndāvana! Śrī Rādhā and Śrī Śyāmasundara eternally enjoy sweet blissful pastimes within this *kunḍa*. The fragrant water of this *kunḍa* is like an ocean of the transcendental mellows of ecstatic love. I take shelter of Śyāma's most dear *kunḍa*, which is the ornament of Śrī Vṛndāvana. Just by touching the waters of this *kunḍa*, one experiences a wonderful feeling within one's heart. It is the abode of the mellows of pure conjugal pastimes. The waters of this *kunḍa* appear like shining gold. The most blissful divine young couple are engaged in eternal pastimes within those waters. Śrī Rādhā-kunḍa is the crest jewel among all precious jewels and the decoration on the head of Govardhana Hill. It is very dear to the attractive lotus-eyed Śrī Kṛṣṇa and the enchanting lotus-eyes Śrī Rādhā. At this place Śrī Kṛṣṇa plays on His flute and displays His enchanting qualities while illuminating the four directions with the rays from His moonlike face. O friends, just meditate on the groves surrounding Rādhā-kunḍa, which surpasses even the topmost beauty of Vṛndāvana, which are respectfully adored by Śrī Hari's beloved Govardhana Hill, and which are filled with the sweetness of Śrī Śrī Rādhā Kṛṣṇa's loving affairs.

— Śrīla Prabhodhānanda Sarasvatī, *Śrī Vṛndāvana-māhimāmṛta*, *Śataka* 5.11-14