

Śrī Vṛndāvanāṣṭaka

Eight Prayers Glorifying Śrī Vṛndāvana by Śrīla Rūpa Goswāmī

*mukunda-muralī-rava-śravaṇa-phulla-hṛd-ballavīkadambaka-
karambita-prati-kadamba-kañjāntarā
kalinda-giri-nandinī-kamala-kandalāndolinā
su-gandhir anilena me śaraṇam astu vṛndāṭavī*

May Vṛndāvana, which is fragrant with a gentle breeze that makes the lotuses in the Yamunā rock to and fro, where there are groves of *kadamba* trees and there are many *gopīs*, their hearts blossoming with happiness by hearing the music of Lord Mukunda's flute, be my shelter. (1)

*vaikuṅṭha-pura-saṁśrayād vipinato 'pi niḥśreyasāt
sahasra-guṇitām śrīyam praduhatī rasa-śreyasīm
caturmukha-mukhair api sprhita-tārṇa-dehodbhavā
jagad-gurubhir agrimaiḥ śaraṇam astu vṛndāṭavī*

May Vṛndāvana, where Lord Brahmā and other *jagad-gurus* desire to be born even as a blade of grass, and which, even though it is a forest, is many thousands of times more opulent, beautiful, charming, and sweet than the spiritual cities of Vaikuṅṭha, be my shelter. (2)

*anārata-vikasvara-vratati-puñja-puspāvalīvisāri-
vara-saurabhodgama-ramā-camatkāriṇī
amanda-makaranda-bhrd-vitapi-vṛnda-vandī-kṛtadvirepha-
kula-vanditā śaraṇam astu vṛndāṭavī*

May Vṛndāvana, where the fragrance of the eternally blossoming flower vines fills the goddess of fortune with wonder, and where the bumblebees in the trees filled with very sweet honey are poets who bow down and recite eloquent prayers, be my shelter.(3)

*kṣaṇadyuti-ghana-śriyor vraja-navīna-yūnoḥ padaiḥ
su-valgubhir alaṅkṛtā lalita-lakṣma-lakṣmī-bharaiḥ
tayor nakhara-maṅḍalī-śikhara-keli-caryocitair
vṛtā kiśalayāṅkuraiḥ śaraṇam astu vṛndāṭavī*

May Vṛndāvana, which is decorated with blades of grass that bear the charming, gracefully marked footprints and playful toenail prints of the youthful divine couple of Vraja, who are as glorious as a monsoon cloud and lightning, be my shelter. (4)

*vrajendra-sakha-nandinī-śubhatarādhikāra-kriyāprabhāvaja-
sukhotsava-sphurita-jaṅgama-sthāvarā
pralamba-damanānuja-dhvanita-vaṁśikā-kākalīrasajña-
mṛga-maṅḍalā śaraṇam astu vṛndāṭavī*

May Vṛndāvana, where the moving and insert creatures celebrate a festival of great happiness by seeing the glory of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī's beautiful pastimes, and where the deer taste the nectar of Lord Kṛṣṇa's sweet flute music, be my shelter. (5)

*amanda-mudirāmbudābhyadhika-mādhurī-meduravrajendra-
suta-vikṣaṇonnaṭita-nīla-kaṅṭhotkarā
dineśa-suhr̥d-ātmajā-kṛta-nijābhimānollasallatā-
khaga-mṛgāṅganā śaraṇam astu vṛndātavi*

May Vṛndāvana, where the peacocks leap and dance to see the prince of Vraja, who is more charming than a host of monsoon clouds, and where the does, birds and flowering vines become jubilant to hear Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī proudly claim the forest as Her property, be my shelter. (6)

*aganya-guṇa-nāgarī-gaṇa-gariṣṭha-gāndharvikāmanoja-
raṇa-cāturī-piśuna-kuñja-puñjajjalā
jagat-traya-kalā-guror lalita-lāsya-valgat-padaprayoga-
vidhi-sākṣinī śaraṇam astu vṛndātavi*

May Vṛndāvana, which is splendid with the expert skill in lover's quarrels of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, the best of all virtuous heroines, and which is the witness to the gracefully dancing feet of Lord Kṛṣṇa, the teacher of fine arts to the three worlds, be my shelter. (7)

*variṣṭha-hari-dāsātā-pada-samṛddha-govardhanā
madhūdvaḥa-vadhū-camatkṛti-nivāsa-rāsa-sthala
agūḍha-gahana-śriyo madhurima-vrajenojjvalā
vrajasya sahajena me śaraṇam astu vṛndātavi*

May Vṛndāvana, where is Govardhana Hill, (which is fortunate to be the best servant of Lord Hari), and where is the *rāsa* dance arena, (which fills the beautiful *gopīs* with wonder), and where is the splendid sweetness of many charming forest groves, be my shelter. (8)

*idaṁ nikhila-niṣkuṭāvali-variṣṭha-vṛndātavīguṇa-
smaraṇa-kāri yaḥ paṭhati suṣṭhu padyāṣṭakam
vasan vyasana-mukta-dhīr anīsam atra sad-vāsanah
sa pīta-vasane vaśī ratim avāpya vikṛīdati*

A person who resides here in Vṛndāvana, whose heart is free from sin, who controls his senses, who always stays with the devotees, and who carefully reads these eight verses, which bring to mind the transcendental virtues of Vṛndāvana, the best of all forest gardens, will attain love for and enjoy transcendental pastimes with Lord Kṛṣṇa. (9)