

The Glories of Śrī Kṛṣṇa's Sacred Realm

The Glories of Śrī Rādhā-Kuṇḍa

After the killing of Aristāsura, Śrīmatī Rādhikā and Her *sakhīs* exchanged many joking words with Śrī Kṛṣṇa concerning the necessary atonement for one who has committed the offense of killing a bull. As a result, the Queen of Vṛndāvana, Śrīmatī Rādhikā, and Her *sakhīs* joyfully excavated Śrī Rādhā-kuṇḍa with their own hands. May that immensely fragrant Rādhā-kuṇḍa be my shelter. (1)

In the land of the hearts of those who bathe in Rādhā-kuṇḍa will arise a desire tree of the superlative *prema*, which is rarely attainable even by Kṛṣṇa's beloveds. May that supremely charming Rādhā-kuṇḍa be my shelter. (2)

For the pleasure of Śrīmatī Rādhikā, even Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself, yearning to attain Her merciful sidelong glance, voluntarily follows (in the footsteps) of Her bathing attendants. May that supremely enchanting Rādhā-kuṇḍa be my shelter. (3)

May that supremely enchanting Rādhā-kuṇḍa, which the moon of Vraja, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, loves as much as He loves the crown-jewel amongst the sweet girls of Vraja, Śrīmatī Rādhikā, and which He has made known by the name of Rādhikā Herself, be my shelter. (4)

The mercy obtained by serving Rādhā-kuṇḍa makes the desire-creeper of *prema* for the prince of Vraja sprout and is celebrated for bearing the flower of service to my *svāminī* Śrīmatī Rādhikā. May that supremely charming Rādhā-kuṇḍa be my shelter. (5)

Gloriously manifest on the banks of Rādhā-kuṇḍa are eight *kuñjas* named after Rādhikā's principal *sakhīs*. Filled with the sweet humming of bumblebees, these *kuñjas* act as stimuli for the amorous pastimes of the Divine Couple. The lotus feet of that Rādhikā, who sends Kṛṣṇa to enjoy in all the different *kuñjas*, are desired by everyone. May that supremely enchanting Rādhā-kuṇḍa be my shelter.* (6)

Situated on an exquisite dais on the bank of Rādhā-kuṇḍa and accompanied by Her beloved *sakhīs*, our *svāminī* Śrīmatī Rādhikā charmingly engages in sweet, joking words with Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the moon of Vraja. These playful verbal exchanges are enhanced by so many innuendoes. May that Rādhā-kuṇḍa be my shelter. (7)

May that very charming and specially fragrant Rādhā-kuṇḍa, where intoxicated by love the Divine Couple and the *sakhīs* daily sport with great joy in water very fragrant with exquisite lotus flowers, be my shelter. (8)

To that devotee who is completely dedicated to the service of Śrīmatī Rādhikā, and who reads this charming prayer describing Śrī Rādhā-kuṇḍa, even in his present body Śrī Kṛṣṇa will quickly grant him *darśana* of His beloved Rādhikā as He happily embraces Her. (9)

* On the eastern bank is the kuñja known as Citrā-sukhada, on the southeastern side is Indulekhā-sukhada, on the southern bank is Campakalatā-sukhada, on the southwestern side is Raṅgadevī-sukhada, on the western bank is Tuṅgavidyā-sukhada, on the northwestern side is Sudevī-sukhada, on the northern bank is Lalitā-sukhada, and on the northeastern side is the *kuñja* known as Viśākhā-sukhada.

— Śrīla Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī's *Śrī Rādhā-kuṇḍāṣṭaka*