

The Glories of Śrī Kṛṣṇa's Sacred Realm

The Glories of Śrī Vṛndāvana-dhāma

Rādhā is the Mistress of Vṛndāvana and Kṛṣṇa is the Master of Vṛndāvana. In life or in death, Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa are my eternal shelter.

— Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī
Kṛṣṇa prema-mayī Rādhā, Yugalāṣṭaka (8)

To perform devotional service means to follow in the footsteps of Rādhārānī, and devotees in Vṛndāvana put themselves under the care of Rādhārānī in order to achieve perfection in Their devotional service.

— NOD, Ch. 1

The ideal place to execute Kṛṣṇa consciousness is Vrajabhūmi, or Vṛndāvana, where the people are naturally inclined to love Kṛṣṇa and Kṛṣṇa is naturally inclined to love them.

— CC Madhya 4.95

In the spiritual world everyone, Mother Yasodā, Nanda Mahārāja, Śrīmatī Rādhārānī, the cowherd boys.....all are trying to satisfy Kṛṣṇa. That is the real meaning of Vṛndāvana.

— TLK Ch. 12, Text 25-26p

Vṛndāvana is the transcendental abode of the Lord, where there is no hunger, anger or thirst. Though naturally inimical, both human beings and fierce animals live there together in transcendental friendship.

— ŚB 10.13.60p

The word *vana* means “forest”. We are afraid of the forest and do not wish to go there, but in Vṛndāvana the forest animals are as good as demigods, for they have no envy.

— ŚB 10.13.60p

We are meant for dancing and playing and walking and living with Kṛṣṇa. That is our real position. That is Vṛndāvana.

— SPL 21st Feb.' 76, Māyāpura

In Vṛndāvana every one is happy. The calf is happy, the cat is happy, the dog is happy, the man is happy, everyone. Everyone wants to serve Kṛṣṇa in a different capacity, and thus there is no envy.

— ŚB 10.13.60p

This is Vṛndāvana, the dust. Vṛndāvana dust is also Kṛṣṇa: so *ārādhyo bhagavān vrajesa-tanaya tad dhāmaṁ vṛndāvanam*. This is the verdict of the *ācāryas*.

— **ŚPL 7.9.48, 3rd April' 76, Vṛndāvana**

HOW TO ENTER VRNDĀVANA

Akrura's journey to Vṛndāvana is exemplary. One who intends to visit Vṛndāvana should follow the ideal footsteps of Akrūra and always think of the pastimes and activities of the Lord.

— **KB, Akrūra's Arrival in Vṛndāvana**

As soon as one reaches the boundary of Vṛndāvana, he should immediately smear the dust of Vṛndāvana over his body without thinking of his material position and prestige.

— **KB, Akrūra's Arrival in Vṛndāvana**

Actually, if someone goes to Vṛndāvana he will immediately feel separation from Kṛṣṇa who performed such nice activities when He was present there.

— **NOD, Ch. 18**

LIVING IN VRNDĀVANA

One should follow the principles of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu and always think of Kṛṣṇa in full Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Then one will be eligible to live in Vṛndāvana, and his life will be successful.

— **ŚB 9.19.19p**

If one somehow or other gets the opportunity to live in Vṛndāvana and if one is not a pretender but simply lives in Vṛndāvana and concentrates his mind upon Kṛṣṇa, one is liberated from material bondage.

— **ŚB 9.19.19p**

If we live in Vṛndāvana we are living with Kṛṣṇa, because Vṛndāvana is non different from Kṛṣṇa.

— **Vṛndāvana Days, p5.**

To live in Vṛndāvana means to know Kṛṣṇa. So those who are living in Vṛndāvana they should try to understand Kṛṣṇa tattvataḥ. That is their business.

— **ŚPL, NOD, 3th Oct'72, Vṛndāvana**

There are still many devotees of the Lord living there (in Vṛndāvana) in ecstasy in search of Kṛṣṇa and His childhood associates, the *gopīs*. It is not that such devotees meet Kṛṣṇa face to face, but eagerly searching after Kṛṣṇa is as good as seeing Him personally.

— **ŚB 3.1.24p**

ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA'S DESIRE

I want that those who come here (Vṛndāvana), whether *grhasthas* or *sannyāsīs*, behave on the level of real *gosvāmīs*. *Gosvāmī* means controlling the senses and always glorifying Kṛṣṇa by varieties of engagement in devotional service.

— ŚPL, 23rd March, '74

Because it is Vṛndāvana, those who come should be exemplary so that all the people of Vṛndāvana will see that we are actually following the six Gosvāmīs headed by Rūpa Gosvāmī.

— ŚPL, 23rd March, '74

ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA'S INVITATION

In our Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement we invite all the elderly persons of the world to come to Vṛndāvana and stay there in retired life, making advancement in spiritual consciousness.

— ŚB 7.5.5p

THE UGLINESS IN VRNDĀVANA

The ugliness that you see here is *yoga-maya*. It's Kṛṣṇa's covering. Vṛndāvana appears this way to drive away the atheists and impersonalists, just as New York attracts them.... Vṛndāvana hides herself from the materialist.

— Vṛndāvana Days, pp49-50

Materialists consider Vṛndāvana-dhāma an unclean city because there are many monkeys and dogs there, and along the bank of the Yamunā there is refuse. Some time ago, a materialistic man asked me, "Why are you living in Vṛndāvana? Why have you selected such a dirty place to live after retiring?" Such a person cannot understand that the earthly Vṛndāvana-dhāma is always a representation of the original Vṛndāvana-dhāma. Consequently Vṛndāvana-dhāma is as worshipable as Lord Kṛṣṇa. *Ārādhyo bhagavān vrajeśa-tanayas tad-dhāma vṛndāvanam*: according to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's philosophy, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa and His abode, Vṛndāvana, are equally worshipable. Sometimes materialistic people who have no spiritual understanding go to Vṛndāvana as tourists. One who goes to Vṛndāvana with such materialistic vision cannot derive any spiritual benefit. Such a person is not convinced that Kṛṣṇa and Vṛndāvana are identical. Since they are identical, Vṛndāvana is as worshipable as Lord Kṛṣṇa.

— CC Madhya 16.281p

BE CAREFUL!

The senses freed from designations in the service of the Lord — that is Vṛndāvana life.... If there is any purpose other than this, it's difficult to utilize the opportunity and good fortune of living in Vṛndāvana.

— Vṛndāvana days p294

Many persons come here in Vṛndāvana, *tīrtha*, but.. they think “let me take bathing in the Yamunā River. Then my business is finished.” But no. *Śāstra* says that you should approach... a devotee who is living in Vṛndāvana, pure devotee, and surrender unto him. That is *tīrtha-yātrā*.

— ŚB lecture, 16th March 74, Vṛndāvana

In a holy place like Vṛndāvana if one gets the chance to hear from pure devotees, then the cultivation of Kṛṣṇa consciousness becomes very easy.

— ŚB 4.29.39-40p

One’s mind is not purified even in Vṛndāvana, if one is agitated by lusty desires. One should not live in Vṛndāvana and commit offences, for a life of offenses in Vṛndāvana is no better than the lives of the monkeys and hogs there... Men who have gone to Vṛndāvana but who still hanker for sex should immediately leave Vṛndāvana and stop their grievous offences at the lotus feet of the Lord. There are many misguided men who live in Vṛndāvana to satisfy their sexual desires, but they are certainly no better than the monkey and hogs.

— ŚB 9.19.19p

ŚRĪLA PRABHUPĀDA’S PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

I lived very simply (in Vṛndāvana), content to be in Rūpa Gosvāmī’s presence. Now I have hundreds of temples to go to, but I still like it here best of all.

— Vṛndāvana Days, p47

Here I am, now sitting in New York, the world’s greatest city, but my heart is always hankering after that Vṛndāvana.

— ŚPL, Vol. 5, p249

VṚNDĀVANA CONSCIOUSNESS AND ITS POTENCY

Although I may be in a New York apartment, my consciousness is there (in Vṛndāvana), and this is as good as being there.

— Path of Perfection, Ch.9

Vṛndāvana is revealed in the heart of the sincere devotee. In reality, it is not on any map, nor is it part of any country.

— Vṛndāvana Days, p55

If we but come to the point of Kṛṣṇa consciousness and learn how to love Kṛṣṇa, the whole world will become Vṛndāvana.

— Vṛndāvana Days, p293

When one’s mind does not accept and reject but simply becomes fixed on the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa, then one’s mind becomes as good as Vṛndāvana. Wherever Kṛṣṇa is, there also are Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, the *gopīs*, the cowherd boys and all the other inhabitants of

Vṛndāvana. Thus as soon as one fixes Kṛṣṇa in his mind, his mind becomes identical with Vṛndāvana. In other words, when one's mind is completely free from all material desires and is engaged only in the service of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, then one always lives in Vṛndāvana, and nowhere else.

— CC Madhya 13.137p

If you are always in the atmosphere of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, then here also you can have Vṛndāvana. Vṛndāvana is not a particular place that is called Vṛndāvana. Kṛṣṇa says, “It is not that I live in the Kingdom of God, Vaikuṅṭha; nor is it that I live in the heart of the *yogī*.” The *yogī* wants to find out where Kṛṣṇa is within the heart. But Kṛṣṇa says, “I am not in the abode in the spiritual sky, nor am I in the heart of the *yogī*.” Then where are You? Kṛṣṇa says, “I stay where My pure devotees are chanting My glories.” That is Vṛndāvana.

— Topmost Yoga System, chapter 4

If one lives in the earthly land of Vṛndāvana, touches it, sees it, travels to it, meditates upon it, bows down to offer respects to it, sings or hears about its glorious qualities, carries its dust on one's head, or has any relationship with it, then this purifying earthly Vṛndāvana will carry him to the supreme abode of Vṛndāvana in the spiritual world.

— Śrīla Prabhodhānanda Sarasvatī's *Śrī Vṛndāvana Mahimāmṛta*