

## A Meditation on Śrī Govardhana

The land around Govardhana Hill in all directions is filled with many lakes, groves, and other charming places of Lord Kṛṣṇa's pastimes. Many lovely streams flow from Govardhana Hill onto these lands in all directions.

To the east is Dāna-nivartana-kuṇḍa. When Śrī Rādhikā's handsome beloved remembers it, He begins to tremble, and the hairs on His body stand erect. To the east of that is Candra-sarovara, where the divine couple enjoyed many *rāsa* dances. The memory of this place makes Them dance in ecstatic love.

Southeast of Govardhana Hill is Saṅksarṣaṇānanda-sarovara, and to the east of that is Gaurī-tīrtha, which is scrupulously avoided by Gaurī's husband, Lord Śiva. The nectar flood of supreme good fortune rising from His eternal pastimes with Her has made Her beloved supremely learned in the philosophy of forest-pastimes. In between Saṅksarṣaṇa-sarovara and Dāna-nivartana-kuṇḍa is Ānandarāja-tīrtha, where the *Mahānna-kūṭa* festival delighted the young prince of Vraja.

West of that are two splendid places in the mouth of Kṛṣṇa's pastimes. They are Śrī Dhāna-ghāṭa and Śrī Sumanī-ghāṭa, where the divine couple playfully talked and joked. At this place the divine couple enjoyed the playful quarrel pastime known as *dāna-keli*. Who would not be astonished by this pastime? When this pastime enters the ears it makes both the body and mind dance.

Govardhana Hill resembles a gigantic peacock that has Govinda-kuṇḍa as its tail. The Mānasa-gaṅgā, where the divine couple eternally enjoys boat-sailing pastimes, enters into the waters of Govinda-kuṇḍa. If one hears about the divine couple's boat-sailing pastimes, he will become stunned in ecstasy, and it will not be possible for him to stop hearing about them. On the Mānasa-gaṅgā's shores are many mādhavī-vine pavilions with nectar beauty that shines in the three worlds. There the divine couple enjoys splendid pastimes that are eternally remembered in the world's hearts.

With its nearby forest groves and the limitless nectar-trickling flowers in its waters, Kusuma-sarovara shines with great splendor. Is it the handsome face of Govardhana Hill, the king of mountains? This lake is known as Kusuma-sarovara because of the many blossoming flowers, destined to become *gopīs* in the future, that grow in its waters. Simply by once bathing in this Kusuma-sarovara, Nārada Muni attained a *gopī* form. This fact is directly confirmed in the words of the enchanting Supreme Personality of Godhead.

The Supreme Personality of Godhead eternally enjoys pastimes on Govardhana Hill. He personally lifted Govardhana Hill with His own hand to protect His cowherd associates. Who is able to describe the glories of Govardhana Hill, the best of Lord Hari's servants?

— Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Thākura's *Vraja-riti-cintāmaṇi* 15-28