

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 ever-lasting 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 Prabhānanda 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 Prabhānanda Sarasvatī, *Śrī Vṛndāvana-māhimāmṛta*, *Śataka* 5.11-14