

Meditations on Śrī Śyāma-kuṇḍa and Śrī Rādhā-kuṇḍa

Śyāma-kuṇḍa and Rādhā-kuṇḍa are two great floods of the nectar of beauty. They are two great oceans of splendor. They are two beautiful roots from which sweet devotional service grows.

They are two jewel-mines of love. They are two seeds from which grow the jewel-vines of transcendental pastimes. How did they become two splendid and nectar-sweet lakes?

By seeing these two lakes, Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa believe They are present in them. It is as if They directly see each other there. The wise say that by approaching these lakes one directly approaches Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

Longing to meet, but forced to remain separate, Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa assumed the forms of Rādhā-kuṇḍa and Śyāma-kuṇḍa. In this way They become splashed with the nectar of meeting each other.

I think that when Rādhā saw Kṛṣṇa She melted with ecstasy and thus assumed the liquid state of the waters of Rādhā-kuṇḍa, and in the same way when Kṛṣṇa saw Rādhā He also melted in ecstasy and became the waters of Śyāma-kuṇḍa. In this way these two lakes bear the names and qualities of the divine couple.

Out of great kindness to the people, so they could directly taste Their sweetness, Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa have become these two lakes. Shining with happiness, the devotees bathe in these two lakes.

I think these two lakes are the divine couple's love. They who are fortunate bathe there. Because bathing there is like bathing in Their transcendental love, these two lakes bear the names of the divine couple. Spelled backwards, the word *sara* (lake) becomes *rasa* (nectar). They who are aware of this great secret bathe in these two lakes.

Wishing to see Their sweet pastimes in the forest, the two lakes have become the divine couple's two pet *cakora* birds. Limitlessly beautiful Śrī Rādhā-kuṇḍa is filled with the divine couple's great love. On every side are the groves of Rādhā's friends and the humming of many bees.

— Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Thākura's *Vraja-riti-cintāmaṇi* 30-39