

Inspirational Prayers for a *Sādhaka*

(1)

Rādhā-praṇāma

*rādhā rāśeśvarī ramyā rāmā ca paramātmanah
rāsodbhavā kṛṣṇa-kāntā kṛṣṇa-vakṣah-sthala-sthitā*

Beautiful Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī is the queen and the origin of the *rasa* dance. She is the giver of pleasure to Kṛṣṇa, who is the Supersoul in the hearts of all. She is the lover of Kṛṣṇa and is always situated upon the chest of the Lord.

*kṛṣṇa-prāṇādhīdevī ca mahā-viṣṇoḥ prasūr api
sarvādyā viṣṇu-māyā ca satyā nityā sanātani*

She is the presiding Deity of Kṛṣṇa's very life, and She is the first of all persons, the energy of Lord Viṣṇu, the embodiment of truthfulness — eternal and ever-youthful.

*brahma-svarūpā paramā nirliptā nirguṇā parā
vṛndā vṛndāvane tvam ca virajā-taṭa-vāsini*

Her form is spiritual, therefore She is transcendental and beyond mundane qualities. She is divine energy and is unattached. O Rādhā, in Vṛndāvana You are the leader of the *gopīs*, and You reside on the banks of the Virajā River.

*goloka-vāsini gopī gopīśā gopa-mātrkā
sānandā paramānandā nanda-nandana-kāmini*

She is a resident of Goloka Vṛndāvana and is a cowherd damsel. She is the queen of the *gopīs* and the divine mother of the cowherd boys. She is joyful and always experiencing the highest bliss, and She incites lusty desires in the heart of the son of Nanda.

*vṛṣabhānu-sutā śānta kāntā pūrṇatamā tathā
kāmyā kalāvati-kanyā tīrtha-pūtā satī śubhā*

Rādhā is the daughter of Mahārāja Vṛṣabhānu. She is very peaceful and lovely. She is completely contented and fulfilled, very pleasing and is the daughter of Kalāvati. She is the purifier of the *tīrthas* (holy places) and She is most auspicious and chaste to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

*saṁsāra-sāgare ghore bhītam mām śaraṇāgatam
sarvebhyo 'pi vinirmuktam kuru rādhe sureśvari*

O Rādhā, I have fallen into the horrible ocean of birth and death and am frightened, but I am seeking Your shelter. O queen of the demigods, please free me from all fears.

*tvat-pāda-padma-yugale pāda-padmālayārcite
dehi mahyaṁ parāṁ bhaktiṁ kṛṣṇena parisevite*

O Rādhikā, please give me transcendental devotional service to Your lotus feet, which are worshiped by Lord Brahmā and Lakṣmī, and which are served even by Lord Kṛṣṇa.

*tapta-kāñcana-gaurāṅgi rādhe vṛndāvaneśvari
vṛṣabhānu-sute devī praṇamāmi hari-priye*

O Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, I offer my respects to You whose bodily complexion is like molten gold. O Goddess, You are the queen of Vṛndāvana. You are the daughter of King Vṛṣabhānu, and are very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa.

*mahā-bhāva-svarūpā tvam kṛṣṇa-priyā-varīyasi
prema-bhakti-prade devī rādhike tvāṁ namāmy aham*

O Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, You are the exalted form of *mahābhāva*, therefore You are the most dear to Kṛṣṇa. O Goddess, You alone are able to bestow pure love for the Supreme Lord; therefore I offer my humble obeisances unto You.

*— Pañcarātra Pradīpa
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(2)

*yasyāḥ kadāpi vasanāñcala-khelanottha-
dhanyāti-dhanya-pavanena kṛtārtha-mānī
yogīndra-durgama-gatir madhusūdano 'pi
tasyā namo 'stu vṛṣabhānu-bhuvo diśe 'pi*

Obeisances to the direction that faces Śrī Vṛṣabhānu's daughter. When the breeze coming from that direction playfully moves the edge of His garment, Lord Kṛṣṇa, who cannot be attained by even the kings of the *yogīs*, thinks that His life has now become a great success.

*yo brahma-rudra-śuka-nārada-bhīṣma-mukhyair
ālakṣito na sahasā puruṣasya tasya
sadyo-vaśī-karaṇa-cūrṇam ananta-śaktiṁ
taṁ rādhikā-carāṇa-reṇum anusmarāmi*

I meditate on the dust of Śrī Rādhā's feet, dust that even Brahma, Siva, Śukadeva, Nārada, Bhīṣma, and a host of great saints cannot see, dust that has limitless power, dust that at once transforms the Supreme Personality of Godhead into Śrī Rādhā's submissive servant.

*ādhāya mūrdhani yad āpur udāra-gopyaḥ
kāmyaṁ padaṁ priya-guṇair api piccha-mauleḥ
bhāvotsavena bhajatāṁ rasa-kāmadhenum
taṁ rādhikā-carāṇa-reṇum ahaṁ smarāmi*

I meditate on the dust of Śrī Rādhā's feet, dust that becomes a *kāmadhenu* cow to give the nectar of *rasa* as the devotees celebrate a festival of spiritual love. Placing this dust on their heads, the beautiful *gopīs* attain something even peacock-feather-crowned Kṛṣṇa yearns to attain.

*vṛndāni sarva-mahatām apahāya dūrād
vṛndātavīm anusara pranayena cetaḥ
sat-tāraṇī-kṛta-su-bhāva-sudhā-rasaughaṁ
rādhābhidhānam iha divya-nidhānam asti*

O my heart, please turn from great things of this world and run to Vṛndāvana, where the great treasure, the nectar flood that delivers the devotees from this world, is Śrī Rādhā's name.

*yat-pāda-padma-nakha-candra-maṇi-cchatayā
visphurjitāṁ kim api gopa-vadhūṣv adarśi
pūrṇānurāga-rasa-sāgara-sāra-mūrtiḥ
sā rādhikā mayi kadāpi kṛpāṁ karotu*

May Śrī Rādhā, who is the personified nectar ocean of perfect spiritual love, and the splendor of whose candrakānta-jewel toenails glistens amongst the *gopīs*, be merciful to me.

*rādhā-karāvacita-pallava-vallarīke
rādhā-padāṅka-vilasan-madhura-sthalīke
rādhā-yaśo-mukhara-matta-khagāvalīke
rādhā-vihāra-vipine ramatāṁ mano me*

I pray that my heart may find its happiness in Rādhā's pastime forest, where the vines bear flowers picked by Rādhā's own hands, where many charming places bear Rādhā's footprints, and where the birds passionately sing of Rādhā's glories.

*vaidagdhyā-sindhur anurāga-rasaika-sindhur
vātsalya-sindhur ati-sāndra-kṛpaika-sindhuh
lāvanya-sindhur amṛta-cchavi-rūpa-sindhuh
śrī-rādhikā sphurati me hr̥di keli-sindhuh*

May Śrī Rādhā, who is an ocean of intelligence, a nectar ocean of love, an ocean of kind affection, an ocean of great mercy, an ocean of beauty, an ocean of nectar splendor, and an ocean of transcendental pastimes, appear in my heart.

— Śrī Prabodhānanda Sarasvatī Gosvāmī's *Śrī Rādhā-rasa-sudhā-nidhī*,
Texts 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 14, 18

(3)

Ānanda-candrikākhyam-rādhā-daśa-nāma-stotra **The Moonlight of Bliss**

rādhā₁ dāmodara-preṣṭhā₂
rādhikā₃ vārṣabhānavī₄
samasta-ballavī-vṛnda-
dhamillottamaśa-mallikā₅

1. Rādhā, 2. She who is dear to Lord Dāmodara, 3. His greatest worshiper, 4. The daughter of King Vṛṣabhānu, 5. She who is the crowning garland of *mallikā* flowers on the decorated braided hair of all the *gopīs*. (1)

kṛṣṇa-priyāvalī-mukhyā₆
gāndharvā₇ lalitā-sakhī₈
viśākhā-sakhya-sukhinī₉
hari-hṛd-bhṛṅga-mañjarī₁₀

6. The first of Kṛṣṇa's beloveds, 7. An expert singer and musician, 8. Lalitā's friend, 9. She who is delighted with the friendship of Viśākhā, 10. the flower blossom that attracts the black bee of Lord Hari's heart. (2)

imāṁ vṛndāvaneśvaryā
daśa-nāma-manoramā
ānanda-candrikāṁ nāma
yo rahasyaṁ stutiṁ paṭhet
se kleśa-rahito bhūtvā
bhūri-saubhāgya-bhūṣitaḥ
tvaritaṁ karuṇā-pātraṁ
rādhā-mādhavayor bhavet

He who reads this confidential prayer, which bears the title *Ānanda-candrikā* (**The Moonlight of Bliss**), and which is beautiful with ten names of the Queen of Vṛndāvana, becomes free of all troubles and decorated with great good fortune. He quickly becomes the object of Śrī Śrī Rādhā Mādhava's mercy. (3, 4)

— By Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī's *Stavamālā*