

Songs for a *Sādhaka*

(1)

Ramañī-Śiromañi

*ramañī-śiromañi, bṛṣabhānu-nandinī,
nīla-vasana-paridhāna
chinna-puraṭa jini', varna-vikāśinī,
baddha-kabarī hari-prāna*

The beloved daughter of King Vṛṣabhānu is the crest-jewel of all young women. She is fond of wearing blue garments. Her radiant complexion is very pleasing and conquers the beauty of freshly cut gold, Her locks of hair are nicely arranged, and She is the life and soul of Lord Kṛṣṇa.

*ābharāṇa-maṇḍita, hari-rasa-paṇḍita,
tilaka-śusobhita-bhālā
kañculikācchāditā, stana-maṇi-maṇḍitā,
kajjala-nayanī rasālā*

She is artfully adorned with jewels, She is very learned in the science of *hari-rasa*, and Her forehead is nicely decorated with *tilaka*. Her breasts are covered with a beautiful corset and adorned with valuable gems, and Her eyes are anointed with black collyrium. Thus She appears to be relishable sweetness personified.

*sakala tyajiyā se rādhā-carāṇe
dāsī ho'ye bhaja parama-jatane*

Giving up everything and becoming a maidservant at the lotus feet of Rādhā, just worship and serve Her with great care and attention.

*saundarya-kirana dekhiyā jāñhār
rati-gaurī-līlā garva-parihār*

Beholding Her effulgent rays of pure beauty, the goddesses Rati, Gaurī, and Līlā abandon all their pride.

*śacī-lakṣmī-satyā saubhāgya bolane
parājita hoy jāñhāra carāṇe*

The good fortune attributed to the goddesses Śacī, Lakṣmī, and Satyā is completely defeated in the presence of Rādhā's feet.

*kṛṣṇa-vaśīkāre candrāvalī-ādi
parājay māne hoiyā vivādī*

The group of rival *gopīs* led by Candrāvalī are forced to accept their defeat before Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, for She alone controls Kṛṣṇa. Thus they always sulk and simply remain quarrelsome.

*hari-dayita rādhā-caraṇa prayāsī
bhaktivinoda śrī-godruma-bāsī*

Bhaktivinoda, a resident of Śrī Godruma, always endeavors for the lotus feet of Rādhā, the most beloved of Lord Hari.

— Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Thākura's *Gītāvalī*



(2)

Rādhā-bhajane jadi
*rādhā-bhajane jadi mati nāhi bhelā
kṛṣṇa-bhajana tava akāraṇa gelā*

If your desire for the worship of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī does not come about, then your so-called worship of Kṛṣṇa is completely useless.

*ātapa-rohita sūraya nāhi jāni
rādhā-virahita mādharma nāhi māni*

Just as I never know the sun to be without without sunlight, so I do not care to regard Mādhava without Rādhā.

*kevala mādharma pūjaye so ajñāni
rādhā anādara koro-i abhimāni*

One who worships Mādhava alone is imperfect in his knowledge, and one who disrespects Rādhā is simply conceited and proud.

*kabañhi nāhi korobi tāñkor saṅga
cette icchasi jadi braja-rasa-raṅga*

You should never associate with such a person if you at all desire within your heart to participate in the eternal sportive pastimes of Vraja.

*rādhikā-dāsī jadi hoy abhimān
śīghra-i mila-i taba gokula-kān*

If one considers oneself to be a humble maidservant of Rādhikā, then such a person very quickly meets the Lord of Gokula.

*brahmā, śiva, nārada, śruti, nārāyaṇī
rādhikā-pada-raja pūjaye mānī'*

Lord Brahmā, Lord Śiva, Nārada Muni, the personified *Vedas*, and Lakṣmī-devī all honor and worship the dust of Rādhikā's lotus feet.

*umā, ramā, satyā, śacī, candrā, rukminī
rādha-avatāra sabe, -āmnāya-vānī*

The Vedic scriptures declare that the goddesses Umā, Ramā, Satyā, Śacī, Candrā, and Rukminī are all personal expansions of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī.

*heno rādhā-paricaryā jāṅkara dhan
bhaktivinoda tā'r māgaye caraṇ*

Bhaktivinoda, whose only treasure is the service of such a Rādhā, humbly begs for Her lotus feet.

— Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's *Gītāvalī*



(3)

Rādhikā-Caraṇa-Renū

Śrī Rādhikāśraya (The Shelter of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī)

*rādhikā-caraṇa-renū, bhūṣana kariyā tanū
anāyāse pābe giridhārī
rādhikā-caraṇāśraya, ye kare se mahāśaya
tānre mūñi jāi balihārī*

Decorate your body with the dust from the lotus feet of Śrī Rādhikā. Then, you will achieve the full grace of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the lifter of Govardhana Hill. One who takes shelter of the lotus feet of Rādhikā, I glorify him as a great person.

*jaya jaya rādhā-nāma, brndābana yānra dhāma
kṛṣṇa-sūkha-bilāsera nidhi
hena rādhā-guṇa-gāna, nā śunila mora kāna
bañcita karila more bidhi*

All glories to the holy names of Śrī Rādhā, who eternally resides in Vṛndāvana. She is the ocean of Kṛṣṇa's happiness. I have been cheated by Providence because I have not heard about the glorification of Rādhā.

*tānra bhakta-saṅga sadā, rasa-līlā-prema-kathā
je kahe se pāya ghaṇāśyāma
ihāte bimūkha jei, tāra kabhū siddhi nāi
nāhi jena śuni tāra nāma*

One who associates with the devotees of Śrī Rādhā and discusses the loving pastimes of Rādhā certainly meets Śyāmasundara. Anyone averse to this never attains perfection and I do not wish to even hear the name of such a person.

*kr̥ṣṇa-nāma-gāne bhāi, rādhikā-carāṇa pāi
rādhā-nāma-gāne kr̥ṣṇacandra
saṅkṣepe kahila kathā, ghūcāo manera byathā
dūḥkha-maya anya kathā-dvandva*

O brother, simply by chanting the names of Kṛṣṇa, one can receive the lotus feet of Rādhikā, and by chanting the names of Rādhikā, one can receive the lotus feet of Kṛṣṇa. Thus, I have briefly explained everything by which you will be relieved from the pains of your heart. All other topics are full of miseries and dualities.

*ahaṅkāra abhimāna, asat-saṅga asaj-jñāna
chāḍi bhaja guru-pāda-padma
kara ātma-nibedana, deha-geha-parijana
guru-bākya parama mahattwa*

Give up false ego and pride. Giving up bad association and endeavoring for useless material knowledge, worship the lotus feet of the spiritual master. Surrender your body, home and family members unto him. The words from the lotus mouth of the spiritual master are supremely important.

— Śrīla Narottama dāsa Ṭhākura's *Śrī Prema Bhakti-candrikā*