

GEM TEN

कर्मिभ्यः परितो हरेः प्रियतया व्यक्तिं ययुर्ज्ञानिनस्
तेभ्यो ज्ञानविमुक्तभक्तिपरमाः प्रेमैकनिष्ठास्ततः
तेभ्यस्ताः पशुपालपङ्कजदृशस्ताभ्योऽपि सा राधिका
प्रेष्ठा तद्वदियं तदीयसरसी तां नाश्रयेत्कः कृती

*karmibhyaḥ parito hareḥ priyatayā vyaktim yayur jñāninas
tebhyo jñāna-vimukta-bhakti-paramāḥ premaika-niṣṭhās tataḥ
tebhyas tāḥ paśu-pāla-paṅkaja-dṛśas tābhyo 'pi sā rādhikā
preṣṭhā tadvad iyaṁ tadīya-sarasī tām nāśrayet kaḥ kṛtī*

SYNONYMS

karmibhyaḥ—than all fruitive workers; paritaḥ—in all respects; hareḥ—by the Supreme Personality of Godhead; priyatayā—because of being favored; vyaktim yayuḥ—it is said in the śāstra; jñāninaḥ—those advanced in knowledge; tebhyaḥ—superior to them; jñāna-vimukta—liberated by knowledge; bhakti-paramāḥ—those engaged in devotional service; prema-eka-niṣṭhāḥ—those who have attained pure love of God; tataḥ—superior to them; tebhyaḥ—better than them; tāḥ—they; paśu-pāla-paṅkaja-dṛśaḥ—the gopīs who are always dependent on Kṛṣṇa, the cowherd boy; tābhyaḥ—above all of them; api—certainly; sā—She; rādhikā—Śrīmatī Rādhikā; preṣṭhā—very dear; tadvat—similarly; iyaṁ—this; tadīya-sarasī—Her lake, Śrī Rādhā-kuṇḍa; tām—Rādhā-kuṇḍa; na—not; āśrayet—would take shelter of; kaḥ—who; kṛtī—most fortunate.

TRANSLATION

In the śāstra it is said that of all types of fruitive workers, he who is advanced in knowledge of the higher values of life is favored by the Supreme Lord Hari. Out of many such people who are advanced in knowledge [jñānīs], one who is practically liberated by virtue of his

knowledge may take to devotional service. He is superior to the others. However, one who has actually attained *prema*, pure love of Kṛṣṇa, is superior to him. The *gopīs* are exalted above all the advanced devotees because they are always totally dependent upon Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the transcendental cowherd boy. Among the *gopīs*, Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī is the most dear to Kṛṣṇa. Her *kuṇḍa* [lake] is as profoundly dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa as this most beloved of the *gopīs*. Who, then, will not reside at Rādhā-kuṇḍa and, in a spiritual body surcharged with ecstatic devotional feelings [*aprākṛtabhāva*], render loving service to the divine couple Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda, who perform Their *aṣṭakāliya-līlā*, Their eternal eightfold daily pastimes. Indeed, those who execute devotional service on the banks of Rādhā-kuṇḍa are the most fortunate people in the universe.