

Śrī Manah-śikṣā

Splendid Instructions to the
Mind

by Śrī Raghunātha dāsa Gosvāmī

Elements of Rāgenvṛga Śloka

- ① Smaraṇam
 - a) Kṛṣṇam
 - b) aṣṭa vṛsthaṁ
- ② attachment to
- ③ vṛkṣ vṛgā

Verse-9

Bhajana Darpana

by

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura

Verse-9

Rāgahuga bhajan
→ smaranam

① Meditation on P

② Meditation on Rādhikā

(mad-īśā-nāthatve vraja-vipina-candram)

(vraja-vane-

śvarīm tan-nāthatve) (tad-atula-sakhīye tu lalitām)

③ Meditation on Lalitā

(viśākhām śikṣālī-vitarana-gurutve) (priya-saro-

girindrau tat-prekṣā-lalita-rati-datve smara manah)

⑤ & ⑥
Meditation on Rādhā-kuṇḍa & Govardhana

④ Meditation on Viśakṣā devī

O mind (manah), meditate on (smara) Kṛṣṇa, the moon of the Vṛndāvana forest (vraja-vipina-candram), as the lord of my leader, Śrī Rādhikā (mad-īśā-nāthatve). Meditate on Śrī Rādhikā (vraja-vana-īśvarīm) as his most dear object of love (tad-nāthatve). Meditate on Śrī Lalitā (lalitām tu) as her incomparable friend (tad-atula-sakhīye). Meditate on Śrī Viśākhā (viśākhām) as the foremost guru (gurutve) distributing the teachings of love (śikṣālī-vitarana). And meditate on Rādhā-kuṇḍa (priya-saro) and Govardhana (girindrau) as givers (datve) of the sight (tat-prekṣā) and love of Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa (lalita-rati).

Verse-9 Bhajana Darpana

The essence of the above composition is that Śrīla Raghunāth Dāsa Gosvāmī desires residence at the feet of Girirāja Govardhana, and prays that Śrī Girirāja will cause ecstatic love in his heart to awaken for the lotus feet of the divine couple Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa.

Seeing, or taking darśana of, Rādhā-kuṇḍa and Govardhana invokes exclusive devotion in one's heart.

Indeed, all of the locations of Kṛṣṇa's transcendental playing and pastimes bestow pleasure, and one should therefore always meditate on them.

The spiritual practitioner should always remember the above six subject matters with great affection.

Śrī Vṛndādevy-aṣṭaka

Eight Prayers Glorifying Śrī Vṛndā Devī

by

Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura

EFFULGENCE
BEAUTY OF VṚNDĀ DEVI

Text 1

EFFULGENCE &
BEAUTY OF HER CLOTH

gāṅgeya-cāṁpeya-taḍid-vinindi-
rociḥ-pravāha-snapitātma-vṛnde
bandhūka-bandhu-dyuti-divya-vāso
vṛnde namas te caraṇāravindam

O Vṛndā Devī, I offer my respectful obeisances to your lotus feet (vṛnde namas te caraṇāravindam). You are bathed in your own splendor (ātma rociḥ-pravāha-snapitāḥ), which defeats the effulgence of lightning (taḍid-vinindi) and the golden campaka flower (gāṅgeya-cāṁpeya). The luster of your transcendental garments (divya-vāsaḥ-dyuti) is the friend of the Bandhuka flower (bandhūka-bandhu).

Beauty of Vṛndādevī's
face & also her ornaments

Text 2

bimbādharauditvara-manda-hāsya-
nāsāgra-muktā-dyuti-dīpitāsye
vicitra-ratnābharāṇa-śriyādhye
vṛnde namas te caraṇāravindam

O Vṛndā Devī, I offer my respectful obeisances to your lotus feet (vṛnde namas te caraṇāravindam). Your face is illuminated (dīpita āsye) by the splendor of the pearl decorating the tip of your nose (nāsa-agra-muktā-dyuti), and by the extraordinary gentle smile (uditvara-manda-hāsya) on the two bimba fruits which are your lips (bimba adhara). You are enriched by the beauty (śriyādhye) of the amazing and colorful jewels and ornaments you wear (vicitra-ratna ābharāṇa).

Text 3

has been crowned as
the ruling monarch of
Vṛndāvan by Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī

samasta-vaikuṅṭha-śiromaṇau śrī-
kṛṣṇasya vṛndāvana-dhanya-dhāmni
dattādhikāre vṛṣabhānu-putryā
vṛnde namas te caraṇāravindam

O Vṛndā Devī, I offer my respectful obeisances to your lotus feet (vṛnde namas te caraṇāravindam). Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, the daughter of King Vṛṣabhānu (vṛṣabhānu-putryā), has made you the ruling monarch (datta adhikāre) of Lord Kṛṣṇa's opulent and auspicious abode of Vṛndāvana (śrī-kṛṣṇasya vṛndāvana-dhanya-dhāmni), which is the crest jewel of all the Vaikuṅṭha planets (samasta-vaikuṅṭha-śiromaṇau).

Vrnda devi ॐ
the Orchestrator &
K's Pastimes

Text 4

tvad-ājñayā pallava-puṣpa-bhr̥ṅga-
mṛgādibhir mādhava-keli-kuñjah
madhv-ādibhir bhānti vibhūṣyamāṇā
vr̥nde namas te caraṇāravindam

O Vr̥ndā Devī, I offer my respectful obeisances to your lotus feet (vr̥nde namas te caraṇāravindam). Because of your order (tvad-ājñayā), the groves where Lord Mādhava performs His pastimes (madhava keli kuñjah) appear very splendid (bhānti), decorated (vibhūṣyamāṇā) with blossoming flowers (pallava-puṣpa), bumblebees (bhr̥ṅga), deer, and other auspicious animals (mṛga ādibhih), flowers, and birds (madhu-ādibhih).

Vrnda devi as the
perfect messenger.

Text 5

tvadiya-dūtyena nikuñja-yūnor
atyutkayoḥ keli-vilāsa-siddhih
tvat-saubhagam kena nirucyatām tad
vrnde namas te caranāravindam

O Vrnda Devi, I offer my respectful obeisances to your lotus feet (vrnde namas te caranāravindam). Who can describe your good fortune (kena nirucyatām tvat-saubhagam)? You were the messenger (tvadiya-dūtyena) who brought about the perfection of the amorous pastimes (vilāsa-siddhih) of Radha and Krsna, the youthful couple (yūnoḥ), who enthusiastically sport in the groves of Vrndavana (atyutkayoḥ nikuñja keli).

great enthusiasm. groves pastimes.

Text 6

It is only by
the mercy of Vṛndādevī
that we get the desire
to understand R-K's pastimes
① to
② we get to stay in V
③ we get to serve R-K.

rāsābhilāṣo vasatiś ca vṛndā-
vane tvad-īśāṅghri-saroja-sevā
labhyā ca pum̐sām kṛpayā tavaiva
vṛnde namas te caraṇāravindam

O Vṛndā Devī, I offer my respectful obeisances to your lotus feet (vṛnde namas te caraṇāravindam). The living entities (pum̐sām) who attain (labhyā) the service of the lotus feet of your Lord (tvad-īśa-āṅghri-saroja-sevā) reside in Vṛndāvana (vṛndāvane vasati), And the desire to understand the Lord's amazing pastimes of the rāsa dance (rāsābhilāṣo) is only by your mercy (tava eva kṛpayā).

Text 7

- ① EXOT is Vaiṣṇava Scripture
- ② Story you.
Vṛndā devī is Śakti
- ③ Human society she is known as
Tulasī devī.

tvam kīrtyase sātvata-tantra-vidbhir
līlābhidhānā kila kṛṣṇa-śaktiḥ
tavaiva mūrtis tulasī nr-loke
vṛnde namas te caraṇāravindam

O Vṛndā Devī, I offer my respectful obeisances to your lotus feet (vṛnde namas te caraṇāravindam). Those who have studied the Sātvata-tantra (sātvata-tantra-vidbhir) glorify you (tvam kīrtyase). You are Lord Kṛṣṇa's potency (kila kṛṣṇa-śaktiḥ) for performing pastimes (līlābhidhānā), and you are known as Tulasī Devī in the human society (tava eva mūrtiḥ tulasī nr-loke).

Text 8

Describes Vṛndā
devī as the protector
& shelter of fallen souls

✓
✓
✓
✓
bhaktyā vihinā aparādha-laksaiḥ
kṣiptāś ca kāmādi-taraṅga-madhye
kṛpāmayi tvām śaraṇam prapannā
vr̥nde namas te caraṇāravindam

O Vṛndā Devī, I offer my respectful obeisances to your lotus feet (vr̥nde namas te caraṇāravindam). Those who are devoid of devotion to Lord Hari (bhaktyā vihinā), and who are thrown (kṣiptāḥ) by their offenses (aparādha-lakṣaiḥ) into the waves of lust and other inauspicious qualities (kāmādi-taraṅga-madhye), may take shelter of your merciful self (kṛpāmayi tvām śaraṇam prapannā).

- Phala śruti
- ① Eternal residence in Goloka
 - ② Prema-sevā
 - ③ All his spiritual aspirations will be fulfilled.

Text 9

vr̥ndāṣṭakam yaḥ śṛṇuyāt paṭhed vā
vr̥ndāvanādhiśa-padābja-bhr̥ṅgaḥ
sa prāpya vr̥ndāvana-nitya-vāsam
tat-prema-sevām labhate kṛtārthaḥ

Let a person who becomes like a bumblebee at the lotus feet of Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa (yaḥ vr̥ndāvana-adhiśa-padābja-bhr̥ṅgaḥ), and who reads or hears these eight verses describing the glories of Vṛndā Devī (vr̥ndāṣṭakam yaḥ śṛṇuyāt paṭhed vā), eternally reside at Goloka Vṛndāvana (sah prāpya vr̥ndāvana-nitya-vāsam). He attains devotional service in pure love of Godhead (tat-prema-sevām labhate), and all his spiritual aspirations become fulfilled (kṛtārthaḥ).