

Did I Catch the Core — Essence?

In translating Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī's *Śrī Upadeśāmṛta*, Śrīla Prabhupāda writes: "Who, then will not reside at Rādhā-kuṇḍa and, (a) in a spiritual body surcharged with ecstatic devotional feelings [*aprākṛtabhāva*] render loving service to the divine couple (b) Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda, who perform (c) Their *aṣṭakāliya-līlā*, Their eternal eightfold daily pastimes."

[What follows is an elaboration of points a, b, and c, above]

- a) "in a spiritual body surcharged with ecstatic devotional feelings [*aprākṛtabhāva*], render loving service to the divine couple:" This clearly indicates that one not only knows his *svarūpa* but has entered the pastimes to perform *nitya-sevā*.
- b) "Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda, who perform:" This is not in the verse. It is something from Śrīla Prabhupada. Śrī Śrī Rādhā-Govinda are Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī's worshipable Deities, the *abhidheya* Param Gurus, the Master and Mistress of Goloka. Here we are clearly being told to follow in Śrī Rūpa Gosvāmī's footsteps and that the meditation and goal is Goloka, not Gokula.
- c) "Their *aṣṭakāliya-līlā*, Their eternal eightfold daily pastimes:" This also confirms that the preoccupation and goal is Goloka; entrance into *aṣṭakāliya-līlā*.



The point is that one must forsake materialistic conceptions: After attaining the *aprākṛta* body of the *gopīs*, *aprākṛta* living entities render *aprākṛta* service to *aprākṛta* Śrī Rādhā in *aprākṛta* Vraja as the *aprākṛta* maidservants of Śrī Rādhā in the transcendental grove on the bank of *aprākṛta* Rādhā-kuṇḍa.

— Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, A Lecture at Śrī Rādhā-kuṇḍa, October 1932.

Śrīla Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura makes the same point in his *Pīyūṣa-varṣiṇī-vṛtti* Text 11 commentary. He says, "In the transcendental land of Vraja (*aprākṛta* Vraja), the transcendental living entity (*aprākṛta jīva*) after having attained his transcendental *gopī* body (*aprākṛta-gopī-deha*) has become situated at Rādhā-kuṇḍa in the *kuñja* of a *sakhī* as a protected and maintained maid servant (*pālyā-dāsī*), by the mercy of his (her) own spiritual master. Externally having first taken continuous shelter of *Nāma*, and being sheltered at Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's feet, such a person, who is expert in *bhajana*, is attending Śrīmatī Rādhikā in (Her) *aṣṭa-kāliya-sevā* to Śrī Kṛṣṇa."

Just a Little Food for Thought!