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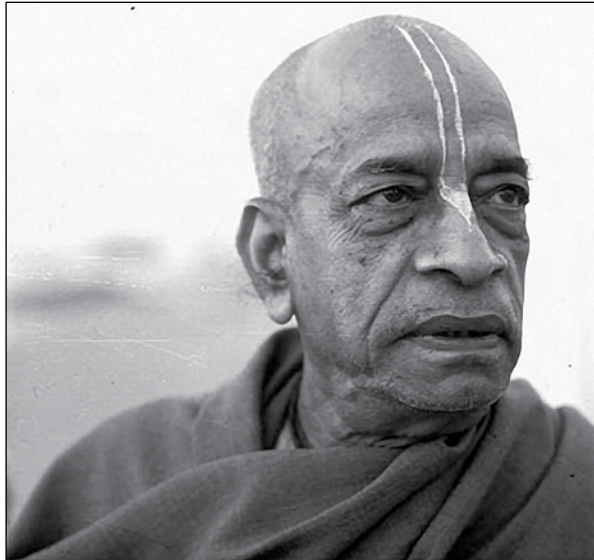
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SRI RADHA'S POSITION

His Divine Grace

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Radharani is *daivī-māyā*. In our material conditional life we are under the material energy. Similarly, in our liberated state we come under the spiritual energy. That spiritual energy is Radharani. We are acting at the present moment under the material energy, because our body is made of material energy. When you become liberated you will develop your body of spiritual energy. You have to come under the control of some energy. You are marginal energy.

Marginal energy means you may be under the control of the spiritual energy or you may be under the control of the material energy — your position is marginal. When you are under the control of the material energy, that is a precarious condition, struggle for existence. While when you are under the spiritual energy, that is a life of freedom. Radharani is spiritual energy, and Durga, or Kali, is material energy. Materialists worship Durga, Kali, the different forms of material energy. (Lecture in Los Angeles. 23 November 1968.)

Now you are in Krishna consciousness and are studying so many books. Have you found anyone who is greater than or equal to Krishna? No. Yet, we can find one greater than Krishna — Radharani is greater than Krishna. That is out of love. Actually, Radharani is also lesser than Krishna. She is his *dāsī*, maidservant. She is always thinking how she shall be a perfect *dāsī*. She is not thinking that she is greater than Krishna. Krishna sometimes makes Radharani greater than him. That does not mean Radharani thinks like that. Radharani always thinks, “How I shall become the perfect maidservant of Krishna?” That is the real position of everyone. In the *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* you'll find how everyone is thinking of themselves as the servant of Krishna. That is our real position. (Lecture in Vrindavan. 2 August 1974.)

THE BEAUTIFUL FORM OF SRI RADHA

Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta ādi 4.259 and 260

Translations and purports by

His Divine Grace

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

nirdhūtāmṛta-mādhurī-parimalaḥ kalyāṇi bimbādharo
vaktraṁ pañkaja-saurabhaṁ kuharita-ślāghā-bhidas te girāḥ
aṅgaṁ candana-śītalāṁ tanur iyaṁ saundarya-sarvasva-bhāk
tvām āsādyā mamedam indriya-kulaṁ rādhe muhur modate

“My dear auspicious Radharani! Your body is the source of all beauty. Your red lips are softer than the sense of immortal sweetness, your face bears the aroma of a lotus flower, your sweet words defeat the vibrations of the cuckoo, and your limbs are cooler than the pulp of sandalwood. All my transcendental senses are overwhelmed in ecstatic pleasure by tasting you, who are completely decorated with beautiful qualities.”

Purport: This verse, spoken by Lord Krishna to Radha, is recorded in the *Lalita-mādhava* (9.9) of Srīla Rupa Goswami.

rūpe kaṁsa-harasya lubdha-nayanāṁ sparśe ‘tīhṛṣyat-tvacam
vāṇyām utkalita-śrutim parimale sañhṛṣṭa-nāsā-putāṁ
ārajyad-rasanāṁ kilādharā-pute nyañcan-mukhāmbho-ruhāṁ
dambhodgīrṇa-mahā-dhṛtim bahir api prodyad-vikārakulām

“Her eyes are enchanted by the beauty of Lord Krishna, the enemy of Kamsa. Her body thrills in pleasure at his touch. Her ears are always attracted to his sweet voice, her nostrils are enchanted by his fragrance, and her tongue hankers for the nectar of his soft lips. She hangs down her lotus-like face, exercising self-control only by pretense, but she cannot help showing the external signs of her spontaneous love for Lord Krishna.”

Purport: Thus Srīla Rupa Goswami describes the countenance of Radharani. 🌸

THE DUST OF RADHARANI’S FEET

Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja

Gour Govinda Maharaja: The easiest path is to ask for the dust from the lotus feet of Srimati Radharani. When shall I get it and put that dust on my head? When will that day come when I’ll be a maidservant of Srimati Radharani?

Do you pray for it? You have to pray. That’s the only prayer. “When will that day come that I’ll reside on the banks of the river Yamuna?” Because the Yamuna river is the favorite of Srimati Radharani. She used to take her bath in the Yamuna River. If I stay there and get her kind association then she may listen to my prayer.

He Radhe! O Radharani! Please shower your mercy on me. I am your maidservant, *dāsī*.” Are you a maidservant of Radharani? Become one! Become a maidservant of Srimati Radharani, otherwise you cannot get Krishna!

O Radhe! O Srimati Radharani! Please shower your mercy on me. I am your *dāsī*. I am your maidservant. Please accept me as such and shower your mercy on me. This is our prayer.

Devotee: What is the best way to pray to Srimati Radharani?

Gour Govinda Maharaja: Chanting Hare Krishna!

Devotee: Many people chant Hare Krishna, but they don’t get the dust from Radharani’s lotus feet.

Gour Govinda Maharaja: Because they don’t want it! They never desire it, so how they can get it? One should be very eager to get the mercy of Srimati Radharani, the dust from her lotus feet.

Devotee: Do we have to pray to the spiritual master? Or....

Gour Govinda Maharaja: Who is the spiritual master? What is his real form? The spiritual master is the girl companion of Srimati Radharani. First approach the spiritual master, then you can approach Radharani, then approach Krishna. Otherwise it is not at all possible! 🌸
— Darshan in Bhubaneswar. 27 April 1989.

THE GLORY OF RADHA’S NAME

Srīla Rupa Goswami’s
Vidagdha-mādhava chapter six

After Radha slipped away from Krishna and hid from him in the forest, Krishna was searching for her.

Seeing Krishna’s burning desire to meet with Radha, Lalita smiled and said, “O handsome boy, you should ask Vishakha. She knows where Radha has gone.” Lalita then gives a hidden signal to Vishakha.

Krishna turns aside to his friend Madhumangal and whispers, “Friend, look! With her eyebrows, Lalita is indicating a grove of Kadamba trees to Vishakha. There is not the slightest doubt she is doing that.” With a proud smile Krishna walks there and says, “O beloved, I see you. Come out!” Krishna waits with a raised neck and then laughs out loud. “Lalita! Well done! Well done! The vine of your rascaldom has now borne its fruit.” [Indicating that Lalita enabled Radha to slip away.]

Madhumangal then said, “My friend, I have your Radha.”

Krishna becomes joyful, and says, “Friend, you are not like Lalita. I can trust that you speak the truth.”



The symbols on Radha-Krishna's lotus feet

Madhumangal replied, “I swear on the *gāyatrī* mantra that I speak the truth.”

Trusting his friend, Krishna said, “Where is she? Show her to me.”

Madhumangal said, “I shall place her in your hand, but first you must give me a reward.”

Krishna then respectfully decorates him with a garland of *mālatī* flowers.

Madhumangal said, “Here, you may take her.” And he gave Krishna a leaf on which the word “Radha” was written.

Krishna smiled and said, “Friend, I am pleased by your gift.”

*kramāt kakṣām akṣṇoḥ parisara-bhuvanā vā śravaṇayor
manāg adhyārūḍhaṁ praṇayi-janānām akṣara-padam
kam apy antas toṣaṁ vitarad-avilambād anupadaṁ
nisargād viśveṣām hr̥daya-padavīm utsukayati*

When the syllables of the beloved's name even momentarily enter the eyes or ears of the lover, at every moment they bring great satisfaction to the lover's heart. What to speak of the lover's heart, these syllables fill the hearts of the entire world with transcendental love. (Text 24) 🌸

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PRAYERS TO RADHA

*rādhā rāseśvari ramyā rāmā ca paramātmanaḥ
rāsodbhavā kṛṣṇa-kāntā kṛṣṇa-vakṣaḥ-sthala-sthitā*

Beautiful Srimati Radharani is the queen and the origin of the *rāsa* dance. She is the giver of pleasure to Krishna, who is the supersoul in the hearts of all. She is the lover of Krishna and is always situated upon the chest of the Lord.

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

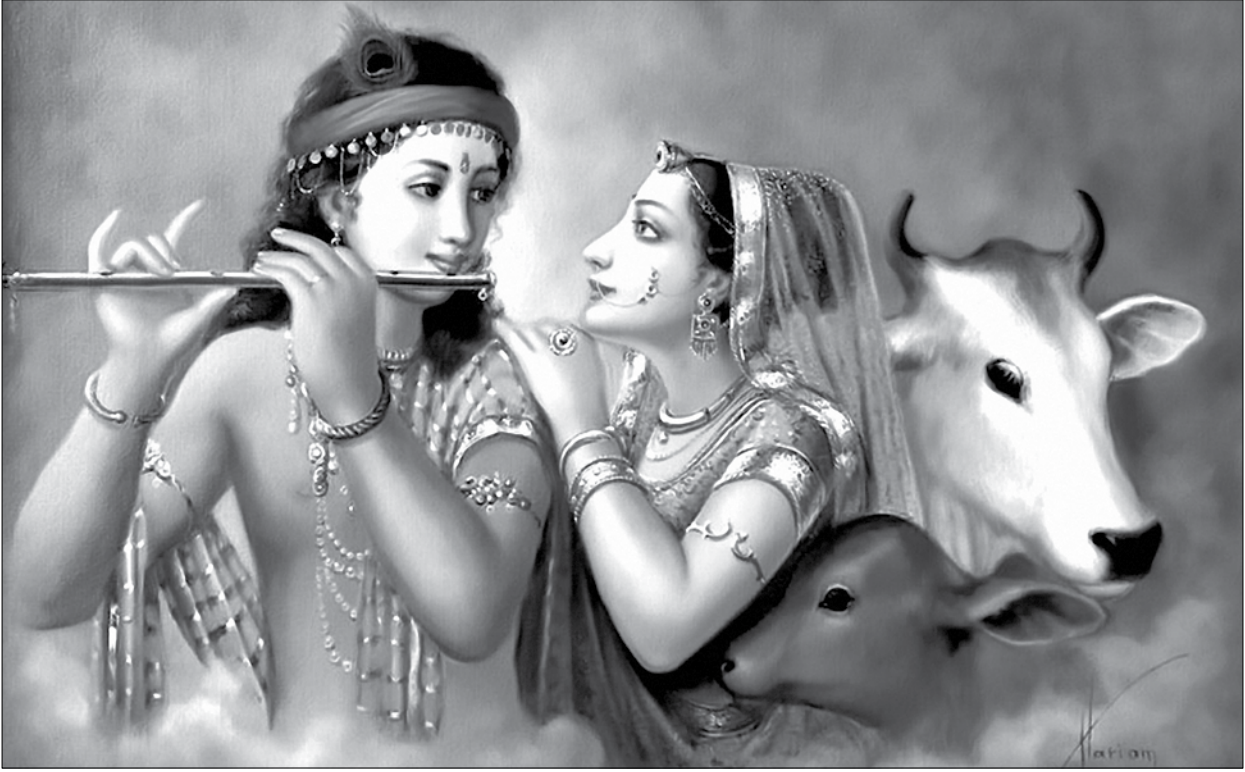
She is the presiding deity of Krishna's very life, and she is the first of all persons, the energy of Lord Vishnu, the embodiment of truthfulness — eternal and ever-youthful.

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

Her form is spiritual, therefore she is transcendental and beyond mundane qualities. She is divine energy and is unattached. O Radha, in Vrindavan you are the leader of the *gopīs*, and you reside on the banks of the Viraja River.

*goloka-vāsinī gopī gopīśā gopa-māṭṛkā
sānandā paramānandā nanda-nandana-kāminī*

She is a resident of Goloka Vrindavan and is a cowherd damsel. She is the queen of the *gopīs* and



Painting by Hari Om

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.

*ṛṣabhānu-sutā śāntā kāntā pūrṇatamā tathā
kāmyā kalāvati-kanyā tīrtha-pūtā satī śubhā*



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The daughter of Maharaja Vrishabhānu is very peaceful and lovely. She is completely contented and fulfilled, very pleasing and is the daughter of Kalavati. She is the purifier of the *tīrthas* and she is most auspicious and chaste to Krishna.

*saṁsāra-sāgare ghore bhītaṁ mām śaraṇāgatam
sarvebhyo 'pi vinirmuktaṁ kuru rādhe sureśvari*

O Radha, I have fallen into the horrible ocean of birth and death and am frightened, but I am seeking your shelter. O supreme goddess, please free me from all fears!

*tvat-pāda-padma-yugale pāda-padmalayārcite
dehi mahyam parām bhaktim kṛṣṇena parisevite*

O Radhika, please give me loving service to your lotus feet, which are worshiped by Lord Brahma and Lakshmi, and which are served even by Lord Krishna.

*mahā-bhāva-svarūpā tvam kṛṣṇa-priyā-varīyasi
prema-bhakti-prade devī rādhe tvām namāmy aham*

O Srimati Radharani, you are the exalted form of *mahā-bhāva*, therefore you are the most dear to Krishna. O goddess, you alone are able to bestow pure love for the Supreme Lord; therefore I offer my humble obeisances unto you. 🙏

— *Pañcarātra-Pradīpa*. Supplement to volume one. ISKCON GBC Press. Mayapur.