19th September, 2026
Radhashtami Festival Class
Topic: The Secret Qualification to Receive Radharani's Mercy
By HH Srila Radhanath Swami

Full Proof Read Transcription:

I am feeling very blessed by this great honor to be with all of you on this most holy and blessed day of Radhastami, the appearance day of Srimati Radharani.

I pray that you all have a wonderful festival. I pray that Sri Sri Radha Gopinath shower their mercy, their blessings, and their grace upon each and every one of you, and all of your family and loved ones, on this special day and forever more.

The Root of All Creation

The Srimad-Bhagavatam tells that when we water the root of the tree, then all the leaves, branches, twigs, and flowers are nourished. And Krishna, *janmady asya yatah*, He is the root of all creation, ahaṁ sarvasya prabhavo mattaḥ sarvaṁ pravartate, the root and source of all material and all spiritual existence. When we satisfy Krishna, then our love can extend to every part and parcel of Krishna.

The most perfect way of loving anyone in this world is by loving Krishna, and extending Krishna's love, and the love Krishna empowers us with, toward all others. Srila Prabhupada describes that this is the peace formula.

And essentially, according to Bhagavad-Gita, Srimad-Bhagavatam, and all of our Acharyas, this is the only true solution to the anxieties, to the frustrations, to the quarrels, the hypocrisies, and the troubles that are causing each and every one of us so much suffering, and collective suffering throughout the world: we have forgotten this essential principle.

Pleasing Krishna Through Srimati Radharani

But how do we water the root of the tree of Krishna? By pleasing Krishna.

Krishna is the source of everything that exists and everyone that exists. He is the source of all incarnations, of all expansions, of everything. And Krishna's *hladini shakti* is His pleasure potency. The essence of that pleasure potency is *prema*, or love.

The essence of prema is mahabhava and the very essence and personification of *Mahabhava* is Srimati Radharani, Krishna's *hladini shakti*, It is through Radharani that we can give the greatest pleasure to Krishna. When we serve Srimati Radharani, when we please Her, we have the deepest access to give pleasure to Krishna.

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu prayed in this way in Jaganath Puri, gopī-bhartuḥ pada-kamalayor dāsa-dāsānudāsaḥ, he was praying to be the servant of the servant of the servant of the Gopis. And all the Gopis are servants of Sri Radha, whose service is the topmost pleasure to Krishna.

Krishna is *Madan-Mohan*. Everyone in this world is so much distracted by the attractive temptations, which creates so much fear of losing what we want. But Krishna is *Madan-Mohan*, He attracts even the attractor of everyone in this world kamadev, But Sri Radha, in Her service with the purest essence of love, She attracts the heart of Krishna.

Krishna is the controller of all controllers, *sarva-karana-karanam*, but yet with His greatest happiness, He proclaims that He is controlled by the love of Radha. Bhakti is the energy of Radha; she is the treasure keeper, the storehouse of all *bhakti*.

bhaktya mam abhijanati, Lord Krishna tells us in Gita that it is only through *bhakti* that I can be known as I am.

The Appearance of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

Our great Acharyas, they have given us the most priceless and rare of all gifts, an understanding, and an opportunity to be connected with the source of all *bhakti*. The very heart of *bhakti* is to be a servant of a servant of a servant of Srimati Radharani

Sri Chaitanya Charitamrita describes that Krishna knows everything and everyone, but the love of Radha was so great, the happiness she feels is something that He longs to experience:

rādhā-bhāva-dyuti-suvalitaṁ naumi kṛṣṇa-svarūpam

Krishna descended in the form of Mahaprabhu, Krishna who has come to experience, to taste the happiness of Srimati Radharani's love, to understand what it is about Himself that gives her such happiness? and the happiness She feels when She tastes His love. That is the deepest of all spiritual mysteries.

When Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu descended to this world not only to experience it, but in the process, to share it with us, to open the doors to the highest realm of the spiritual world, of Goloka Vrindavana.

Krishna in His deity form, in the age of Kali, the time that we're living through at this moment, where the storms of so much quarrel and so much anxiety, so much disease, so much suffering, and death is everywhere, Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu came in the mood of Radha, with the compassion of Radha, with the love of Radha, to bring us all into the natural, eternal spiritual world, which is the true home of the soul within every living being, Vrindavan.

Srila Prabhupada's Gift to the World

Sixty years ago, Srila Prabhupada established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. He brought the message of Lord Chaitanya, the grace of Srimati Radharani, to the whole world.

It began just speaking to a few sailors on a cargo ship, and then to a few people in a very hard place of New York City. But Srila Prabhupada, seeing the sufferings, seeing the conflicts, seeing how so many living beings in this human form of life were wasting the opportunity, he prayed to Srimati Radharani, he prayed to Lord Sri Krishna, he prayed to his Guru Maharaja, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura, all the Acharyas and the disciplic succession, that he could enlighten each and every one of us.

The pathway to real happiness and real love is through *bhakti*, through connecting with the grace of Radharani.

When a devotee who connects with her grace through her servants naturally wants to share Her love and compassion with others. There is no greater need. Yet, material energy is always trying to distract us. Due to the influence of our own false egos, we're thinking that material arrangements, satisfying our own desires will bring us fulfillment. And therefore, there is so much fighting, so much depression, so much envy, arrogance, greed.

But a devotee, by becoming attached to the service of the Vaishnavas, by becoming attached to the service of the Vaishnavas,by becoming attached to the most precious of all gifts, the holy name of the Lord, the Srimad-Bhagavatam, and the association of devotees, we naturally become detached from all the sources of suffering.

Srila Prabhupada risked everything to give us this gift. All of our Acharyas, headed by Rupa Goswami, they supremely, mercifully enlightened the world with this most secret of all secrets: access to the to the spiritual world through the grace of Srimati Radharani, by becoming the servant of the servant of her servants, and chanting the holy names.

Radharani's Mercy and the Meaning of the Deity Garland

In 1969, in London, Srila Prabhupada gave a beautiful lecture on Radhastami, and therein he describes how Radharani along with Krishna is in the heart of all devotees who approach Her with devotion. And She is so lovingly grateful for all those who are trying to serve Her servants.

When we become a sincere servant of the servant to please the devotees, Srimati Radharani approaches Krishna, and She introduces Krishna to you and me. She says,

"Please accept this devotee. She or he is better than me." And Srila Prabhupada describes: she genuinely feels this. This is *bhakti*.

When we make a little spiritual advancement, we think we're better than others. But Srimati Radharani is the supreme treasure house of all love of God. If anyone is serving Her servant, She is approaching Krishna saying, "He is better than me. She is better than me." That is the standard that we should be striving for, just to please the servant of the servants of Sri Radharani. Krishna cannot refuse Her.

The Radha Gopinath temple... Srimati Radharani is in a pose. She's in a pose of dancing, dancing for the pleasure of Krishna. And She is also in a pose of making an offering. When devotees place that garland in her hands, She's offering that garland to Krishna. And in that offering of that garland, she's taking the devotion of each and every one of us who are part of the community, and offering it to Krishna.

Please understand, that garland in Srimati Radharani's hand, it was made by pujaris, I mean, it was made by the garland makers, it was offered by the pujari, but each flower of that garland is being offered on behalf of each and every devotee who is devoted to the community and the temple.You have offered that garland, and Srimati Radharani is offering your intent to love to Gopinath. This is the beauty of the life that we've been given.

And when we cultivate faith through hearing, through chanting, and through serving among devotees who are cultivating faith, we not only understand these principles, we not only feel the truth of these principles, we can realize them. And how happy we are to see that each and every devotee is being offered to Gopinath in the loving hands of Srimati Radharani, right before our eyes, and especially on this day of Radhastami! That garland represents our love and our intent to please Krishna.

Srimati Radha Gopinath have been accepting our humble offerings for about 38 years now, right here at the temple in Chowpatty, Mumbai. And so many devotees from the very beginning are becoming more and more empowered, more and more enthusiastic, and continue their loving service with Radha-Gopinath in the middle of everything. And so many more devotees have come over the decades, whether we're very senior or whether new devotees, as a community, we are just so grateful, because each and every one of us, whoever we are, wherever we are coming from, if we're sincere, by the mercy of Srila Prabhupada and our Acharyas, they will offer our hearts, our souls, to Srimati Radharani and She will offer them to Gopinath. Let that be our happiness. Let our happiness be in what makes Srimati Radharani happy.

Srila Prabhupada quoted that beautiful verse: *sarve bhavantu sukhinah*, Let all beings be happy. To all of us, we're being entrusted to make this the priority of our life: to share with one another, and together to share it with everyone.

I pray that Sri Sri Radha Gopinath on this very supreme holy day gives you true happiness in their loving service.

I pray that they will protect you, inspire you, and bless you with more and more desire to chant Their holy names, to hear Their glories, to love Their devotees.

When we look for happiness in these treasures, Krishna reveals real happiness. When we look for happiness anywhere else, we remain lost within the complications of material existence.

So let us seek the true root of the tree of our life and all life by being the servants of the servants of the Lord. And on this very special day, let us knew our vows, knew our commitments, and rededicate our body, mind, words, hearts, and souls as humble servants of the Lord.

Thank you very much.