

Rupa Goswami's prayers to Radharani

\* In his Catu-husbanjali [ Stavamala ],  
Srila Rupa Gosvami says :

" O Queen of Vrndavana , Sri Radha,  
I worship You . Your fair complexion  
is more resplendent than molten  
gold , the color of Your sari the  
hue of a blue lotus flower . Your  
beautiful braided hair is long and  
raven-black , its coiffure studded  
with many brilliant gems , like the  
shining black hood of a cobra .

" Even the beautiful lotus in full  
bloom or the rising full moon offers  
no comparison to Your breathtaking  
face , for it is much more exquisite .  
Your shining forehead is marked  
by a tidy saffron tilaka .

"The arches of Your elegant eyebrows put to shame Cupid's bow. Your cascading black tresses sway, and the dark mascara on Your roving eyes makes them look like restless black partridges.

"Your fine nose is decorated by a ring studded with the noblest pearl, and Your lips are more charming than bright red tulips. Your sparkling, even teeth are like rows of spotlessly white jasmine buds.

"The golden earrings that dangle gracefully from Your ears like a pair of Laburnum flowers are inlaid with many precious gems. The gentle cleft of Your delicate chin is decorated with a dot of musk,

and an intricately bejewelled necklace  
sparkles on You with regal splendor.

"Your nicely formed arms are like  
lotus stems, adorned with fine and  
precious gems, and the two armlets  
inlaid with blue sapphires softly jingle  
with Your slightest movements,  
pleasing all ears with their sweet  
music.

"Your hands are beautiful and  
soft, like the lotus, and Your fingers  
are decorated with rings mounted  
with precious jewels. Your breasts  
are adorned with a large necklace  
finely set with stones and gems.

"The central jewel of Your regal  
necklace sits atop a line of dark  
gems that grow gradually larger

in size. One could mistake it for a black snake carrying a gem on its hood. You are slender around the waist, and Your belly is concave because it must carry the burden of Your full breasts. It is marked by three lines like entwining creepers.

" A tinkling girdle of gold inset with precious stones adorns Your broad flaring hips, and Your shapely thighs put to shame the pride of the golden trunks of banana trees.

" Your kneecaps are so delicate and well-formed that they are far more attractive than round golden caskets studded with gems. The ankle-bells on Your finely formed feet sing an eternal melody, and the pink lotuses that

blossom in autumn bow their heads in  
ardent worship to the beauty of Your  
lotus feet.

"The brilliance of millions upon millions  
of full moons pales before the opalescent  
nails of Your lotus feet. Innumerable  
ecstatic symptoms are Your natural  
embellishments, and You become  
stunned and perspire freely when  
Your yearning sidelong looks from  
afar intimately traverse Krishna's  
body. Uncontrollable erotic waves  
overcome You, and when You  
meet with Your beloved Krsna  
You are swept away in a surge of  
sublime ecstasy. O Queen of Vrndava-  
na, You are the reservoir of all  
divine qualities, and I therefore  
worship Your lotus feet.

"O Srimati Radharani, all the symptoms of the very highest ecstasy, maha-bhava, become simultaneously manifest in You, and Your heart is benumbed. You are the ocean of unlimited transcendental emotions found only in perfect heroines, and everyone is amazed when You exhibit these ecstatic emotions.

"All the charming and captivating traits which make a heroine perfect are offering their obeisances to Your lotus feet in silent praise. The great beauty Lakshmi-devi, the goddess of fortune, is humbly praying to attain residence on the toenails of Your lotus feet.

"You are the crest jewel of the damsels of Vraja, an eternal

resident of Gokula, the most beloved object of the gopis. Your gentle smile acts as the life sustaining salve for Lalita and other sakhis.

"When Your roving eyes glance on Krsna with a sidelong look, it acts on Him like a drop of ambrosia, maddening and inciting Him with love. You are the apple of Your father King Vrisabhana's eyes, and the soothing rays of Your moonlike activities exhilarate him.

"Your heart is like an ocean which is overflowing with waves of compassion. Therefore, O Radhika! shower Your mercy, and be pleased with this person who is begging to become Your maid-servant.

"O Radha my mistress! When will I be fortunate to see that after a Lover's quarrel, when Krsna tries to pacify You, His indignant Lady-Love, with sweet cajoling words, in which He is truly expert, and begs You for a Lovers' tryst, You are really pleased within but nonetheless turn Your face away and look at Krsna from the corner of Your eyes.

"O Divine Lady! Will that day ever come? When Lord Krsna, who is adept at everything, strings a charming garland of myrtle blossoms and slips it over Your head and His electric touch sends waves of ecstasy pulsating through You, and You begin to perspire profusely, when will I be fortunate

enough to gently fan You with a  
palm leaf fan?

"O Divine Lady! O beautiful Queen!  
When after Your hours of pleasure  
with Krsna Your intricately  
made-up hair becomes dishevelled  
and You need someone to set it  
properly again, when will You  
instruct this maid-servant to do  
this service?

"O Divine beauty with cherry lips!  
Will I be able to see the wonderful  
 dalliances between You and Krsna?  
When I place betel-nut pan into  
Your lotus mouth, Krsna tries  
to take it out of Your mouth and  
chew the same pan.

"O Srimati Radha! Among all the beloved gopis of Krsna You are His most cherished jewel. Therefore kindly be pleased with me and quickly shower Your mercy by including me amongst Your family members.

"O Queen of Vraja! I beg repeatedly at Your lotus feet for Your compassionate grace. Please allow me to become Your maid-in-attendance (sakhi) and confidante, so that when You become indignant after a lover's quarrel Krsna will approach me, knowing that I am Your sakhi, and flatter me to take Him to You; then I will take His hand and guide Him to You.

"Anyone who reads this prayer,  
named Catushpanjali,  
dedicated to Radharani, the  
Queen of Vrndavana, with faith  
and devotion, will very soon  
receive Her mercy directly."