

## Rasa Leela

Gopikas had complete faith in the divine aspect of Krishna and they had unwavering faith in Krishna. Theirs was a sacred, pure and selfless devotion. **Rasa Krida (the play of Krishna and gopikas) is symbolic of the sacred confluence between the jivatma (represented by the gopikas) and the paramatma (represented by Krishna).**

They had converted their hearts into Brindavan and their thoughts into sacred streams. There was no illusion in them relating to their body.



Depending on the age of an individual, he is described as being in his childhood, youth, adolescence or old age. However, for Krishna it was always childhood or youth. This was beyond all human comprehension. He is immortal and is always full of peace and in this way he represents eternal beauty. The gopikas realized that they can find true beauty in this aspect only and so they wanted to get him as their Natha or husband. We generally think that the word husband means one in the position of a husband to a wife. But, in actual fact, a **husband means one who takes care of the person**

. Their feeling was that Krishna alone can bear the burden of taking care of all of them and hence they desired him as their husband.

This sacred devotion shown by the gopikas and by Radha should remain ideal examples for all time. The yugas may have gone and lifestyles may have changed, but the ideals of gopikas and the leelas of Krishna have stood the test of time and they are always fresh. All the actions of the gopikas were representative of the actions of the jiva with respect to Brahman. The inner significance of this is to say that our mind is the brindavan and our ideas are the gopikas. **The jiva is Radha and the atma is Krishna.**

Thus, in the Brindavan of our heart, the jiva in the form of Radha, along with the ideas in the

form of gopikas are performing leelas with Atma. Do not be under the impression that Brindavan was somewhere and the leelas of Krishna was performed there. Regard your heart as Brindavan and yourself as Radha and surrender yourself to Krishna the Lord.

## Radha and Murali



When the gopikas were sending message through Uddhava, Radha was preparing to merge her life with Krishna. When she was thus thinking of Krishna with great intensity of feeling, Krishna came. She had only one last wish. She expressed this wish by saying that she wanted to hear the Lord sing on His murali. While listening to the Murali, she gave up her life. Later, Krishna explained the inner significance of this to the Pandavas. From that day, Krishna gave up His Murali which was with Him always during His younger days. Krishna stopped playing on the Murali from the day when Radha ended her life. It is necessary for us to recognize the close connection which exists between Radha and Murali. The human body in its bodily aspect has nine holes. The Murali also has nine holes. Radha was like a murali and she had no place in her for any worldly ideas. Radha was above all worldly ideas. Radha came out of the Murali and she again went and merged in the Murali. Here Murali means the body. The breathing in and out represents God's sankalpa. This is also termed, 'Soham' in the form of Hamsa Gayatri. It also gives us the ideal, 'I am that, I am that'. The same idea has also been described in 'Tat Twam Asi'. While everyone is identical with the divine, Radha is establishing this great truth in her form.

## Radha

Radha exhibited the totality of the stream of love or prakriti has taken the form of Radha. If Radha was attracted to Krishna and Krishna was attached to Radha, it simply means that Paramatma and Prakriti were attached to each other. This is a silver tumbler. It is not possible for us to remove the silver from the tumbler. Because, the silver and the tumbler have joined together, we call it a silver tumbler. In the same manner, it is not possible to separate Radha and Krishna from each other. Because Prakriti and Paramatma are identical with each other, it is one single entity. Without Prakriti or creation, there is no Krishna. Without Krishna, we will not be able to see creation. I have told you many times that Radha does not simply mean the form of a woman. It is something far more important. The language develops as a confluence of several letters. The letters come together to form a word. In the word, RADHA, we have the letters R-A-D-H-A. When we commence with A, we get Adhar; when we commence with D we get Dhara and in the reverse direction it reads Aradh.

Thus, the word Radha means, one who constantly chants the name of the Lord. Everyone who does aradhana can be described as Radha. The word does not relate to a feminine gender indicating the name of a woman at all. Krishna's aspect demonstrates that there is no such difference at all in the presence of divinity. In this manner, Krishna has been spreading the concept of pure love. Only when we can exterminate jealousy, we will be able to develop pure love. There is no objection to desiring what you want, but it is wrong to develop jealousy at what others have. In this manner, Krishna was showing the divine path to the gopis and gopalas.