

The Glories of Śrī Kṛṣṇa's Sacred Realm

The Glories of Śrī Govardhana Hill

1. Govardhana Hill is like a flag of intense sweetness placed in the opulent land of Vṛndāvana. As the king of mountains, Govardhana Hill offers very pleasing royal service to the young prince of Vraja.
2. The rocks of Govardhana Hill are many kinds of splendid jewels that provide thrones, couches, and other kinds of furniture for Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the supreme monarch of all nectar mellows.
3. Govardhana Hill's beautiful forests and caves are Kṛṣṇa's nectar pastime palaces, each one perfect for the supreme good fortune of His beloved and Her friends.
4. Govardhana Hill's trees and vines serve Śrī Kṛṣṇa by offering Him blossoming branches with sweet fruits, and flowers filled with honey, nectar and fragrant pollen.
5. The red, vermilion, yellow and other colored pigments of Govardhana Hill decorate Lord Kṛṣṇa's transcendental body for the pleasure of His beloved *gopīs*.
6. The musk left by deer, as well as the *kunkuma*, camphor, and *aguru* naturally produced by Govardhana Hill, are all used to give a sweet fragrance to the transcendental body of Lord Kṛṣṇa.
7. There is a pleasant grove of sandalwood trees on Govardhana Hill. Although snakes are generally attracted to sandalwood trees, no snakes ever come here, or if sometimes a snake may come it is not poisonous, or if sometimes a poisonous snake comes its poison is automatically counteracted, and it can do no harm. As the best servant of Lord Hari, Govardhana Hill has made this wonderful arrangement for the Lord's pleasure.
8. The rocks of Govardhana Hill are all precious gems. Some are sapphires, some emeralds, some rubies or crystals. They provide the perfect backdrop for Lord Kṛṣṇa's pastimes.
9. The peacocks dance enthusiastically, the bees and cuckoos sing melodiously and many other birds chirp a rhythmic accompaniment, as they all gaze on the service to Lord Hari done by Govardhana Hill, the best of Lord Hari's servants.
10. The land around Govardhana Hill in all directions is filled with many lakes, groves, and other charming places of Lord Kṛṣṇa's pastimes. Many lovely streams flow from Govardhana Hill onto these lands in all directions.

11. The Supreme Personality of Godhead eternally enjoys pastimes on Govardhana Hill. He personally lifted Govardhana Hill with His own hand to protect His cowherd associates. Who is able to describe the glories of Govardhana Hill, the best of Lord Hari's servants?
12. Rādhā-kuṇḍa and Śyāma-kuṇḍa are Govardhana's two love-filled eyes. Because it nourishes the *gopas*, *gopīs*, and *surabhi* cows with Lord Mādhava's sweetness, it shines with the name 'go-*vardhana*'.
13. Śyāma-kuṇḍa and Rādhā-kuṇḍa are two great floods of the nectar of beauty. They are two great oceans of splendor. They are two beautiful roots from which the sweetest devotional service grows.
14. They are two jewel-mines of love. They are two seeds from which grow the jewel-vines of transcendental pastimes. How did they become two splendid and nectar-sweet lakes?
15. By seeing these two lakes, Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa believe They are present in Them. It is as if They directly see each other there. The wise say that by approaching these lakes one directly approaches Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa.

— Śrīla Visvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura's *Vraja Riti Cintāmaṇi*, Ch. 3 excerpts