



Temple of Lalitā-Devī in Unchagaon - with Śrī Lalitāṣṭakam

ŚRĪ LALITĀṢṬAKAM
Eight Verses in Praise of Śrī Lalitā-devī
 From Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī's *Stavamālā*

श्रीललिताष्टकम्

॥ Śrī Lalitāṣṭakam ॥

राधा-मुकुन्द-पद-सम्भव-घर्म-बिन्दु-
 निर्मञ्छनोपकरणी-कृत देह-लक्षाम् ।
 उत्तुङ्ग-सौहृद-विशेष-वशात् प्रगल्भां
 देवीं गुणैः सुललितां ललितां नमामि ॥ १॥

*rādhā-mukunda-pada-sambhava-gharma-bindu-
 nirmañchanopakaraṇī-kṛta deha-lakṣām |
 uttuṅga-sauhṛda-viśeṣa-vaśāt pragalbhām
 devīm guṇaiḥ sulalitām lalitām namāmi || 1||*

rādhā—of Rādhā; *mukunda*—and Mukunda; *pada*—from the feet; *sambhava*—produced; *gharma*—of perspiration; *bindu*—drops; *nirmañchana*—for worship; *upakaraṇī*—*kṛta*—become an instrument; *deha-lakṣām*—whose body; *uttuṅga*—exalted; *sauhṛda*—love; *viśeṣa*—specific; *pragalbhām*—bold; *devīm*—Devī; *guṇaiḥ*—with virtues; *su*—very; *lalitām*—charming; *lalitām*—to Lalitā; *namāmi*—I offer my respectful obeisances.

I offer my respectful obeisances unto the outspoken and bold Śrī Lalitā-devī, who is charmingly endowed with many beautiful, sweet qualities (*sulalita*). She has natural expertise in all arts (*lalita*), and thus her service self-manifests. She wipes away the glittering drops of perspiration which appear upon the lotus feet of Sri Rādhā and Mukunda when They meet. She is perpetually immersed in the most elevated mellow of *sauhṛda-rāsa*, or undivided absorption in fulfilling the heart's desire of her intimate friend Śrīmatī Rādhikā. (1)

राका-सुधा-किरण-मण्डल-कान्ति-दण्डि-
वक्र-श्रियं चकित-चारु-चमूरु-नेत्राम् ।
राधा-प्रसाधन-विधान-कला-प्रसिद्धां
देवीं गुणैः सुललितां ललितां नमामि ॥ २॥

*rākā-sudhā-kiraṇa-maṇḍala-kānti-daṇḍi-
vaktra-śriyaṁ cakita-cāru-camūru-netrām |
rādhā-prasādhana-vidhāna-kalā-prasiddhām
devīm guṇaiḥ sulalitām lalitām namāmi || 2||*

rākā—of the full moon; *sudhā*—the nectar; *kiraṇa*—effulgence; *maṇḍala*—circle; *kānti*—splendor; *daṇḍi*—rebukes; *vaktra*—smiling face; *śriyaṁ*—the beauty; *cakita*—frightened, alarmed; *cāru*—beautiful; *camūru*—of the doe; *netrām*—eyes; *rādhā*—of Rādhā; *prasādhana*—of decoration; *vidhāna*—activity; *kalā*—in the art; *prasiddhām*—celebrated.

I offer my respectful obeisances to charming and virtuous Lalitā-devī, whose beautiful smiling face rebukes the full moon's splendor, whose lovely eyes are ever-restless like those of a alarmed doe, and who is famous for her extraordinary expertise in the art of dressing and artistically decorating Śrīmatī Rādhikā. (2)

लास्योल्लसद्-भुजग-शत्रु-पतत्र-चित्र-
पट्टांशुकाभरण-कञ्चुलिकाञ्चिताङ्गीम् ।
गोरोचना-रुचि-विगर्हन-गौरिमाणं
देवीं गुणैः सुललितां ललितां नमामि ॥ ३॥

*lāsyollasad-bhujaga-śatru-patatra-citra-
paṭṭāṁśukābharaṇa-kañculikāñcitāṅgīm |
gorocanā-ruci-vigarhana-gaurimāṇam
devīm guṇaiḥ sulalitām lalitām namāmi || 3||*

lāsyā—dance; *ullasad*—splendid; *bhujaga-śatru*—peacock; *patattra*—tail; *citra*—wonderful; *paṭṭa*—amśuka—silk garments; *ābharaṇa*—ornaments; *kañculika*—blouse, dress; *añcita*—decorated; *aṅgīm*—body; *gorocanā*—of gorocanā; *ruci*—splendor; *vigarhana*—condemnation; *gaurimāṇam*—fair complexion.

I offer my respectful obeisances to charming and virtuous Lalitā-devī, whose transcendental form is gracefully dressed with a attractive blouse (*kañculi*), ornaments, and silk garments wonderfully colored like those of a jubilantly dancing peacock with outstretched feathers. Her golden complexion defeats the lustre of *gorocanā* (a bright yellow-golden pigment used for painting, dyeing, and tilaka) (3)

धूर्ते ब्रजेन्द्र-तनये तनु सुष्ठु वाम्यं
मा दक्षिणा भव कलङ्किनि लाघवाय ।
राधे गिरं शृणु हिताम् इति शिक्षयन्तीं
देवीं गुणैः सुललितां ललितां नमामि ॥ ४॥

*dhūrte vrajendra-tanaye tanu suṣṭhu vāmyam
mā dakṣiṇā bhava kalaṅkini lāghavāya |
rādhe giram śṛṇu hitām iti śikṣayantīm
devīm guṇaiḥ sulalitām lalitām namāmi || 4||*

dhūrte—to the cunning rascal; *vrajendra*—of the king of Vraja; *tanaye*—to the son; *tanu*—do; *suṣṭhu*—expertly; *vāmyam*—contrariness; *mā*—don't; *dakṣiṇā*—gentle and submissive; *bhava*—become; *kalaṅkini*—dishonored; *lāghavāya*—for being taken lightly; *rādhe*—o Rādhā; *giram*—words; *śṛṇu*—please hear; *hitām*—auspicious; *iti*—thus; *śikṣayantīm*—instructing.

I offer my respectful obeisances unto Lalitā-devī, the charming treasure-house of all good qualities, who instructs Śrīmatī Rādhikā in this way: "O Kalaṅkini (dishonored one)! Radhe! Please listen to my good instructions which are favorable for you! Vrajendra-nandana is very cunning (*dhūrta*). Don't display Your mood of gentle submission (*dakṣiṇā bhava*) to Him; instead, in all circumstances be contrary." (4)

राधाम् अभि-व्रज-पतेः कृतम् आत्मजेन
कूटं मनाग् अपि विलोक्य विलोहिताक्षीम् ।
वाग्-भङ्गिभिस् तम् अचिरेण विलज्जयन्तीं
देवीं गुणैः सुललितां ललितां नमामि ॥ ५॥

*rādhām abhi-vraja-pateḥ kṛtam ātmajena
kūṭam manāg api vilokya vilohitākṣīm |
vāg-bhaṅgibhis tam acireṇa vilajjayantīm
devīm guṇaiḥ sulalitām lalitām namāmi || 5||*

rādhām—Rādhā; *abhi*—to; *vraja*—of Vraja; *pateḥ*—of the king; *kṛtam*—done; *ātmajena*—by the son; *kūṭam*—trick; *manāg*—slightly; *api*—even; *vilokya*—seeing; *vilohita*—red; *akṣīm*—eyes; *vāg*—of words; *bhaṅgibhis*—with waves; *tam*—Him; *acireṇa*—at once; *vilajjayantīm*—embarrasses.

I offer my respectful obeisances to supremely charming Lalitā-devī. Her eyes become red with anger if she sees the son of the king of Vraja cheating Śrī Rādhikā even slightly, then she will promptly embarrass Him with her clever words and biting, sarcastic remarks flowing from her mouth like waves. (5)

वात्सल्य-वृन्द-वसतिं पशुपाल-राज्ञ्याः
सख्यानुशिक्षण-कलासु गुरुं सखीनाम् ।
राधा-बलावरज-जीवित-निर्विशेषां
देवीं गुणैः सुललितां ललितां नमामि ॥ ६॥

*vātsalya-vṛnda-vasatiṁ paśupāla-rājñyāḥ
sakhyanuśikṣaṇa-kalāsu guruṁ sakhīnām |
rādhā-balāvaraja-jīvita-nirviśeṣām
devīm guṇaiḥ sulalitām lalitām namāmi || 6||*

vātsalya—of parental love; *vṛnda*—of the abundance; *vasatiṁ*—the abode; *paśupāla*—of the cowherds; *rājñyāḥ*—of the queen; *sakhya*—of friendship; *anuśikṣaṇa*—by instruction; *kalāsu*—in the arts; *guruṁ*—teacher; *sakhīnām*—of friends; *rādhā*—of Rādhā; *bala*—avaraja—of Kṛṣṇa, the younger Brother of Balarāma; *jīvita*—the life; *nirviśeṣām*—without distinction.

I offer my respectful obeisances to charming and virtuous Lalitā-devī, who is the abode of parental affection (*vātsalya-rasa*) for the Queen of cowherders, Yaśodā. She is the teacher for all the sakhīs, instructing them in the art of friendship; and the very life of both Śrī Rādhikā and the younger brother of Baladeva. (6)

यां काम् अपि ब्रज-कुले वृषभानुजायाः
प्रेक्ष्य स्व-पक्ष-पदवीम् अनुरुध्यमानाम् ।
सद्यस् तद् इष्ट-घटनेन कृतार्थयन्तीं
देवीं गुणैः सुललितां ललितां नमामि ॥ ७॥

*yām kām api vraja-kule vṛṣabhānujāyāḥ
prekṣya sva-pakṣa-padavīm anurudhyamānām |
sadyas tad iṣṭa-ghaṭanena kṛtārthayantīm
devīm guṇaiḥ sulalitām lalitām namāmi || 7||*

yām—whom; *kām*—someone; *api*—even; *vraja*—of Vraja; *kule*—in the community; *vṛṣabhānujāyāḥ*—of the daughter of King Vṛṣabhānu; *prekṣya*—seeing; *sva*—own; *pakṣa*—of the party; *padavīm*—the path; *anurudhyamānām*—obstructing; *sadyas*—at once; *tad*—of her; *iṣṭa*—the desire; *ghaṭanena*—with the attainment; *kṛtārthayantīm*—desires fulfilled.

I offer my respectful obeisances to charming and virtuous Lalitā-devī, who requests every maiden in Vraja to join the party (*sva-pakṣa*) of Vṛṣabhānu's daughter, thus fulfilling all desires of that maiden. All her desires were at once fulfilled when she saw the path of Śrī Rādhā in Vraja being blocked by a certain person. (7)

राधा-ब्रजेन्द्रसुत-सङ्गम-रङ्ग-चर्या
वर्यं विनिश्चितवतीम् अखिलोत्सवेभ्यः ।
तां गोकुल-प्रिय-सखी-निकुरम्ब-मुख्यां
देवीं गुणैः सुललितां ललितां नमामि ॥ ८॥

*rādhā-vrajendrasuta-saṅgama-raṅga-caryām
varyam viniścivatatīm akhilotsavebhyaḥ |
tām gokula-priya-sakhī-nikuramba-mukhyām
devīm guṇaiḥ sulalitām lalitām namāmi || 8||*

rādhā—of Rādhā; *vrajendrasuta*—and Kṛṣṇa; *saṅgama*—meeting; *raṅga-caryām*—pastime; *varyām*—best; *viniścivatatīm*—considered; *akhila*—of all; *utsavebhyaḥ*—festivals; *tām*—her; *gokula*—of Gokula; *priya*—of the dear; *sakhī*—friends; *nikuramba*—of the multitudes; *mukhyām*—the first.

I offer praṇāma unto Śrī Lalitā-devī, the embodiment of all divine virtues and the foremost of all the favourite sakhīs of Gokula. Her primary engagement is providing pleasure to Śrīmatī Rādhikā and Vrajendra-nandana by arranging Their meetings, which she considers to be the best of all festivals. She is the foremost among all *priya-sakhīs* of Gokula. (8)

PHALA ŚRUTI
(Result of hearing lalitāṣṭakam)

नन्दन्न अमूनि ललिता-गुण-ललितानि
पद्यानि यः पठति निर्मल-दृष्टिर् अष्टौ ।
प्रीत्या विकर्षति जनं निज-वृन्द-मध्ये
तं कीर्तिदा-पति-कुलोज्ज्वल-कल्प-वल्ली

*nandann amūni lalitā-guṇa-lalitāni
padyāni yaḥ paṭhati nirmala-dṛṣṭir aṣṭau |
prītyā vikarṣati janam nija-vṛnda-madhye
tam kīrtidā-pati-kulojjvala-kalpa-vallī*

nandann—enjoying; *amūni*—these; *lalitā*—of Lalitā; *guṇa*—qualities; *lālitāni*—charming; *padyāni*—verses; *yaḥ*—one who; *paṛhati*—reads; *nirmala*—pure; *dr̥ṣṭir*—vision; *aṣṭau*—eight; *prītyā*—with love; *vikarṣati*—pulls; *janam*—person; *nija*—own; *vṛnda*—community; *madhye*—into the midst; *taṁ*—Her; *kīrtidā*—of Kīrtidā; *pati*—of the husband; *kula*—in the family; *ujjala*—splendid; *kalpa*—desire; *vallī*—creeper.

Anyone who recites these eight prayers (*aṣṭakam*) praising Lalitā's wonderful qualities with a pure heart will be lovingly counted amongst her own (friends or maidservants) by Śrī Rādhikā, the brilliant wish-fulfilling creeper (*kalpa-vallī*) of the dynasty of the Lord of Kīrtidā (King Vṛṣabhānu).

Thus ends Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī's 'Lalitāṣṭakam'



Unchagaon Deities with Śrī Lalitā-devī on the right side of Kṛṣṇa