



Vasanta Padas

Songs about spring in Braja

**DEKHO DEKHO APARUPA GAURĀNGERA LĪLĀ
RITU VASANTE, SAKALA PRIYAGANA MELI, JALANIDHI TĪRE COLILĀ**

"Behold the wonderful pastimes of Gaurāṅga! Meeting with all His dear devotees in the spring, He went to the shore of the ocean."

**EKA DIGE GADĀDHARA, SANGE SVARŪPA DĀMODARA,
VĀSA GHOSHA GOVINDĀDI MELI
GAURĪ DĀSA ĀDI KORI, CANDANA PICAKĀ BHORI,
GADĀDHARERA ANGE MĀRE PHELI**

"On one side was Gadādhara, accompanied by Svarūpa Damodara, Vāsu Ghoṣa and Govinda. Gaurī dās Pandit and others filled up their syringes with sandal-water and squirted them out on Gadādhara's body."

**SVARŪPA NIJA-GANA SĀTHE, ĀBIRA LOIYĀ HĀTE,
SAGHANE PHELĀY GORĀ GĀY
GAURĪDĀS KHELI KHELI, GAURĀNGA JITALO BOLI,
KARATĀLI DIYĀ ĀGE DHĀY**

EKA DIGE NĀGARA, SAṄGE SABA SAHACARA,
BĀJATA VĀMŚĪ RASĀLA
(EHO! BĀJATA VĀMŚĪ RASĀLA)

"On one side Nāgara (Kṛṣṇa) stood, playing His succulent flute in the company of all His friends."

RĀDHĀ RĀDHĀ RĀDHĀ BOLI, VEṆU PHUKĀRA-I,
SUMADHURA MADHURA MIŚĀLA
(KIBĀ! SUMADHURA MADHURA MIŚĀLA)

"Rādhā Rādhā Rādhā! The flute blew out, mixing all the most sweet sounds."

BAIṬHALO ŚYĀMA, SAṄGE MADHUMAṄGALA,
ŚUBALA SAKHĀ ĀDI SĀTHA
(EHO! ŚUBALA SAKHĀ ĀDI SĀTHA)

"Śyāma sat down with Madhumaṅgala, Subala and all His other friends."

RĀDHĀ LALITĀ, VIŚĀKHĀ ĀDI SAHACARĪ
PICAKĀRĪ LEI NIJA HĀTA
(KIBĀ—PICAKĀRĪ LEI NIJA HĀTA)

"Rādhā, Lalitā, Viśākhā and all the other *sakhīs* take syringes in their hands."

KĀNUKA PICAKĀRĪ, JABA HU BARIKHATA,
EKOI ŚATA ŚATA DHĀR
(EHO! EKOI ŚATA ŚATA DHĀR!)

"When Kṛṣṇa squirted out the first volley from His syringe, His one stream turned into hundreds of streams."

SAHACARI MELI, RĀI JOTO ḌĀRATO,
KOTO KOTO ŚATA EKA BĀR

(KIBĀ—KOTO KOTO ŚATA EKA BĀR)

"Also all streams squirted out by Rāi and Her girlfriends turned into the hundreds."

**BAHU VIDHA RAÑGE, AÑGA SAB BHIGALO,
ĀÑCARE MUCHATA MUKHA
(EHO! ĀÑCARE MUCHATA MUKHA)**

"In all these different hilarious pastimes everyone's bodies became soaked, and they used their garments to wipe their faces."

**JITALO JITALO BOLI, HĀSI DEI KARATĀLĪ
KHONE KHONE BĀRATO SUKHA
(KIBĀ! KHONE KHONE BĀRATO SUKHA)**

"We have won! We have won!", They laughed and clapped their hands. Thus the ecstasy increased at every moment.

**NĀCATA GĀOTO, ĀBIRA UṘĀOTO,
KOI NĀCATA MANA RAÑGE
(EHO! KOI NĀCATA MANA RAÑGE)**

"Some danced some sang, some threw colored powder about, and some danced according to their own bliss."

**ḌAMPHA RAWĀBA, SABA HU MELI SUSVARA,
GĀOYE UDDHAVA TACHU SAÑGE
(GĀOYE UDDHAVA TACHU SAÑGE)**

"The Dampha-drums and the Rawāb (a kind of Vīnā) are all blending nicely with each other's tunes and Uddhava dāsa sings along with them." (5)



rāgiṇī gāndhāra — tāla teṛa

**ĀISO HE HĀRUYĀ ŚYĀMA KHELIYE PHĀGUWĀ
E BĀR HĀRIBĀ JADI, PHĀGU HĀRĀ NIRAVADHI,
JAGABHORI GĀOWĀIBO DHUWĀ**

"Come here, O Śyāma and play with Fāgu-powder with us! If You win this fight I will make the whole world sing Your glories."

**JADI BOLO EKĀ ĀMI, BAHU SAṄGE SAṄGĪ TUMI,
TABE SAYŪTHE VIŚĀKHĀ HAUK TUWĀ**

"If You argue: "I'm all alone and You have so many assistents", then let Viśākhā and her whole group be on Your side."

**LALITĀ ĀMĀR SAKHĪ, ĀISO ĀR BĀR KHELI DEKHI,
JĀNĀ JĀBE KEMONA KHELUWĀ**

"O Lalitā, My *sakhī*, come and show us how to play this again. Then You will know how this game is played."

**JADI BOLO RAṄGA NĀI, LEHO RAṄGA JOTO CĀI,
NOHE BOLĀO ĀPANA KHELUWĀ**

"If You say: "I have no colored powder", then take as much of it as You want. It will not empower Your game anyway."

**PICAKĀRĪ NĀHI THĀKE, DIBO ĀMI LĀKHE LĀKHE,
JOTO CĀBE PĀBĀ HE BANDHUWĀ**

"If You have no syringe, no problem, I can give You thousands of them. O friend, take as many as You want."

**GIRIDHARA NĀMA DHARA, LOKE BOLE BIR BORO,
HENO NĀM HOILO HĀRUWĀ**

"You bear the name Giridhārī and the people call You a hero— that reputation will now be shattered!"

ŚUNO HE RASIKA ŚYĀM, JINIYĀ RĀKHO NĀM,
BOLU JENO JOGĀYE FĀGUWĀ

"Hear Me, O *rasika Śyāma*! Save Your reputation by winning! Give the word and I will supply You with colored powder!" (7)



rāginī māyura vasanta — tāla eka tālā

RANĠE HO HO HO HORI — KHELATO NAOLO KIŚORĪ

"Thus the adolescent girl enjoys playing the ho ho ho holi-game."

BĀJATO TĀLA, RAVĀBA PĀKHOWĀJA
SAKHĪGAᅇA GHANA KARATĀLI
KUᅇNKUMA CANDANA, ĀBIRA UᅇATA GHANA,
BARIKHATA GHANA PICAKĀRĪ

"The cymbals, Rawāb and Pākhowāja-drums resounded and the *sakhīs* clapped their hands. *kuᅇnkuma*, sandalwoodpulp and *ābira* were densely flying around, being squirted out and showered thickly by the syringes."

DUHUᅇ DUHUᅇ KHELANA, SAMARA PRABANDHA-HI
DUHUᅇ PORA DUHUᅇ POᅇU BHORI
JITANU JITANU GHANA, DUHUᅇ DALE GARAJANA,
SAKHĪGAᅇA BHARA RABA JORI

"Both Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa played a beautiful battle and lots of colours fell on both of Them. Both parties shouted out: "We have won! We have won!", and the *sakhīs* made a lot of noise."

**KHONE KHONE STHAGITA, VADANA DUHUÑ NIRĪKHANA,
JOICHANA CĀÑDA CAKORI
TAHI ŚIVARĀM, DĀSA MANA ĀNANDE,
HERI HĀSATO THORI THORI**

"Sometimes Their play stagnated because They stared at Each others' faces like the Cakora-birds staring at the moon. When Śivarām dās sees this he slightly smiles out of bliss." (8)



rāginī vasanta — tāla eka tālā

**NIDHUVANE MĀDHAVA KHELATO RAÑGE;
VRAJA VANITĀ PHĀGU DEI ŚYĀMA AÑGE (1)
KĀNU PHĀGU DEYOLO SUNDARĪ AÑGE;
MUKHA MOṘĀI DHANI KORI BHAÑGE (2)
PHĀGU RAÑGE GOPĪ SAB CAUDIKE BERĪYĀ;
ŚYĀMA AÑGE DEI PHĀGU ANJALI PŪRIYĀ (3)
PHĀGUYĀ KHELITE PHĀGU UṬHILO GAGANE;
VṘNDĀVANE TARU-LATĀ RĀTULA VARAÑE (4)
RĀÑGĀ MAYŪR NĀCE GĀCHE RĀÑGĀKOKILA GĀY;
RĀÑGĀ PHULE RĀÑGĀ BHRAMAR RĀÑGĀ MADHU KHĀY (5)
RĀÑGĀ BĀYE RĀÑGĀ HOILO KĀLINDĪRA PĀNI;
GAGANE UṬHILO DIG VIDIG NĀ JĀNI (6)
RĀDHE JAY RĀDHE JAY DVIJA KULE GĀY;
HERIYĀ MĀDHAV GHOṢER NAYĀNA JUṘĀY (7)**

"Mādhava is blissfully sporting in Nidhuvana. The Vraja-gopīs throw *phāguwā* (colored powder) on Śyāma's body. (1) Kṛṣṇa throws *phāguwā* on Sundarī Rādhā's body and Dhani (fortunate Rādhā) turns Her head in a gesture. (2) The *gopīs* surround Them

on all sides, playing *phāguwā*, throwing handfuls of *phāguwā* on Śyāma's body. (3) During this game of *phāguwā* the *phāguwā* pervades the whole sky, turning all the trees and vines of Vṛndāvana red. (4) Red peacocks dance, red cuckoos sing, red bees drink red honey from the red flowers, the wind is red, the Yamunā's water turned red and the sky is so red that one cannot distinguish the directions anymore. (5-6) The birds sing *rādhe jaya! rādhe jaya!* and Mādhava Ghoṣa's eyes are soothed when he sees this." (7)



vasanta — tāla daśa kusi

**LĀLINĪ LĀLANA, LĀLA ĀBIRAṆA,
SAKHĪGAṆA LĀLA HI LĀLA
(EHO — SAKHĪGAṆA LĀLA HI LĀLA)**

"Lālinī (Rādhā) and Lālana (Kṛṣṇa) are red of *ābira* (colored powder) and the *sakhīs* are also red."

**KUNJA HI LĀLA, LĀLA NIDHUVANA,
YAMUNĀ LĀLA SALILO
(EHO—YAMUNĀ LĀLA SALILO)**

"The *kunja* (grove) is red, Nidhuvana-garden is red and the water of the Yamunā is red."

**BILASAHI NANDA KI LĀL
LĀLA NALINĪ-KULA, LĀLA ALI SANCARU,
LĀLA HI PĪBARA RASĀL
(EHO—LĀLA HI PĪBARA RASĀL)**

"Thus Nanda's son sports! The lotus-flowers are red, the bees are red and the big ripe mangoes are red."

LĀLA LATĀ TARU, LĀLA PĀKHĪ-KULA

CINTĀMAṆI BHŪMI LĀL
GAGANAHI LĀL, LĀLA DINA YĀMINĪ,
LĀLA HI PHULA NIRAMALO
(EHO — LĀLA HI PHULA NIRAMALO)

"The trees and vines are red, the birds are red, the Cintāmaṇi-soil is red, the sky is red, day and night are red and the spotless flowers are all red!"

LĀLA VASANTA, GĀOYE MANORAMA,
LĀLA ḌAMPHA KULA BĀJ
BALLABHĪ LĀL, MANOHI PORA SANCARU,
LĀLA HI LĀLA VIRĀJA
(EHO — LĀLA HI LĀLA VIRĀJA)

"The spring season is red, singing in an enchanting way, the Dampha-drums that resound are red, Ballabhī is red and even the mind is pervaded with red manifestations."
(15)



rāginī gurjarī — tāla dhāmāla

RĀDHĀ PYĀRI SAHA KHELATO NANDA DULĀL
ARUṆITA MARAKATA, ARUṆITA HEMA YUTA,
AICHANA MŪRATI RASĀLA

"Nanda Dulāl plays with His dear Rādhā. Their succulent forms, that resemble emeralds and gold, are both red."

ARUṆĀMBARA VARA, ŚOHE KALEVARA,
ARUṆA MOTI MAṆIMĀL
(EHO — ARUṆA MATI MAṆIMĀL)
NAṬAPAṬI PĀGA, UPORE ŚIKHI CANDRAKA,
URĀNĪ RAṄGA GOLĀL

"Their bodies are beautified by splendid reddened garments, and They wear strings of red pearls and gems. On top of Kṛṣṇa's dancing turban is a peacock feather and this plus Rādhārānī's veil is colored pink."

DUHUṆ KORE ĀBIRA, DUHUṆ AṄGE ḌĀRATO,
PICAKĀ RAṄGE PĀKHĀL
(EHO— PICAKĀ RAṄGE PĀKHĀL)
ARUṆITA YAMUNĀ, PULINA KUNJA VANA,
ARUṆITA YUVATĪ MĀL

"They both carry ābira in Their hands and strew it over Each other's bodies. They also squirt colored water over Each other through syringes. The Yamunā is red, the *kuñja-vanas* (grove-woods) on the bank of the Yamunā are red and the string of young girls of Vraja is also red."

ARUṆITA TARU KULA, ARUṆITA LATĀ PHULA,
ARUṆITA BHRAMAR-GAṆA BHĀL
(EHO— ARUṆITA BHRAMAR-GAṆA BHĀL)
ARUṆITA ŚĀRI ŚUKA, ŚIKHI KOKILA,
UDDHAVA BHAṆITA RASĀL

(MERO RĀDHĀ PYĀRI SAHA, RĀDHĀ PYĀRI SAHA KHELATA NANDA DULĀL)

"The trees are red, the vines and flowers are red and the string of bees in them are also red. The Śārī and Śuka-parrots are red, the peacocks and the cuckoos are red and Uddhava dāsa sings this tasty song." (repeat chorus) (16)



tatra mānaḥ
vasanta — tāla daśa kusi

RITU PATI RĀDHĀ MĀDHAVA SAṄGA

VIVIDHA VILĀSA, HORI RASA RAṄGITA
ĀBIRE ARUṆA ŚYĀMA AṄGA

(Now *māna* in Vasanta—) "Rādhā and Mādhava play different *rasika* pastimes in the king of seasons (spring), like Holi. Thus Śyāma's body is reddened by *ābira* powder."

ARUṆITA ŚYĀMA, KALEVARA DARAPAṆE,
RĀIKO PRATIBIMBA LĀGI
BHARAMAHI ĀNA, RAMAṆĪ MANE MĀNIYE
MĀNINĪ BHELO VIRĀGI

"Rāi saw Her own reflection in Śyāma's reddened mirror-like body and mistook this for another woman. Thus She became angry with Śyāma and lost interest in Him."

RASIKA SUNĀGARA, RĀIKO MĀNA HERI,
MINATI KOROTO KORO-JOṚI
PĪTĀMBARA GOLE, SĀDHA-I PADATALE,
RĀI ROHOLO MUKHA MORI

"Seeing Rāi's pique, Rasika Sunāgara (the relishing great lover Kṛṣṇa) prayed to Her with folded hands. Pītāmbara thus humbly fell at Her feet, but Rāi turned Her head away from Him."

PRIYA SAHACARI JOTO, KOTO JE BUJHĀYATO,
SUKHA SOIE KĀHE VIPORĪTA
DVIJA HARIDĀSA, KOHOTO KĀHE ROKHASI,
PREMAKI AICHANA RĪTA

"No matter how much the *priya sakhīs* try to make Rāi understand what had happened — They came for happiness, but They received just the opposite. Dviija Haridās says: "Pique is a part of the ways of love." (17)



rāginī suhai — tāla eka tālā

E DHANI MĀNINĪ MĀNA NIVĀRO!
ĀBIRE ARUᅇA, ŚYĀMA AᅇGA MUKURE,
NIJA PRATIBIMBA NEHĀRO

"O fortunate, angry girl! Give up Your pique! You are seeing Your own reflection within Śyāma's mirror-like body, which is reddened by ābira!"

TUHU EKE RAMAᅇĪ, RASAVATĪ ŚĪROMAᅇĪ
KON AICHE JAGA MĀHO
TOHĀRI SAMUKHE ŚYĀMA, ĀN SAᅇGE VILASABO
KOICHANA RASA NIRAVĀHO

"Which woman in the world is the crownjewel of *rasikas* like You? How could Śyāma ever sport *rasika* pastimes with another girl in front of You?"

AICHANA SAHACARI, VACANA ŚRAVAᅇE DHARI,
SARAMA BHARAMA MUKHA PHERI
ĪᅇATA HĀSI MONE, MĀNA TEYĀGALO,
ULASITA DOᅇHE DOᅇHĀ HERI

"Hearing such words of Her *sakhīs* Śrī Rādhikā understood Her mistake and turned Her face around. Slightly smiling, She then gave up Her pique. Thus They gladly looked at Each other again."

PUNAᅇ SABA JANA MELI, KOROYE VINODA KELI,
PICAKĀRI LEI NIJA HĀTE
DVIJA HARIDĀSA, ĀBIRA JOGĀYATO,
SAKALA SAKHĪGAᅇA SĀTHE

"Again everyone assembled to perform joyful pastimes, taking syringes in the hand. Dvija Haridāsa supplies them the ābira along with all the other *sakhīs*." (18)

BENGALI SONG ABOUT HOLI

BIHARAYE ORE ĀMĀR ŚRĪ RĀDHĀ GOVINDA

(My Śrī Rādhā Govinda enjoy the Holi-pastime)

ŚRĪ RĀDHĀ GOVINDA BHAJA JAYA RĀDHĀ GOVINDA

(Worship this Rādhā Govinda! All glories to Rādhā Govinda!)

**HOLI RAŅGE BIHARAYE - ĀNANDA ĀR DHORE NĀ
(ĀNANDA ĀR DHORE NĀ)**

(They play the Holi-pastime - There's no bound to Their bliss!)

ŚRĪ RĀDHĀ GOVINDA BHAJA JAYA RĀDHĀ GOVINDA

HOLI RAŅGE BIHARAYE ĀMĀR ŚRĪ RĀDHĀ GOVINDA



VASANTA GĀNA

A vernal song by the famous pre-Mahāprabhu poet Vidyāpati, sung especially during Holi-festivities.

**NAVA VṚNDĀVANA, NAVA NAVA TARUGAᅇA
NAVA NAVA VIKASITA PHUL**

Vṛndāvan is new and fresh (due to spring), and the trees are new and ever-fresh. The blossoming flowers are ever-fresh.

NAVALA VASANTA, NAVALA MALAYĀNILA,

MĀTALA NAVA ALI-KULA

The new spring and the new Malayan (southern) breezes are inebriating new
bumblebees.

VIHARAI NAVALA KIŚORA

The young adolescent Pair (Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa) thus enjoys.

(**HOLI RAÑGE BIHARAYE**)— (They enjoy Holi Pastimes)

**KĀLINDĪ PULINA, KUNJA NAVA ŚOBHANA,
NAVA NAVA PREMA VIBHORA**

On the bank of the Yamunā is a beautiful new harbour, overwhelmed by ever-fresh love.

**NAVALA RASĀLA, MUKULA MADHU MĀTIYĀ,
NAVA KOKILA KULA GĀYA**

The new cuckoos sing, inebriated by the fresh mangoes with their honey-filled buds!

**NAVA YUVATĪ-GAṆA, CITA UMATĀYAI
NAVA RASE KĀNANE DHĀY**

Overcome by new, luscious feelings the young girls run into the forest (to meet Kṛṣṇa).

NAVA YUVA-RĀJA, NAVALA NAVA NĀGARI,

The young prince Kṛṣṇa and the fresh young heroine.

(**YEMNI RĀDHĀ TEMNI ŚYĀMA**)

(Just as Rādhā does, Kṛṣṇa does it also)

MILAYE NAVA NAVA BHĀTI

Holi and Spring songs

Are meeting in ever-fresh splendour.

NITI NITI AICHANA, NAVA NAVA KHELANA,

Thus they nicely play Their ever-fresh pastimes.

(HO HO HO HO HOLI RANGE!)

VIDYĀPATI MATI MĀTI

Maddening the heart and mind of Vidyāpati.



Thus ends the English translation of Holi songs.

All songs translated by Advaitadās.