# **Sacred Rivers**

It was evening time in New Vrindavan. Every day, after sunset, the little sadhaka children surrounded their Holy Mother for their story-telling based learning session on some topic. These evening talks were special in their own way. Instead of the children asking questions, the Holy Mother would raise queries and the children would answer. The way they would respond was also not ordinary. The child who was asked would close his or her eyes and would reply according to what was seen through their inner vision. All others would have the same vision and experience. Needless to mention, the vision was powered by the divine force of their Guru-Maa, thus making this question-answer session a unique form of experiential yogic learning. Today the topic was on sacred rivers.

### Mother-

Tell me what you see about rivers and their source, Where originates Ganga-Yamuna, who charts their course?

# Child-

In the mountains they are born, amidst the glacial snow, From there on mother earth's bosom, as arteries they flow; Carrying along with them the elixir of life, Fresh water, on which civilizations survive.

Though the source of the Ganga-Yamuna are same, They chart two courses from glaciers in

their name;

Flowing for some time in separate identity, Reconverging in Prayag along with

Saraswati.

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Though material in appearance, they are living entities, In their illuminated forms they are seen as deities; Pristine is their nature, purifying their flow, Washing away all sins, cleansing soul's sorrow. Breaking chains of bondage, Ganga

Into the universal ocean making him Shiva; Along the Yamuna-Viraja, floats the devoted soul, Entering Vrindavan-Golaka to fulfill life's goal.

#### Mother -

Look deeper within Golaka and tell me what you see, Of the origins of these rivers within eternal divinity?

# Child –

Yes, within the divine realms of Golaka I see them all, As Radha-Krishna's playmates, at their service and call; Each one emanating out of a unique divine bhava, That momentarily manifested in Sri Krishna-Radha.

Once within raasa, hearing Shiva's sangeet, The divine duo melted into fluid parasamvit; From the jyoti of this melt a new form froze, As perfection of purity, Bhagwati Ganga arose.

Surrounding Golaka as dazzling light she glowed, As river of shuddha-sattwa, in Vaikuntha she flowed;

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Among many of her lives, Matsya-gandha Satyavati is one, Whose marriage to Sage Parashara, begot Vyasa as her son.

These divine rivers emanate the bhavas, their true nature, Divinifying every being with the emotions they nurture; Bringing into universal creation the fragrance of life divine, Showering all with the illumination of Golaka's sunshine.

## Mother –

In the realm of yoga, where are these rivers present, What is seen in the kutastha, how is it experienced?

#### Child —

Within the inner world, as astral channels they grow, Named naadis, these rivers allow life-force to flow; Within the sky of the kutastha, dots come to the fore,

Each a river path, an enchanting unknown to explore.

In the inner world, the Ganga-Yamuna-Viraja abound, Within Shushumna, the central nerve, they

are found; Sensed through Guru guided sadhana and yogic practice,

In them consciousness flows leading to freedom and bliss.

## Mother -

Open your eyes my children, go and play, If anyone asks, say you have nothing to

-Sri Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Her blessed child

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say.

From the heavens she descended on Lord Shiva's head, Along the earth she followed the path Sage Bhagirath led.

Fom Sree Radhika's pure vairagya mahabhava emotion, Devi Viraja emanated from her deep inward contemplation; To avoid Radhika's wrath due to Sri Krishna's attraction, She left Golaka as a riverine embodiment of renunciation.

Wthin Golaka flows river Yamuna, creating infinite ripples, Shaded with tree-lined banks, filled with bloomed lotus petals; Here lies the great leela place, the divine Sri Vrindavana, Within which is hidden Sri Krishna's fabled Nikunja-vana.

On the directives of Sri Krishna across Golaka, Yamuna bred, Both Ganga and Viraja joined and merged within her spread; Once with great speed she cut through Viraja's flow path, And emerged out in Nikunja where Krishna took his bath. When Lord Vamana's left toe pierced the

world of the Gods, Ganga-Yamuna entered the heavens to serve the great Lords;

They then flowed on to earth, resting in the glacial mountains, Taking separate paths in the Himalayas to the Gangetic plains.

In early ages, as Yama's sister, Yamuna took a tapas birth, In Dwapara, on her banks, divine leela

replayed on earth;

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