



Vrindavan Reflections

Yamuna was stunned at the changes in Vrindavan’s landscape since her last visit and frequently commented on them. Determined to interview devotees who were present in the early 70’s, she carried her recorder everywhere, and portions of those interviews are featured in earlier chapters of this book. Yet her own recorded impressions and reflections, spoken as we rode in a *rickshaw* or sat on the banks of the Yamuna, are equally poignant and revealing:



Yamuna: Now we are heading down towards Dauji temple and the Punjab National Bank where Prabhupada had all of his banking done. Millions of monkeys are hanging everywhere waiting to steal anything in sight—clothes, bags. I am hiding this tape recorder so they don’t grab it out of my hand, and Dina is trying to save her glasses.

Keshi Ghat. I can’t even recognize that this is the Keshi Ghat I once knew. It is in complete disrepair. I used to sit on the third step down here, and the river was flowing briskly; now it is just a trickle of a river in the distance. You can’t go inside of Keshi Ghat itself anymore. The building is literally falling apart.

Seva Kunja. I have just come to Seva Kunja; it has changed so much. I realized that you can’t go to Vrindavan and see Vrindavan. You have to go Vrindavan and have Vrindavan revealed to you. 🙏



On this pilgrimage, Yamuna and I stayed in the ISKCON guesthouse. Each morning we studied Vaishnava music from a teacher working at the *gurukula* and afternoons were spent on pilgrimage, attending classes or interviewing devotees. Yamuna was happy to see that Giriraja Swami and Tamal Krishna Goswami were in Vrindavan, and we attended their VIHE classes on the *Nectar of Devotion*. Yamuna was asked to assist in updating the Deity kitchen menus and also Srila Prabhupada’s quarters:

