

॥ शिक्षाष्टकम् ॥

ŚIKṢĀṢṬAKA PRAYERS

Verses by Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
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चेतोदर्पणमार्जनं भवमहादावाग्निनिर्वापणं श्रेयः कैरवचन्द्रिकावितरणं विद्यावधूजीवनम् ।
आनन्दाम्बुधिवर्धनं प्रतिपदं पूर्णामृतास्वादनं सर्वात्मस्नपनं परं विजयते श्रीकृष्णसङ्कीर्तनम्
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1. ĀCETO-DARPAṆA-MĀRJANAṆ BHAVA-MAHĀ- DĀVĀGNI-NIRVĀPAṆAṆ
ŚREYAḤ-KAIRAVA-ĀNDRIKĀ-VITARAṆAṆ VIDYĀ-VADHŪ-JĪVANAM,
ĀNANDĀMBUDHI-VARDHANAM PRATIPADAM PŪRṆĀMṚTĀSVĀDANAṆ
SARVĀTMA-SNAPANAṆ PARAM VIJAYATE ŚRĪ-KṚṢṆA-SANĪKĪRTANAM.

Let there be all victory for the chanting of the holy name of Lord Krishna, which cleanses the mirror of the heart and stops the pain of the blazing fire of material existence. This chanting is like the waxing moon, spreading the white lotus of good fortune over all living beings. It is the life and soul of all education. The chanting of the holy name of Krishna expands the blissful ocean of transcendental life. It gives to everyone the taste of perfect nectar with every step. The entire Self is bathed in this chanting.

नाम्नामकारि बहुधा निजसर्वशक्तिस्तत्रार्पिता नियमितः स्मरणे न कालः ।
एतादृशी तव कृपा भगवन्ममापि दुर्दैवमीदृशमिहाजनि नानुरागः ॥ २ ॥

2. NĀMNĀM AKĀRI BAHUDHĀ NIJA-SARVA-ŚAKTIS
TATRĀRPITĀ NIYAMITAḤ SMARAṆE NA KĀLAḤ,
ETĀDṚŚĪ TAVA KṚPĀ BHAGAVAN MAMĀPI
DURDAIVAM ĪDṚŚAM IHĀJANI NĀNURĀGAḤ.

My Lord, in Your holy name is all good fortune for living beings, and therefore You have many names by which You expand Yourself. You have invested all Your powers in those names, yet made no requirements for remembering them. My dear Lord, although You bestow such mercy upon souls in their fallen condition by liberally teaching Your holy names, it is my misfortune that I commit offenses even while chanting the holy name, and so I do not attain real devotion.

तृणादपि सुनीचेन तरोरपि सहिष्णुना ।
अमानिना मानदेन कीर्तनीयः सदा हरिः ॥ ३ ॥

3. TRṆĀD API SUNĪCENA
TAROR API SAHIṢṆUNĀ,
AMĀNINĀ MĀNADENA
KĪRTANĪYAḤ SADĀ HARIḤ.

One who thinks himself lower than the downtrodden grass, who is more tolerant than a tree, who does not expect personal honor but is always giving respect to others, can always very easily chant the holy name of the Lord.

न धनं न जनं न सुन्दरीं कवितां वा जगदीश कामये ।
मम जन्मनि जन्मनीश्वरे भवताद्भक्तिरहैतुकी त्वयि ॥ ४ ॥

4. NA DHANAṀ NA JANAṀ NA SUNDARĪṀ
KAVITĀṀ VĀ JAGAD-ĪŚA KĀMAYE,
MAMA JANMANI JANMANĪŚVARE
BHAVATĀD BHAKTIR AHAITUKĪ TVAYI.

Oh Lord of the universe, I do not desire material wealth, followers, a beautiful wife, or success in poetry with flowery language. All I want, life after life, is pure devotional service to You.

अयि नन्दतनूज किङ्करं पतितं मां विषमे भवाम्बुधौ ।
कृपया तव पादपङ्कजस्थितधूलीसदृशं विचिन्तय ॥ ५ ॥

5. AYI NANDA-TANŪJA KIṆKARAṀ
PATITAṀ MĀṀ VIṢAME BHAVĀMBUDHAU,
KṚPAYĀ TAVA PĀDA-PAṆKAJA-
STHITA-DHŪLĪ-SADṚŚAṀ VICĪNTAYA.

Oh my Lord, Oh Krishna, son of Maharaja Nanda, I am Your eternal servant; but because of my own actions I have fallen into this horrible ocean of ignorance. Now please be merciful to me. Consider me a particle of dust at Your lotus feet.

नयनं गलदश्रुधारया वदनं गद्गदरुद्धया गिरा ।
पुलकैर्निचितं वपुः कदा तव नामग्रहणे भविष्यति ॥ ६ ॥

6. NAYANAM GALAD-AŚRU-DHĀRAYĀ
VADANAM GADGADA-RUDDHAYĀ GIRĀ,
PULAKAIR NĪCITAM VAPUḤ KADĀ
TAVA NĀMA-GRAHAṆE BHAVIṢYATI.

My dear Lord, when will my eyes be graced by filling with tears that constantly glide down as I chant Your holy name? When will my voice falter and all the hairs on my body stand erect in transcendental happiness as I chant Your holy name?

युगायितं निमेषेण चक्षुषा प्रावृषायितम् ।
शून्यायितं जगत्सर्वं गोविन्दविरहेण मे ॥ ७ ॥

7. YUGĀYITAM NIMEṢEṆA
ĀKṢUṢĀ PRĀVRṢĀYITAM,
ŚŪNYĀYITAM JAGAT SARVAM
GOVINDA-VIRAHEṆA ME.

My Lord Govinda, a moment of separation from You feels like a great millennium. Tears flow from my eyes like torrents of rain, and the entire world seems void.

आश्लिष्य वा पादरतां पिनष्टु माम् अदर्शनान्मर्महतां करोतु वा ।
यथा तथा वा विदधातु लम्पटो मत्प्राणनाथस्तु स एव नापरः ॥ ८ ॥

8. ĀŚLIṢYA VĀ PĀDA-RATĀM PINAṢTU MĀM
ADARŚANĀN MARMA-HATĀM KAROTU VĀ,
YATHĀ TATHĀ VĀ VIDADHĀTU LAMPAṬO
MAT-PRĀṆA-NĀTHAS TU SA EVA NĀPARAḤ.

May Krishna embrace this one who has fallen at His lotus feet. Or let Him trample me instead, break my heart by hiding from me, invisible. He is beloved of many after all, and free to do whatever He likes. Still He is the only Lord of my entire being and life.