

श्री श्री शिक्षाष्टक Śrī Śrī Śikṣāṣṭaka

Eight Instructions

by Lord Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu

चेतो-दर्पण-मार्जनं भव-महा-दावाग्नि-निर्वापणम् श्रेयः-कैख-चद्रिका-वितरणं विद्या-वधु-जिवनम् ।
आनन्दांबुधि-वर्धनं प्रति-पदं पुर्णामृतास्वादनम् सर्वात्म-स्नपनं परं विजयते श्री कृष्ण संकीर्तनम् ॥

ceto-darpaṇa-mārjanam bhava-mahā-dāvāgni-nirvāpaṇam
śreyaḥ-kairava-candrikā-vitaraṇam vidyā-vadhū-jīvanam
ānandāmbudhi-varধানam prati-padam pūrṇāmṛtāsvādanam
sarvātma-snapanam param vijayate śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtanam

1) Glory to the śrī-kṛṣṇa-saṅkīrtana, which cleanses the heart of all the dust accumulated for years and extinguishes the fire of conditional life, of repeated birth and death. This saṅkīrtana movement is the prime benediction for humanity at large because it spreads the rays of the benediction moon. It is the life of all transcendental knowledge. It increases the ocean of transcendental bliss, and it enables us to fully taste the nectar for which we are always anxious.

नाम्नामकारि बहुधा निज-सर्व-शक्ति स्तरार्पिता नियमितः स्मरणे न कालः ।
एतादृशी तव कृपा भगवन्ममापि दुर्दैवमीदृशमीहाजनि नानुरागः ॥

nāmnām akāri bahudhā nija-sarva-śaktis
tatrārpitā niyamitaḥ smaraṇe na kālaḥ
etādṛśī tava kṛpā bhagavan mamāpi
durdaivam idṛśam ihājani nānurāgaḥ

2) O my Lord, Your holy name alone can render all benediction to living beings, and thus You have hundreds and millions of names, like Kṛṣṇa and Govinda. In these transcendental names You have invested all Your transcendental energies. There are not even hard and fast rules for chanting these names. O my Lord, out of kindness You enable us to easily approach You by Your holy names, but I am so unfortunate that I have no attraction for them.

तृनादपि सुनीचेन तरोरपि सहिष्णुना । अमानिना मानदेन कीर्तनीयः सदा हरिः ॥

tṛṇād api sunīcena
taror api sahiṣṇunā
amāninā mānadena
kīrtaniyaḥ sadā hariḥ

3) One should chant the holy name of the Lord in a humble state of mind, thinking oneself lower than the straw in the street; one should be more tolerant than a tree, devoid of all sense of false prestige, and should be ready to offer all respect to others. In such a state of mind one can chant the holy name of the Lord constantly.

न धनं न जनं न सुन्दरीं कवितां वा जगदीश कामये ।
मम जन्मनि जन्मनीश्वरे भवताद् भक्तिरहैतुकी त्वयि ॥

na dhanam na janam na sundarīm
kavitām vā jagad-īśa kāmaye
mama janmani janmanīśvare
bhavatād bhaktir ahaitukī tvayi

4) O almighty Lord, I have no desire to accumulate wealth, nor do I desire beautiful women, nor do I want any number of followers. I only want Your causeless devotional service, birth after birth.

अयि नन्द-तनुज किंकरं पतितं मां विषमे भवांवुधौ ।
कृपया तव पाद-पङ्कज-स्थित-धूली-सदृशं विचिन्तय ॥

ayi nanda-tanuja kiṅkaraṁ
patitaṁ mām viṣame bhavāmbudhau
kṛpayā tava pāda-paṅkaja-
sthita-dhūli-sadr̥śaṁ vicintaya

5) O son of Mahārāja Nanda [Kṛṣṇa], I am Your eternal servitor, yet somehow or other I have fallen into the ocean of birth and death. Please pick me up from this ocean of death and place me as one of the atoms at Your lotus feet.

नयनं गलदश्रु-धारया वदनं गद्गद-रुद्धया गिरा ।
पुलकैर्निर्चितं वपुः कदा तव-नाम-ग्रहणे भविष्यति ॥

nayanaṁ galad-aśru-dhārayā
vadaṇaṁ gadgada-ruddhayā girā
pulakair nīcītaṁ vapuḥ kadā
tava-nāma-grahaṇe bhaviṣyati

6) O my Lord, when will my eyes be decorated with tears of love flowing constantly when I chant Your holy name? When will my voice choke up, and when will the hairs of my body stand on end at the recitation of Your name?

युगायितं निमेषेण चक्षुषा प्रावृषायितम् ।
शून्यायितं जगत्सर्वं गोविन्द विरहेण मे ॥

yugāyitaṁ nimeṣeṇa
cakṣuṣā prāvṛṣāyitam
śūnyāyitaṁ jagat sarvaṁ
govinda-viraheṇa me

7) O Govinda! Feeling Your separation, I am considering a moment to be like twelve years or more. Tears are flowing from my eyes like torrents of rain, and I am feeling all vacant in the world in Your absence.

आश्लिष्य वा पादरतां पिनष्टु मामदर्शान्मर्माहतां करोतु वा ।
यथा तथा वा विदधातु ल पतो मत्प्राणनाथस्तु स एव ना परः ॥

āśliṣya vā pāda-ratāṁ pinaṣṭu mām
adarśānān marma-hatāṁ-hatāṁ karotu vā
yathā tathā vā vidadhātu lampāṭo
mat-prāṇa-nāthas tu sa eva nāparaḥ

8) I know no one but Kṛṣṇa as my Lord, and He shall remain so even if He handles me roughly by His embrace or makes me brokenhearted by not being present before me. He is completely free to do anything and everything, for He is always my worshipful Lord, unconditionally.