

Śrī Dāmodarāṣṭaka

(found in the Padma Purāṇa of Kṛṣṇa Dvaipāyana Vyāsa,
spoken by Satyavrata Muni in a conversation with Nārada Muni
and Śaunaka Ṛṣi)

"In the month of Kārtika one should worship Lord Dāmodara and daily recite the prayer known as Dāmodarāṣṭaka, which has been spoken by the sage Satyavrata and which attracts Lord Dāmodara."

(Śrī Hari-bhakti-vilāsa 2.16.198)

Text One

*namāmiśvaram sac-cid-ānanda-rūpaṁ
lasat-kuṇḍalaṁ gokule bhrājamaṇam
yaśodā-bhiyolūkhalād dhāvamānaṁ
parāmṛṣṭam atyantato drutya gopyā*

SYNONYMS

namāmi—I bow down; īśvaram—to the supreme controller; sat-cit-ānanda-rūpaṁ—whose form is composed of eternity, knowledge and bliss; lasat-kuṇḍalam—whose earrings play and swing; gokule bhrājamānaṁ—who is splendidly manifest in Gokula; yaśodā-bhiyā—in fear of mother Yaśodā; ulūkalāt-dhāvamānaṁ—who gets down from the wooden rice-grinding mortar and runs away; para-āmṛṣṭam—catching Him by the back; atyam—very much; tatam drutya—chasing after Him quickly; gopyā—by the gopī (Śrī Yaśodā).

TRANSLATION

To the Supreme Lord, whose form is the embodiment of eternal existence, knowledge, and bliss, whose shark-shaped earrings are swinging to and fro, who is beautifully shining in the divine realm of Gokula, who [due to the offense of breaking the pot of yogurt that His mother was churning into butter and then stealing the butter that was kept hanging from a swing] is quickly running from the wooden grinding mortar in fear of mother Yaśodā, but who has been caught from behind by her who ran after Him with greater speed—to that Supreme Lord, Śrī Dāmodara, I offer my humble obeisances.

Text Two

*rudantaṁ muhur netra-yugmaṁ mṛjantaṁ
karāmbhoja-yugmena sātaṅka-netraṁ
muhuh śvāsa-kampa-trirekhāṅka-kaṅṭha-
sthita-graivaṁ dāmodaraṁ bhakti-baddham*

SYNONYMS

rudantaṁ—crying; muhuḥ—again and again; netra-yugmaṁ—His two eyes; mṛjantaṁ—rubbing; kara-ambhoja-yugmena—with His two lotus-like hands; sa-ātaṅka-netraṁ—with very fearful eyes; muhuḥ—again and again; śvāsa—quick breathing and sighing;

kampa–trembling; tri-*rekha*-*aṅka*-*kaṅṭha*–neck marked with three lines (just like a conchshell); *sthita*–situated; *graiva*–pearl necklaces and other neck-ornaments; *dāma-udaram*–unto He with a rope around His belly; *bhakti-baddham*–who is bound by devotion.

TRANSLATION

[Seeing the whipping stick in His mother's hand,] He is crying and rubbing His eyes again and again with His two lotus hands. His eyes are filled with fear, and the necklace of pearls around His neck, which is marked with three lines like a conchshell, is shaking because of His quick breathing due to crying. To this Supreme Lord, Śrī Dāmodara, whose belly is bound not with ropes but with His mother's pure love, I offer my humble obeisances.

Text Three

itīḍṛk sva-līlābhir ānanda-kuṇḍe
sva-ghoṣaṁ nimajjantam ākhyāpayantam
tadīyeṣita-jñeṣu bhaktair jitatvaṁ
punaḥ premataḥ taṁ śatāvṛtti vande

SYNONYMS

iti īḍṛk–displaying in this way (childhood pastimes such as the Dāmodara-līlā and so forth); *sva-līlābhiḥ*–by His own pastimes; *ānanda-kuṇḍe*–in a pool of bliss; *sva-ghoṣaṁ*–His own family and the other residents of Gokula; *nimajjantam*–immersing; *ākhyāpayantam*–makes known; *tadīya-īṣita-jñeṣu*–to those desirous of knowing His majesty (*aiśvarya*); *bhaktaiḥ jitatvaṁ*–His quality of being conquered by His loving devotees (who are devoid of *aiśvarya-jñāna*); *punaḥ*–again; *premataḥ*–with love and devotion; *taṁ*–unto that Lord Dāmodara; *śata-āvṛtti*–hundreds and hundreds of times; *vande*–I praise.

TRANSLATION

By such childhood pastimes as this He is drowning the inhabitants of Gokula in pools of ecstasy, and is revealing to those devotees who are absorbed in knowledge of His supreme majesty and opulence that He is only conquered by devotees whose pure love is imbued with intimacy and is free from all conceptions of awe and reverence. With great love I again offer my obeisances to Lord Dāmodara hundreds and hundreds of times.

Text Four

varam deva mokṣaṁ na mokṣāvadhiṁ vā
na canyaṁ vṛṇe 'haṁ vareṣād apīha
idaṁ te vapur nātha gopāla-bālaṁ
sadā me manasy āvirāstāṁ kim anyaiḥ

SYNONYMS

varam—boons; deva—O Lord!; mokṣam—liberation; na—not; mokṣā-avadhim—the highest pinnacle of liberation (the realm of Śrī Vaikuṅṭha-loka); vā—or; na—not; ca-anyam—or anything else; vṛṇe aham—I pray for; vara-īśāt—from You Who can bestow any boon; api—also; iha—here in Vṛndāvana; idam—this; te—Your; vapuḥ—divine bodily form; nātha—O Lord!; gopāla-bālam—a young cowherd boy; sadā—always; me manasi—in my heart; āvirāstām—may it be manifest; kim anyaiḥ—what is the use of other things (mokṣā, and so forth.)

TRANSLATION

O Lord, although You are able to give all kinds of benedictions, I do not pray to You for the boon of impersonal liberation, nor the highest liberation of eternal life in Vaikuṅṭha, nor any other boon [which may be obtained by executing the nine processes of bhakti]. O Lord, I simply wish that this form of Yours as Bāla Gopāla in Vṛndāvana may ever be manifest in my heart, for what is the use to me of any other boon besides this?

Text Five

*idam te mukhāmbhojam atyanta-nīlair
vṛtam kuntalaiḥ snigdha-raktaiś ca gopyā
muhūś cumbitam bimba-raktādharam me
manasy āvirāstām alam lakṣa-lābhaiḥ*

SYNONYMS

idam—this; te—Your; mukha-ambhojam—lotus-like face; avyakta-nīlaiḥ—by very dark blue; vṛtam—surrounded; kuntalaiḥ—by curling locks of hair; snigdha—soft and glossy; raktaiḥ—by reddish-tinted; ca—also; gopyā—by the gopī (Śrī Yaśodā); muhuḥ—again and again; cumbitam—kissed; bimba-rakta-adharam—with lips red as the bimba fruit; me—my; manasi—in the heart; āvirāstām—may it be manifest; alam—useless (there is no need for me); lakṣa-lābhaiḥ—by millions of attainments of other boons.

TRANSLATION

O Lord, Your lotus face, which is encircled by locks of soft black hair tinged with red, is kissed again and again by mother Yaśodā, and Your lips are reddish like the bimba fruit. May this beautiful vision of Your lotus face be ever manifest in my heart. Thousands and thousands of other benedictions are of no use to me.

Text Six

*namo deva dāmodarānanta viṣṇo
prasīda prabho duḥkha-jālābdhi-magnam
kṛpā-drṣṭi-vṛṣṭyāti-dīnam batānu
grhāṇeṣa mām ajñam edhy akṣi-drṣyah*

SYNONYMS

namaḥ—I bow down; deva—O divine Lord!; dāmodara—O Lord whose belly is bound with a rope!; ananta—O limitless Lord!; viṣṇo—O all-pervading Lord!; prasīda—be pleased; prabho—O my Master!; duḥkha-jāla—a network of material miseries; abdhimagnam—immersed in the ocean; kṛpā-dṛṣṭi-vṛṣṭyā—by the rain of merciful glances; ātīdīnam—very fallen; bata—alas!; anugrhāṇa—please accept; īśa—O supremely independent Lord!; mām—me; ajñam—ignorant; edhi—please come; akṣi-dṛśyaḥ—perceptible to my eyes.

TRANSLATION

O Supreme Godhead, I offer my obeisances unto You. O Dāmodara! O Ananta! O Viṣṇu! O master! O my Lord, be pleased upon me. By showering Your glance of mercy upon me, deliver this poor ignorant fool who is immersed in an ocean of worldly sorrows, and become visible to my eyes.

Text Seven

*kuverātmajau baddha-mūrtyaiva yadvat
tvayā mocitau bhakti-bhājau kṛtau ca
tathā prema-bhaktim svakām me prayaccha
na mokṣe graho me 'sti dāmodareha*

SYNONYMS

kuvera-ātmajau—the two sons of Kuvera (named Nalakūvara and Maṇigrīva); baddha-mūrtyā-eva—by He whose divine form was bound with ropes to the grinding mortar; yat-vat—since they were like that (cursed by Nārada to take birth as twin arjuna trees); tvayā—by You; mocitau—they who were liberated; bhakti-bhājau—the recipients of devotional service; kṛtau—You made them; ca—also; tathā—then; prema-bhaktim—loving devotion; svakām—Your own; me—unto me; prayaccha—please give; na mokṣe—not for liberation; grahaḥ—enthusiasm; me—my; asti—is; dāmodara—O Lord Dāmodara!; iha—this.

TRANSLATION

O Lord Dāmodara, just as the two sons of Kuvera-Manigrīva and Nalakūvara-were delivered from the curse of Nārada and made into great devotees by You in Your form as a baby tied with rope to a wooden grinding mortar, in the same way, please give to me Your own prema-bhakti. I only long for this and have no desire for any kind of liberation.

Text Eight

*namas te 'stu dāmne sphurad-dīpti-dhāmne
tvadīyodarāyātha viśvasya dhāmne
namo rādhikāyai tvadīya-priyāyai
namo 'nanta-līlāya devāya tubhyam*

SYNONYMS

namaḥ—obeisances; te—to You; astu—may there be; dāmne—unto the rope around Your waist; sphurat—splendrous; dīpti-dhāmne—unto the effulgent abode; tvadīya-udarāya—unto Your belly; atha—thus; viśvasya—of the entire universe; dhāmne—unto the shelter; namaḥ—obeisances; rādhikāyai—unto Rādhikā; tvadīya priyāyai—unto Your Beloved; namaḥ—obeisances; ananta-līlāya—unto Your limitless sportive pastimes; devāya—unto Your transcendental nature; tubhyam—unto You.

TRANSLATION

O Lord Dāmodara, I first of all offer my obeisances to the brilliantly effulgent rope which binds Your belly. I then offer my obeisances to Your belly, which is the abode of the entire universe. I humbly bow down to Your most beloved Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, and I offer all obeisances to You, the Supreme Lord, who displays unlimited pastimes.