

## Śrī Śrī Gurv-aṣṭaka - Eight Prayers to the Guru

by Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura

Śrīla Viśvanātha Cakravartī Ṭhākura, who appeared in the middle of the seventeenth century, is a great spiritual master in the Kṛṣṇa conscious chain of gurus and disciples. He says, "One who, with great care and attention, loudly recites this beautiful prayer to the spiritual master during the brāhma-muhūrta obtains direct service to Kṛṣṇa, the Lord of Vṛndāvana, at the time of his death."

### Text One

*saṁsāra-dāvānala-līḍha-loka-  
trāṇāya kārūṇya-ghanāghanatvam  
prāptasya kalyāṇa-guṇārṇavasya  
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

### SYNONYMS

saṁsāra—(of) material existence; dāvā-anala—(by) the forest fire; līḍha—afflicted; loka—the people; trāṇāya—to deliver; kārūṇya—of mercy; ghanāghana-tvam—the quality of a cloud; prāptasya—who has obtained; kalyāṇa—auspicious; guṇa—(of) qualities; arṇavasya—who is an ocean; vande—I offer obeisances; guroḥ—of my spiritual master; śrī—auspicious; caraṇa-aravindam—unto the lotus feet.

### TRANSLATION

The spiritual master is receiving benediction from the ocean of mercy. Just as a cloud pours water on a forest fire to extinguish it, so the spiritual master delivers the materially afflicted world by extinguishing the blazing fire of material existence. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is an ocean of auspicious qualities.

### Text Two

*mahāprabhoḥ kīrtana-nṛtya-gīta-  
vādītra-mādyan-manaso rasena  
romāñca-kampāśru-taraṅga-bhājo  
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

### SYNONYMS

mahāprabhoḥ—of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu; kīrtana—(by) chanting; nṛtya—dancing; gīta—singing; vādītra—playing musical instruments; mādyat—gladdened; manasaḥ—whose mind; rasena—due to the mellows of pure devotion; roma-añca—standing of the hair; kampa—quivering of the body, āśru-taraṅga—torrents of tears; bhājaḥ—who feels; vande—I offer obeisances; guroḥ—of my spiritual master; śrī—auspicious; caraṇa-aravindam—unto the lotus feet.

## TRANSLATION

Chanting the holy name, dancing in ecstasy, singing, and playing musical instruments, the spiritual master is always gladdened by the saṅkīrtana movement of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu. Because he is relishing the mellows of pure devotion within his mind, sometimes his hair stands on end, he feels quivering in his body, and tears flow from his eyes like waves. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

### Text Three

*śrī-vīgrahārādhana-nitya-nānā-  
śṛṅgāra-tan-mandira-mārjanādau  
yuktasya bhaktāṁś ca niyuñjato 'pi  
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

## SYNONYMS

śrī-vīgraha—(of) the arcā-vīgraha (Deities), ārādhana—the worship; nitya—daily; nānā—(with) various; śṛṅgāra—clothing and ornaments; tat—of the Lord; mandira—(of) the temple; mārjana-ādau—in the cleaning, etc.; yuktasya—who is engaged; bhaktān—his disciples; ca—and; niyuñjataḥ—who engages; api—also; vande—I offer obeisances; guroḥ—of my spiritual master; śrī—auspicious; caraṇa-aravindam—unto the lotus feet.

## TRANSLATION

The spiritual master is always engaged in the temple worship of Śrī Śrī Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa. He also engages his disciples in such worship. They dress the Deities in beautiful clothes and ornaments, clean Their temple, and perform other similar worship of the Lord. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

### Text Four

*catur-vidha-śrī-bhagavat-prasāda-  
svādv-anna-tr̥ptān hari-bhakta-saṅghān  
kṛtvāiva tr̥ptim bhajataḥ sadaiva  
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

## SYNONYMS

catuḥ—four; vidha—kinds; śrī—holy, bhagavat-prasāda—which have been offered to Kṛṣṇa; svādu—palatable; anna—(by) foods; tr̥ptān—spiritually satisfied; hari—(of) Kṛṣṇa; bhakta-saṅghān—the devotees; kṛtvā—having made; eva—thus; tr̥ptim—satisfaction; bhajataḥ—who feels; sada—always; eva—certainly; vande—I offer obeisances; guroḥ—of my spiritual master; śrī—auspicious; caraṇa-aravindam—unto the lotus feet.

#### TRANSLATION

The spiritual master is always offering Kṛṣṇa four kinds of delicious food [analyzed as that which is licked, chewed, drunk, and sucked]. When the spiritual master sees that the devotees are satisfied by eating bhagavat-prasāda, he is satisfied. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

#### Text Five

*śrī-rādhikā-mādhavayor apāra-  
mādhurya-līlā guṇa-rūpa-nāmnām  
prati-kṣaṇāsvādana-lolupasya  
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

#### SYNONYMS

śrī-rādhikā—(of) Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī; mādhavayoḥ—of Lord Mādhava (Kṛṣṇa); apāra—unlimited; mādhurya—conjugal; līlā—pastimes; guṇa—qualities; rūpa—forms; nāmnām—of the holy names; prati-kṣaṇa—at every moment; āsvādana—relishing; lolupasya—who aspires after; vande—I offer obeisances; guroḥ—of my spiritual master; śrī—auspicious; caraṇa-aravindam—unto the lotus feet.

#### TRANSLATION

The spiritual master is always eager to hear and chant about the unlimited conjugal pastimes of Rādhikā and Mādhava, and Their qualities, names, and forms. The spiritual master aspires to relish these at every moment. I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

#### Text Six

*nikuṅja-yūno rati-keli-siddhyai  
yā yālibhir yuktir apekṣaṇīyā  
tatrāti-dākṣyād ati-vallabhasya  
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

#### SYNONYMS

nikuṅja-yūnaḥ—of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa; rati—(of) conjugal love; keli—(of) pastimes; siddhyai—for the perfection; yā yā- whatever; ālibhiḥ—by the gopīs; yuktiḥ—arrangements; apekṣaṇīyā—desirable; tatra—in that connection; ati-dākṣyāt—because of being very expert; ati-vallabhasya—who is very dear; vande—I offer obeisances; guroḥ—of my spiritual master; śrī—auspicious; caraṇa-aravindam—unto the lotus feet.

#### TRANSLATION

The spiritual master is very dear, because he is expert in assisting the gopīs, who at different times make different tasteful arrangements for the perfection of Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa's conjugal loving affairs within the groves of Vṛndāvana. I offer my most humble obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master.

Text Seven

*sākṣād-dharitvena samasta-śāstrair  
uktas tathā bhāvya eva sadbhiḥ  
kintu prabhor yaḥ priya eva tasya  
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

SYNONYMS

sākṣāt—directly; hari-tvena—with the quality of Hari; samasta- all; śāstraiḥ—by scriptures; uktaḥ—acknowledged; tathā—thus bhāvya— is considered; eva—also; sadbhiḥ—by great saintly persons; kintu—however; prabhoḥ—to the Lord; yaḥ—who; priyaḥ—dear; eva—certainly; tasya—of him (the guru); vande—I offer obeisances; guroḥ—of my spiritual master; śrī—auspicious; caraṇa-aravindam—unto the lotus feet.

TRANSLATION

The spiritual master is to be honored as much as the Supreme Lord, because he is the most confidential servitor of the Lord. This is acknowledged in all revealed scriptures and followed by all authorities. Therefore I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of such a spiritual master, who is a bona fide representative of Śrī Hari [Kṛṣṇa].

Text Eight

*yasya prasādād bhagavat-prasādo  
yasyāprasādān na gatiḥ kuto 'pi  
dhyāyan stuvanṁ tasya yaśas tri-sandhyam  
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam*

SYNONYMS

yasya—of whom (the spiritual master); prasādāt—by the grace; bhagavat—(of) Kṛṣṇa; prasādaḥ—the mercy; yasya—of whom; aprasādāt—without the grace; na—not; gatiḥ—means of advancement; kutaḥ api—from anywhere; dhyāyan—meditating upon; stuvan—praising; tasya—of him (the spiritual master); yaśaḥ—the glory; tri-sandhyam—three times a day (sunrise, noon, and sunset); vande—I offer obeisances; guroḥ—of my spiritual master; śrī—auspicious; caraṇa-aravindam—unto the lotus feet.

TRANSLATION

By the mercy of the spiritual master one receives the benediction of Kṛṣṇa. Without the grace of the spiritual master, one cannot make any advancement. Therefore, I should always remember and praise the spiritual master. At least three times a day I should offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of my spiritual master.