



SACRED HYMN · SANSKRIT (DEVANAGARI) WITH MEANING

DAMODARASHTAKAM

Attributed to the sage Satyavrata

The eight verses beginning namamishvaram, as sung daily through the month of Kartika; the Padma Purana's narrative verses around the hymn are not part of the chanted text.

VERSE 1

नमामीश्वरं सच्चिदानन्दरूपं लसत्कुण्डलं गोकुले भ्राजमानम् ।
यशोदाभियोलूखलाद्भावमानं परामृष्टमत्यन्ततो द्रुत्य गोप्या ॥

I bow to the Lord whose form is being, awareness and bliss, whose earrings swing as he shines in Gokula. Afraid of Yashoda, he runs from the mortar, and the cowherd mother, running even faster, catches him from behind.

VERSE 2

रुदन्तं मुहुर्नेत्रयुग्मं मृजन्तं कराम्भोजयुग्मेन सातङ्कनेत्रम् ।
मुहुः श्वासकम्पत्रिरेखाङ्ककण्ठस्थितग्रैवं दामोदरं भक्तिबद्धम् ॥

He is crying, rubbing both eyes again and again with his two lotus hands, his eyes full of fear. With each sob the necklace on his neck, marked with three lines, trembles. To that Damodara, bound by love, I bow.

VERSE 3

इतीदृक्स्वलीलाभिरानन्दकुण्डे स्वघोषं निमज्जन्तमाख्यापयन्तम् ।
तदीयेशितज्ञेषु भक्तैर्जितत्वं पुनः प्रेमतस्तं शतावृत्तिं वन्दे ॥

Through childhood play like this he plunges his own village of cowherds into a pool of joy, and shows those who know only his lordship that he is won over by his devotees. With love I bow to him again, a hundred times over.

VERSE 4

वरं देव मोक्षं न मोक्षावधिं वा न चान्यं वृणेऽहं वरेशादपीह ।
इदं ते वपुर्नाथ गोपालबालं सदा मे मनस्याविरास्तां किमन्यैः ॥

O God, though you are the lord of all boons, I ask you neither for liberation, nor for the highest heaven beyond it, nor for any other boon. O Lord, may this form of yours as the little cowherd boy always shine in my mind; what use is anything else?

VERSE 5

इदं ते मुखाम्भोजमव्यक्तनीलैर्वृतं कुन्तलैः स्निग्धरक्तैश्च गोप्या ।
मुहुश्चुम्बितं बिम्बरक्ताधरं मे मनस्याविरास्तामलं लक्षलाभैः ॥

May this lotus face of yours, framed by glossy, reddish curls of an indescribably deep dark hue, with lips red as the bimba fruit, kissed again and again by the cowherd mother, appear in my mind. Enough of a hundred thousand other gains.

VERSE 6

नमो देव दामोदरानन्त विष्णो प्रसीद प्रभो दुःखजालाब्धिमग्नम् ।
कृपादृष्टिवृष्ट्यातिदीनं बतानुगृहाणेश मामज्ञमेध्यक्षिदृश्यः ॥

Salutations, O God, Damodara, Ananta, Vishnu. Be pleased, O Master, with me, sunk in an ocean of sorrows. Favour me, wretched and ignorant, with a shower of your merciful glance, O Lord, and become visible to my eyes.

VERSE 7

कुवेरात्मजौ बद्धमूर्त्यैव यद्वत् त्वया मोचितौ भक्तिभाजौ कृतौ च ।
तथा प्रेमभक्तिं स्वकां मे प्रयच्छ न मोक्षे ग्रहो मेऽस्ति दामोदरेह ॥

Just as you, while still bound to the mortar, freed the two sons of Kubera and made them devotees, so give me loving devotion to yourself. O Damodara, I have no longing here for liberation.

VERSE 8

नमस्तेऽस्तु दाम्ने स्फुरद्दीप्तिधाम्ने त्वदीयोदरायाथ विश्वस्य धाम्ने ।
नमो राधिकायै त्वदीयप्रियायै नमोऽनन्तलीलाय देवाय तुभ्यम् ॥

Salutations to the rope that binds you, shining with radiant light, and to your belly, the abode of the whole universe. Salutations to Radhika, your beloved, and salutations to you, the God whose play is endless.

READ IT ON ITS PAGE

The Damodarashtakam with its meaning, how and when it is recited, and the same text in five more scripts:
astrobhava.com/mantra/damodarashtakam/