



SACRED HYMN · SANSKRIT (DEVANAGARI) WITH MEANING

# NARAYANA KAVACHAM

— ❖ —  
Bhagavata Purana, ascribed to Vyasa

The full eighth chapter of the sixth book of the Bhagavata Purana, 42 verses from Parikshit's question to Indra's victory.

VERSE 1

यया गुप्तः सहस्राक्षः सवाहान्निपुसैनिकान् ।  
क्रीडन्निव विनिर्जित्य त्रिलोक्या बुभुजे श्रियम् ॥

King Parikshit said: Tell me about the protection by which thousand-eyed Indra, guarded, defeated the enemy soldiers with their mounts as if in play, and then enjoyed the fortune of the three worlds.

VERSE 2

भगवंस्तन्ममाख्याहि वर्म नारायणात्मकम् ।  
यथाततायिनः शत्रून् येन गुप्तोऽजयन्मृधे ॥

O revered one, explain to me that armour made of Narayana, guarded by which Indra conquered in battle the enemies who had risen to kill him.

VERSE 3

वृतः पुरोहितस्त्वाष्ट्रो महेन्द्रायानुपृच्छते ।  
नारायणाख्यं वर्माह तदिहैकमनाः शृणु ॥

Shuka said: Vishvarupa, son of Tvashta, chosen as priest of the gods, explained the armour called Narayana to great Indra when he asked; listen to it here with a single mind.

VERSE 4

धौताङ्घ्रिपाणिराचम्य सपवित्र उदङ्मुखः ।  
कृतस्वाङ्गकरन्यासो मन्त्राभ्यां वाग्यतः शुचिः ॥

Vishvarupa said: Having washed the feet and hands, sipped water, holding sacred kusha grass, facing north, silent and pure, one should place the mantra on one's body and hands with the two mantras.

VERSE 5

नारायणपरं वर्म सन्नह्येद्भय आगते ।  
पादयोर्जानुनोरूर्वोरुदरे हृद्यथोरसि ॥

When danger comes, one should put on the armour that has Narayana as its highest. One places the syllables on the feet, knees, thighs, belly, heart and chest,

VERSE 6

मुखे शिरस्यानुपूर्व्यादोङ्कारादीनि विन्यसेत् ।  
ॐ नमो नारायणायेति विपर्ययमथापि वा ॥

then on the mouth and head in order, beginning with Om - the mantra Om namo Narayanaya - or else in the reverse order.

VERSE 7

करन्यासं ततः कुर्याद्द्वादशाक्षरविद्यया ।  
प्रणवादियकारान्तमङ्गुल्यङ्गुष्ठपर्वसु ॥

Then one should do the placing on the hands with the twelve-syllable mantra, from the syllable Om up to the syllable ya, on the fingers and the joints of the thumbs.

VERSE 8

न्यसेद्भृदय ओङ्कारं विकारमनु मूर्धनि ।  
षकारं तु भ्रुवोर्मध्ये णकारं शिखया न्यसेत् ॥

One should place Om on the heart, Vi on the top of the head, Sha between the eyebrows and Na on the tuft of hair.

VERSE 9

वेकारं नेत्रयोर्युज्ज्यान्नकारं सर्वसन्धिषु ।  
मकारमस्त्रमुद्दिश्य मन्त्रमूर्तिर्भवेद्बुधः ॥

One should set Ve on the eyes and Na on all the joints, and use Ma as the weapon; so the wise one becomes the mantra in bodily form.

VERSE 10

सविसर्गं फडन्तं तत्सर्वदिक्षु विनिर्दिशेत् ।  
ॐ विष्णवे नम इति ॥

With the visarga and ending in phat, one should point that syllable to all the directions, saying: Om Vishnave namah.

VERSE 11

आत्मानं परमं ध्यायेद्भवेयं षट्शक्तिभिर्युतम् ।  
विद्यातेजस्तपोमूर्तिमिमं मन्त्रमुदाहरेत् ॥

One should meditate on oneself as the Supreme, the one worthy of meditation, endowed with the six powers, the very form of knowledge, splendour and austerity, and then recite this prayer.

VERSE 12

ॐ हरिर्विदध्यान्मम सर्वरक्षां न्यस्ताङ्घ्रिपद्मः पतगेन्द्रपृष्ठे ।

दरारिचर्मासिगदेषुचापपाशान्दधानोऽष्टगुणोऽष्टबाहुः ॥

May Lord Hari, his lotus feet set on the back of Garuda, king of birds, eight-armed, holding conch, discus, shield, sword, mace, arrows, bow and noose, and possessed of the eight powers, give me protection in every way.

VERSE 13

जलेषु मां रक्षतु मत्स्यमूर्तिर्यादोगणेभ्यो वरुणस्य पाशात् ।

स्थलेषु मायावटुवामनोऽव्यात् त्रिविक्रमः खेऽवतु विश्वरूपः ॥

In the waters may the Fish form protect me from sea creatures and from the noose of Varuna; on land may the dwarf Vamana, the boy who used his maya, guard me; and in the sky may Trivikrama, whose form is the universe, protect me.

VERSE 14

दुर्गेष्वटव्याजिमुखादिषु प्रभुः पायान्नृसिंहोऽसुरयूथपारिः ।

विमुञ्चतो यस्य महाट्टहासं दिशो विनेदुर्न्यपतंश्च गर्भाः ॥

In forts, forests, battle fronts and such places may Lord Narasimha, enemy of the demon chiefs, protect us; when he let out his great laugh the directions resounded and the unborn children of the demons fell.

VERSE 15

रक्षत्वसौ माध्वनि यज्ञकल्पः स्वदंष्ट्रयोन्नीतधरो वराहः ।

रामोऽद्रिकूटेष्वथ विप्रवासे सलक्ष्मणोऽव्याद्भरताग्रजोऽस्मान् ॥

On the road may Varaha, the form of sacrifice, who lifted the earth on his tusk, protect me; on mountain peaks and in foreign lands may Rama, elder brother of Bharata, together with Lakshmana, protect us.

VERSE 16

मामुग्रधर्मादखिलात्प्रमादान्नारायणः पातु नरश्च हासात् ।

दत्तस्त्वयोगादथ योगनाथः पायाद्गुणेशः कपिलः कर्मबन्धात् ॥

May Narayana protect me from wrong rites done with fierce intent and from every carelessness, and Nara from pride; may Datta, lord of yoga, protect me from straying from yoga, and Kapila, lord of the qualities, from the bondage of action.

VERSE 17

सनत्कुमारोऽवतु कामदेवाद्भयशीर्षा मां पथि देवहेलनात् ।  
देवर्षिवर्यः पुरुषार्चनान्तरात् कूर्मो हरिर्मां निरयादशेषात् ॥

May Sanatkumara protect me from desire, Hayagriva on the road from offence against the gods, Narada, best of divine sages, from faults in worship, and Hari as the Tortoise from every hell.

VERSE 18

धन्वन्तरिर्भगवान्पात्वपथ्याद्भयान्द्रादृषभो निर्जितात्मा ।  
यज्ञश्च लोकादवताज्जनान्ताद्वलो गणात्क्रोधवशादहीन्द्रः ॥

May Lord Dhanvantari protect me from unwholesome food, Rishabha, master of himself, from the fear of the pairs of opposites, Yajna from public blame and from harm caused by people, and Balarama as Shesha from the hosts of angry serpents.

VERSE 19

द्वैपायनो भगवानप्रबोधाद्बुद्धस्तु पाषण्डगणप्रमादात् ।  
कल्किः कलेः कालमलात्प्रपातु धर्मावनायोरुकृतावतारः ॥

May Lord Vyasa, the island-born, protect me from ignorance, Buddha from the hosts of heretics and from carelessness, and Kalki, who took a great form to guard dharma, from the impurity of the age of Kali.

VERSE 20

मां केशवो गदया प्रातरव्याद्वोविन्द आसङ्गवमात्तवेणुः ।  
नारायणः प्राह्ण उदात्तशक्तिर्मध्यन्दिने विष्णुररीन्द्रपाणिः ॥

In the early morning may Keshava protect me with his mace; Govinda, holding his flute, a little later in the morning; Narayana, of lofty power, in the forenoon; and Vishnu, discus in hand, at midday.

VERSE 21

देवोऽपराह्णे मधुहोग्रधन्वा सायं त्रिधामावतु माधवो माम् ।  
दोषे हृषीकेश उतार्धरात्रे निशीथ एकोऽवतु पद्मनाभः ॥

In the afternoon may the god Madhusudana with his fierce bow protect me; in the evening Madhava, lord of the three worlds; at dusk Hrishikesha; at midnight and in the dead of night Padmanabha alone.

VERSE 22

श्रीवत्सधामापररात्र ईशः प्रत्यूष ईशोऽसिधरो जनार्दनः ।

दामोदरोऽव्यादनुसन्ध्यं प्रभाते विश्वेश्वरो भगवान् कालमूर्तिः ॥

In the last part of the night may the Lord who bears the Shrivatsa mark protect me; at dawn Janardana, holding the sword; at the time of each twilight and at daybreak Damodara; and Lord Vishveshvara, who is Time itself.

VERSE 23

चक्रं युगान्तानलतिग्मनेमि भ्रमत्समन्ताद्भगवत्प्रयुक्तम् ।

दन्दग्धि दन्दग्धरिसैन्यमाशु कक्षं यथा वातसखो हुताशः ॥

O discus, sent by the Lord, whose rim is fierce as the fire at the end of the age, spinning on every side, burn and burn the enemy army at once, as fire, friend of the wind, burns dry grass.

VERSE 24

गदेऽशनिस्पर्शनविस्फुलिङ्गे निष्पिण्डि निष्पिण्ड्यजितप्रियासि ।

कुष्माण्डवैनायकयक्षरक्षोभूतग्रहांश्चूर्णय चूर्णयारीन् ॥

O mace, dear to the Unconquered Lord, giving off sparks that strike like thunderbolts, crush and crush; pound to powder the Kushmanda and Vinayaka spirits, Yakshas, Rakshasas, ghosts, grahas and enemies.

VERSE 25

त्वं यातुधानप्रमथप्रेतमातृपिशाचविप्रग्रहघोरदृष्टीन् ।

दरेन्द्र विद्रावय कृष्णपूरितो भीमस्वनोऽरेर्हृदयानि कम्पयन् ॥

O best of conches, filled by the breath of Krishna, roaring terribly and shaking the hearts of the enemy, drive away the Yatudhanas, Pramathas, Pretas, Matrikas, Pishachas, Brahma-rakshasas and those of evil eye.

VERSE 26

त्वं तिग्मधारासिवरारिसैन्यमीशप्रयुक्तो मम छिन्धि छिन्धि ।

चक्षूंषि चर्मञ्छतचन्द्र छादय द्विषामघोनां हर पापचक्षुषाम् ॥

O sword with the sharp edge, sent by the Lord, cut and cut the enemy armies; O shield marked with a hundred moons, cover the eyes of the sinful enemies and take away the sight of those with evil eyes.

VERSE 27

यन्त्रो भयं ग्रहेभ्योऽभूत्केतुभ्यो नृभ्य एव च ।

सरीसृपेभ्यो दंष्ट्रिभ्यो भूतेभ्योऽहोभ्य एव च ॥

Whatever fear has come to us from the planets, comets and people, from snakes and creatures with fangs, from spirits and from sins -

VERSE 28

सर्वाण्येतानि भगवन्नामरूपानुकीर्तनात् ।  
प्रयान्तु सङ्क्षयं सद्यो ये नः श्रेयःप्रतीपकाः ॥

may all these, and all who stand against our welfare, be destroyed at once by the chanting of the Lord's names and forms.

VERSE 29

गरुडो भगवान् स्तोत्रस्तोभश्छन्दोमयः प्रभुः ।  
रक्षत्वशेषकृच्छ्रेभ्यो विष्वक्सेनः स्वनामभिः ॥

May Garuda, the lord whose body is the Vedic hymns and metres and who is praised in them, and Vishvaksena with his own names, protect us from every hardship.

VERSE 30

सर्वापद्भ्यो हरेर्नामरूपयानायुधानि नः ।  
बुद्धीन्द्रियमनःप्राणान्पान्तु पार्षदभूषणाः ॥

May the names, forms, carriers and weapons of Hari, and his chief attendants who are his ornaments, protect our intellect, senses, mind and life from all calamities.

VERSE 31

यथा हि भगवानेव वस्तुतः सदसच्च यत् ।  
सत्येनानेन नः सर्वे यान्तु नाशमुपद्रवाः ॥

Just as the Lord alone is truly all that exists, the seen and the unseen, by this truth may all our troubles be destroyed.

VERSE 32

यथैकात्म्यानुभावानां विकल्परहितः स्वयम् ।  
भूषणायुधलिङ्गाख्या धत्ते शक्तीः स्वमायया ॥

For those who know oneness, the Lord is free from all division, yet by his own power he bears powers called his ornaments, weapons and marks.

VERSE 33

तेनैव सत्यमानेन सर्वज्ञो भगवान् हरिः ।  
पातु सर्वैः स्वरूपैर्नः सदा सर्वत्र सर्वगः ॥

By that same truth, may the all-knowing Lord Hari, present everywhere, protect us always and in every place with all his forms.

VERSE 34

विदिक्षु दिक्षूर्ध्वमधः समन्तादन्तर्बहिर्भगवान्नारसिंहः ।  
प्रहापर्यल्लोकभयं स्वनेन स्वतेजसा ग्रस्तसमस्ततेजाः ॥

In the intermediate quarters and the directions, above, below, on all sides, inside and outside, may Lord Narasimha protect us, driving away the fear of the world with his roar and swallowing every other splendour with his own.

VERSE 35

मघवन्निदमाख्यातं वर्म नारायणात्मकम् ।  
विजेष्यसेऽञ्जसा येन दंशितोऽसुरयूथपान् ॥

O Indra, this armour made of Narayana has been told to you; wearing it, you will easily defeat the demon chiefs.

VERSE 36

एतद्धारयमाणस्तु यं यं पश्यति चक्षुषा ।  
पदा वा संस्पृशेत्सद्यः साध्वसात्स विमुच्यते ॥

The verse says that whoever wears this armour frees from fear at once whomever he looks upon with his eyes or touches with his foot.

VERSE 37

न कुतश्चिद्भयं तस्य विद्यां धारयतो भवेत् ।  
राजदस्युग्रहादिभ्यो व्याध्यादिभ्यश्च कर्हिचित् ॥

The verse says that for one who holds this knowledge there is never fear from any side, from the king, robbers, planets and the like, or from diseases and other such ills.

VERSE 38

इमां विद्यां पुरा कश्चित्कौशिको धारयन् द्विजः ।  
योगधारणया स्वाङ्गं जहौ स मरुधन्वनि ॥

Long ago a Brahmin of the Kaushika line who held this knowledge gave up his body by yogic concentration in a desert land.

VERSE 39

तस्योपरि विमानेन गन्धर्वपतिरेकदा ।  
ययौ चित्ररथः स्त्रीभिर्वृतो यत्र द्विजक्षयः ॥

Once Chitraratha, king of the Gandharvas, surrounded by women, passed in his sky chariot above the place where the Brahmin had died.

VERSE 40

गगनान्यपतत्सद्यः सविमानो ह्यवाक्षिराः ।  
स वालखिल्यवचनादस्थीन्यादाय विस्मितः ।  
प्रास्य प्राचीसरस्वत्यां स्नात्वा धाम स्वमन्वगात् ॥

At once he fell from the sky, chariot and all, head downward. On the advice of the Valakhilya sages, astonished, he took up the bones, cast them into the eastward-flowing Sarasvati, bathed, and returned to his own abode.

VERSE 41

य इदं शृणुयात्काले यो धारयति चादृतः ।  
तं नमस्यन्ति भूतानि मुच्यते सर्वतो भयात् ॥

Shuka said: The verse says that one who hears this at the right time and holds it with reverence is honoured by all beings and is freed from fear on every side.

VERSE 42

एतां विद्यामधिगतो विश्वरूपाच्छतक्रतुः ।  
त्रैलोक्यलक्ष्मीं बुभुजे विनिर्जित्य मृधेऽसुरान् ॥

Having received this knowledge from Vishvarupa, Indra of the hundred sacrifices defeated the demons in battle and enjoyed the fortune of the three worlds.

READ IT ON ITS PAGE

The Narayana Kavacham with its meaning, how and when it is recited, and the same text in five more scripts:  
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