

శ్రీకృష్ణాష్టకం

{॥ శ్రీకృష్ణాష్టకం ॥}

శ్రీ కృష్ణ జన్మాష్టమీ

నిత్యానందైకరసం సచ్చిన్మాత్రం స్వయంజ్యోతిః ।

పురుషోత్తమమజమీశం వందే శ్రీయాదవాధీశమ్ ॥

I adore Krishna, the Supreme Person, the Unborn Lord, the Self-effulgent One, the Supreme Lord of the descendents of Yadu, Whose nature is that of existence and consciousness, and Whose essence is entirely that of eternal bliss.

From Prabodha sudhAkara of shrI shankarAchArya

The birthday of shrI Krishna is usually taken to be the Shravana Krishna Ashtami, but is sometimes assigned to the month Bhadrapada, especially in Northern India.

According to traditional sources, the Janmashtami is observed on the day when the ashtami tithi occurs at midnight . If the ashtami tithi AND the Rohini nakShatra occur on the same day, then the observance is considered to be doubly sacred; otherwise the observance is held on the day on which the ashtami prevails at midnight.

The vrata mainly consists of fasting, spending the whole night in the worship of Krishna, reciting hymns of praise and Krishna's pastimes, reciting prayers from the Bhagavata, offering arghya to Krishna, and the parana or the ceremonial breaking of the fast . The next day is celebrated as

Krishna Jayanti.

Celebrations are held on a grand scale in all Krishna temples, especially the ones in Vrindavan, Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Dvaraka (Gujarat), and other regionally famous temples.

Although, the great Vedantin Adi shankara preached the path of knowledge (Jnana), fiercely criticizing and routing various schools of philosophy, he did not decry the path of devotion (Bhakti). On the contrary, one is able to discern from his writings that he had a soft-corner for Bhakti . shankara did not only believe in the efficacy of Bhakti in the realization of Brahman, but he also actually composed many stotras or hymns in praise of Vishnu, Shiva, Devi, Ganapati, Skanda, etc.

One such hymn is the shrI Krishna Ashtaka or eight verses in praise of shrI Krishna . This stotra, like many of shankara's stotras, has a musical effect and may be easily set to music . It is, therefore, recommended that the stotra be sung, not just recited . For Lord Vishnu has promised to be present wherever His devotees sing His glories.

% end of

యత్ర గాయన్తి మద్భక్తాః తత్ర తిష్ఠామి నారద ।
శ్రీ కృష్ణాష్టక - శంకర భాగవతపాద
భజే ప్రజ్ఞైకమణ్డనం సమస్తపాపఖణ్డనం
స్వభక్తచిత్తరంజనం సదైవ నస్తనస్తనమ్ ।
సుపిచ్ఛగుచ్ఛమస్తకం సునాదవేణుహస్తకం
అనంగరంగసాగరం నమామి కృష్ణనాగరమ్ ॥ ౧॥

I worship the naughty Krishna, the sole ornament of Vraja,
Who destroys all the sins (of His devotees),
Who delights the minds of His devotees, the joy of Nanda,
Whose head is adorned with peacock feathers, Who holds
a sweet-sounding flute in His hand, and Who is the ocean of
the art of love.

మనోజగర్వమోచనం విశాలలోలలోచనం
విధూతగోపశోచనం నమామి పద్మలోచనమ్ ।
కరారవిన్దభూధరం స్మితావలోకసున్దరం
మహేన్ద్రమానదారణం నమామి కృష్ణావారణమ్ ॥ ౨॥

I bow to Krishna Who rid Kama deva of his pride, Who has
beautiful, large eyes, Who takes away the sorrows of the
Gopas (cowherds), the lotus-eyed One . I bow to Krishna
Who lifted the (Govardhana) hill with His hand, Whose
smile and glance are extremely attractive, Who destroyed
the pride of Indra, and Who is like the King of elephants.

కదంబుసూనకుణ్డలం సుచారుగణ్డమణ్డలం
వ్రజాంగనైకవల్లభం నమామి కృష్ణదుర్లభమ్ ।
యశోదయా సమోదయా సగోపయా సనన్దయా
యుతం సుఖైకదాయకం నమామి గోపనాయకమ్ ॥ ౩॥

I bow to that Krishna Who wears earrings made of Kadamba
flowers, Who has beautiful cheeks, Who is the only darling

of the Gopikas of Vraja, and Who is very difficult to attain
(by any means other than Bhakti). I bow to Krishna Who is
accompanied by Gopas (cowherds), Nanda, and an overjoyed
Yashoda, Who gives (His devotees) nothing but happiness, and
Who is the Lord of the Gopas.

సదైవ పాదపంకజం మదీయ మానసే నిజం
దధానముక్తమాలకం నమామి నన్దబాలకమ్ ।
సమస్తదోషశోషణం సమస్తలోకపొషణం
సమస్తగోపమానసం నమామి నన్దలాలసమ్ ॥ ౪॥

I bow to the son of Nanda, Who has placed His lotus feet
in my mind and Who has beautiful curls of hair . I adore
Krishna Who removes all defects, Who nourishes all the
worlds and Who is desired by all the Gopas and Nanda.

భువో భరావతారకం భవాభికర్ణధారకం
యశోమతీకిశోరకం నమామి చిత్తచోరకమ్ ।
ద్యుగన్తకాన్తభంగినం సదా సదాలిసంగినం
దినే దినే నవం నవం నమామి నన్దసమ్భవమ్ ॥ ౫॥

I bow to Krishna Who relieves the burden of the earth
(by vanquishing innumerable demons and other evil forces),
Who helps us cross the ocean of miseries, Who is the son
of Yasoda, and Who steals the hearts of everyone . I bow to
Nanda's son Who has extremely attractive eyes, Who is always

accompanied by saintly devotees, and Whose (pastimes and form)
appear newer and newer, day by day.

గుణాకరం సుఖాకరం కృపాకరం కృపాపరం
సురద్విషన్నికన్ధనం నమామి గోపనన్ధనమ్ ।
నవీనగోపనాగరం నవీనకేలీలమృటం
నమామి మేఘసున్ధరం తడితృభాలసత్పటమ్ ॥ ౬॥

Krishna is the repository of all good qualities, all
happiness, and grace . He destroys the enemies of the gods
and delights the Gopas . I bow to the mischievous cowherd
Krishna, Who is attached to His exploits, which (appear)
new (every day), Who has the handsome complexion of a
dark cloud, and Who wears a yellow garment (pItAmbara)
that shines likes lightning.

సమస్తగోపనన్ధనం హృదమ్బుజైకమోదనం
నమామి కుంజమధ్యగం ప్రసన్నభానుశోభనమ్ ।
నికామకామదాయకం దృగస్తచారుసాయకం
రసాలవేణుగాయకం నమామి కుంజనాయకమ్ ॥ ౭॥

Krishna delights all the Gopas and (plays with them)
in the center of the grove (kunjā). He is appears as
resplendent and pleasing as the sun and causes the
lotus that is the heart (of the devotee) to blossom
with joy . I bow to that Lord of the grove of creepers

Who completely fulfills the desires (of the devotees),
Whose beautiful glances are like arrows, and Who plays
melodious tunes on the flute.

విదగ్ధగోపికామనోమనోజ్ఞతల్పశాయిసం
నమామి కుంజకాననే ప్రప్రథవన్దిపాయిసమ్ ।
కిశోరకాన్తిరంజితం దృఢగంజనం సుశోభితం
గజేంద్రమోక్షకారిణం నమామి శ్రీవిహారిణమ్ ॥ ౮॥

Krishna lies down on the bed that is the minds of the
intelligent Gopis who always think of Him . I adore Him
Who drank the spreading forest-fire (in order to
protect the cowherd community). I bow to Krishna Who has
eyes which are made attractive by His boyhood charm and
a black unguent (anjan), Who liberated the elephant
Gajendra (from the jaws of the crocodile), and Who is the
consort of LakShmi (shrI).

యదా తదా యథా తథా తథైవ కృష్ణసత్కథా
మయా సదైవ గీయతాం తథా కృపా విధీయతామ్ ।
ప్రమాణికాష్టకద్వయం జపత్యధీత్య యః పుమాన
భవేత్ నన్దనన్దనే భవే భవే సుభక్తిమాన ॥ ౯॥

O Lord Krishna! Please bless me so that I may sing your
glories and pastimes, regardless of the position I am in.

Anyone who studies or recites these two authoritative ashtakas

will be blessed with devotion to Krishna in every rebirth.

Note: The two ashtakas referred to above are the shrI Krishna

Ashtaka and the Krishna Ashtaka.

ఇతి శ్రీమచ్చంకరాచార్యకృతం శ్రీకృష్ణాష్టకం సమ్సార్థమ్ ॥

శ్రీ కృష్ణార్పణమస్తు ॥

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Krishana Ashtakam 1 (By Shankaracharya Swami) Lyrics in Telugu PDF

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