ಶ್ರೀಕೃಷ್ಣಾಷ್ಟಕಂ

{॥ ಶ್ರೀಕೃಷ್ಣಾಷ್ಟಕಂ ॥} ಶ್ರೀ ಕೃಶ್ನ ಜನ್ಮಾಷ್ಟಮೀ ನಿತ್ಯಾನನ್ಷೈಕರಸಂ ಸಚ್ಚಿನ್ಮಾ ತ್ರಂ ಸ್ವಯಂಜ್ಯೋತಿಃ । ಪುರುಷೋತ್ತಮಮಜಮೀಶಂ ವನ್ದೇ ಶ್ರೀಯಾದವಾಧೀಶಮ್ ॥

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 shrl shankarAchArya

The birthday of shrl 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 shrl Krishna Ashtaka or eight verses in praise of shrl 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

ಯತ್ರ ಗಾಯನ್ತಿ ಮದ್ಭಕ್ತಾಃ ತತ್ರ ತಿಷ್ಠಾಮಿ ನಾರದ । ಶ್ರೀ ಕೃಷ್ಣಾಷ್ಟಕ - ಶಂಕರ ಭಾಗವತಪಾದ ಭಜೇ ವ್ರಜೈಕಮಣ್ಡನಂ ಸಮಸ್ತಪಾಪಖಣ್ಡನಂ ಸ್ವಭಕ್ತಚಿತ್ತರಂಜನಂ ಸದೈವ ನನ್ನನನ್ನನಮ್ । ಸುಪಿಚ್ಛಗುಚ್ಛಮಸ್ತಕಂ ಸುನಾದವೇಣುಹಸ್ತಕಂ ಅನಂಗರಂಗಸಾಗರಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣನಾಗರಮ್ ॥ ೧॥

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.

ಮನೋಜಗರ್ವಮೋಚನಂ ವಿಶಾಲಲೋಲಲೋಚನಂ ವಿಧೂತಗೋಪಶೋಚನಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ಪದ್ಮ ಲೋಚನಮ್ । ಕರಾರವಿನ್ದಭೂಧರಂ ಸ್ಮಿ ತಾವಲೋಕಸುನ್ದರಂ ಮಹೇನ್ದ್ರ ಮಾನದಾರಣಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣಾವಾರಣಮ್ ॥ ೨॥

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.

ಕದಮ್ಬಸೂನಕುಣ್ಡಲಂ ಸುಚಾರುಗಣ್ಣಮಣ್ಡಲಂ ವ್ರಜಾಂಗನೈಕವಲ್ಲಭಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣದುರ್ಲಭಮ್ । ಯಶೋದಯಾ ಸಮೋದಯಾ ಸಗೋಪಯಾ ಸನನ್ದಯಾ ಯುತಂ ಸುಖೈಕದಾಯಕಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ಗೋಪನಾಯಕಮ್ ॥ ೩॥

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.

ಸದೈವ ಪಾದಪಂಕಜಂ ಮದೀಯ ಮಾನಸೇ ನಿಜಂ ದಧಾನಮುಕ್ತಮಾಲಕಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ನನ್ದಬಾಲಕಮ್ । ಸಮಸ್ತದೋಷಶೋಷಣಂ ಸಮಸ್ತಲೋಕಪೋಷಣಂ ಸಮಸ್ತಗೋಪಮಾನಸಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ನನ್ನಲಾಲಸಮ್ ॥ ೪॥

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.

ಭುವೋ ಭರಾವತಾರಕಂ ಭವಾಬ್ದಿಕರ್ಣಧಾರಕಂ

ಯಶೋಮತೀಕಿಶೋರಕಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ಚಿತ್ತಚೋರಕಮ್ । ದೃಗನ್ತಕಾನ್ತಭಂಗಿನಂ ಸದಾ ಸದಾಲಿಸಂಗಿನಂ ದಿನೇ ದಿನೇ ನವಂ ನವಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ನನ್ನಸಮ್ಭವಮ್ ॥ ॥॥

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.

ಗುಣಾಕರಂ ಸುಖಾಕರಂ ಕೃಪಾಕರಂ ಕೃಪಾಪರಂ ಸುರದ್ವಿಷನ್ನಿಕನ್ದನಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ಗೋಪನನ್ದನಮ್ । ನವೀನಗೋಪನಾಗರಂ ನವೀನಕೇಲಿಲಮ್ಪಟಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ಮೇಘಸುನ್ದರಂ ತಡಿತ್ಪ್ರಭಾಲಸತ್ಪಟಮ್ ॥ ೬॥

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 (pltAmbara) that shines likes lightning.

ಸಮಸ್ತಗೋಪನನ್ದನಂ ಹೃದಮ್ಬು ಜೈಕಮೋದನಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ಕುಂಜಮಧ್ಯಗಂ ಪ್ರಸನ್ನಭಾನುಶೋಭನಮ್ । ನಿಕಾಮಕಾಮದಾಯಕಂ ದೃಗನ್ವಚಾರುಸಾಯಕಂ ರಸಾಲವೇಣುಗಾಯಕಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ಕುಂಜನಾಯಕಮ್ ॥ ೭॥

Krishna delights all the Gopas and (plays with them) in the center of the grove (kunja). 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.

ವಿದಗ್ಗಗೋಪಿಕಾಮನೋಮನೋಜ್ಞ ತಲ್ಪಶಾಯಿನಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ಕುಂಜಕಾನನೇ ಪ್ರಪ್ರದ್ಧವನ್ದಿಪಾಯಿನಮ್ । ಕಿಶೋರಕಾನ್ತಿರಂಜಿತಂ ದೃಆಗಂಜನಂ ಸುಶೋಭಿತಂ ಗಜೇನ್ದ್ರ ಮೋಕ್ಷಕಾರಿಣಂ ನಮಾಮಿ ಶ್ರೀವಿಹಾರಿಣಮ್ ॥ ೮॥

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 (shrl).

ಯದಾ ತದಾ ಯಥಾ ತಥಾ ತಥೈವ ಕೃಷ್ಣಸತ್ಕಥಾ ಮಯಾ ಸದೈವ ಗೀಯತಾಂ ತಥಾ ಕೃಪಾ ವಿಧೀಯತಾಮ್ । ಪ್ರಮಾಣಿಕಾಷ್ಟಕದ್ವಯಂ ಜಪತ್ಯಧೀತ್ಯ ಯಃ ಪುಮಾನ ಭವೇತ್ಸ ನನ್ನನನ್ನನೇ ಭವೇ ಭವೇ ಸುಭಕ್ತಿಮಾನ ॥ ೯॥

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 shrl Krishna

Ashtaka and the Krishna Ashtaka.

ಇತಿ ಶ್ರೀಮಚ್ಛಂಕರಾಚಾರ್ಯಕೃತಂ ಶ್ರೀಕೃಷ್ಣಾಷ್ಟಕಂ ಸಮ್ಪೂರ್ಣಮ್ ॥

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೃಷ್ಣಾರ್ಪಣಮಸ್ಕು ॥

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