

श्रीकृष्णष्टकं

{॥ श्रीकृष्णष्टकं ॥}

श्री कृष्ण जन्माष्टमी

नित्यानन्दैकरसं सच्चिन्मात्रं स्वयंज्योतिः ।

पुरुषोत्तममजमीशं वन्दे श्रीयादवाधीशम् ॥

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

यत्र गायन्ति मद्भक्ताः तत्र तिष्ठामि नारद ।

श्री कृष्णष्टक - शंकर भागवतपाद

भजे ब्रजैकमगुणं समस्तपापखण्डनं

स्वभक्तचित्तरंजनं सदैव नन्दनन्दनम् ।

सूपिच्छुग्च्छुमस्तकं सुनादवेणुहस्तकं

अनंगरंगसागरं नमामि कृष्णागरम् ॥ १ ॥

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.

मनोजगर्वमोचनं विशाललोललोचनं

बिधूतगोपशोचनं नमामि पद्मलोचनम् ।

करारविन्दभृधरं स्मितवलोकसुन्दरं

महेन्द्रमानदारणं नमामि कुम्भवारणम् ॥ २ ॥

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.

कदम्बसूनकुण्डलं सूचारुगुणकुण्डलं

ब्रजाङ्गनैकवल्लभं नमामि कुम्भदुर्लभम् ।

यशोदया समोदया सगोपया सनन्दया

युतं सुखैकदायकं नमामि गोपनायकम् ॥ ३ ॥

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.

सदैव पादपङ्कजं मदीय मानसे निजं
दधानमुक्तमालकं नमामि नन्दबालकम् ।
समस्तदोषशोषणं समस्तलोकपोषणं
समस्तगोपमानसं नमामि नन्दलालसम् ॥ ४ ॥

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.

भूवो भूरावतारकं भवास्थिकर्णधारकं
यशोमतीकेशोरकं नमामि चित्तोरकम् ।
दृगुक्तकान्तभङ्गिनं सदा सदालिसङ्गिनं
दिने दिने नवं नवं नमामि नन्दसम्भवं ॥ ५ ॥

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.

शुणकरं सुखकरं कृपाकरं कृपापरं
सुरद्विषणिकन्दनं नमामि गोपनन्दनम् ।
नवीनगोपनागरं नवीनकेलिलम्पटं
नमामि मेघसुन्दरं तडिंप्रभालसंपटम् ॥ ७ ॥

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 (plAmbara)
that shines like lightning.

समस्तगोपनन्दनं हृदशुजैकमोदनं

नमामि कुंजमध्यगं प्रसन्नभानुशोभनम् ।
निकामकामदायकं दृगन्तचारुसायकं
रसालवेणुगायकं नमामि कुंजनायकम् ॥ ९ ॥

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.

विदग्धगोपिकामनोमनोज्ञतल्लशायिनं
नमामि कुंजकानने प्रब्रह्मबन्धिपायिनम् ।
किशोरकान्तिरंजितं दृग्गङ्गजनं सुशोभितं
गजेन्द्रमोक्षकारिणं नमामि श्रीविहारिणम् ॥ ८ ॥

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).

যদা তদা যথা তথা তথৈব কৃষ্ণসংকথা
মযা সदैব গীযতাং তথা কৃপা বিধীযতাম্ ।
প্রমাণিকাষ্টকদ্বয়ং জপত্যধীত্য যঃ পুমান
ভবেৎস নন্দনন্দনে ভবে ভবে সুভক্তিমান ॥ ৯ ॥

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.

ইতি শ্রীমচ্ছংকরাচার্যকৃতং শ্রীকৃষ্ণাষ্টকং সম্পূর্ণম্ ॥

श्री कृष्णार्पणम् ॥

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

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