shikShAShTaka (chaitanyamahAprabhu)

शिक्षाष्टक (चैतन्यमहाप्रभु)

: Lord Chaitanya’s Mission
Some words are changed for correct pronunciation.

Translation by
His Divine Grace
A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu instructed his disciples to write books on the science of Krishna, a task which his followers have continued to carry out down to the present day. The elaborations and expositions on the philosophy taught by Lord Chaitanya are in fact most voluminous, exacting and consistent due to the system of disciplic succession. Although Lord Chaitanya was widely renowned as a scholar in his youth, he left only eight verses, called shikShaShTaka. These eight verses clearly reveal his mission and precepts. These supremely valuable prayers are translated herein.

शिक्षाष्टकं
चेतो-दर्पण-मार्जनं भव-महा-दावाधि-निर्वारणं
श्रेयः-कैरव-चन्द्रिका-वितरणं विद्या-वधू-जीवनम् ।
आनन्द-अमुखिः-कर्थनं प्रति-पदं पूण्यामृतास्वादनं
सर्वात्मसर्वं परं विज्जयते श्रीकृष्ण संकीर्तनम् ॥ १ ॥

Glory to the Sri Krishna sankirtana, which cleanses the heart of all the dust accumulated for years and extinguishes the fire of conditional life, of repeated birth and death. This sankirtana movement is the prime benediction for
humanity at large because it spreads the rays of the benediction moon. It is the life of all transcendental knowledge. It increases the ocean of transcendental bliss, and it enables us to fully taste the nectar for which we are always anxious.

O my Lord, Your holy name alone can render all benediction to living beings, and thus You have hundreds and millions of names like Krishna and Govinda. In these transcendental names You have invested all Your transcendental energies. There are not even hard and fast rules for chanting these names. O my Lord, out of kindness You enable us to easily approach You by Your holy names, but I am so unfortunate that I have no attraction for them

One should chant the holy name of the Lord in a humble state of mind, thinking oneself lower than the straw in the street; one should be more tolerant than a tree, devoid of all sense of false prestige and should be ready to offer all respect to others. In such a state of mind one can chant the holy name of the Lord constantly.
O almighty Lord, I have no desire to accumulate wealth, nor do I desire beautiful women, nor do I want any number of followers. I only want Your causeless devotional service birth after birth.

अथि  नन्द-तनूज किंकरम्  तपति माँ विषये-भव-अम्बुधः ।  
कृपया तव पाद-पंकज-  
स्थित घृटि-सद्ग्राही चिन्तितयु ॥ ५॥

O son of Maharaja Nanda [Krishna], I am Your eternal servitor, yet somehow or other I have fallen into the ocean of birth and death. Please pick me up from this ocean of death and place me as one of the atoms at Your lotus feet.

नयनं गलद्-अशु-पारया  
वदनं गदद-रूद्या गिरा ।  
पुलकेर निचितं वपुः कदः  
तव नाम-ग्रहणे भविष्यति ॥ ६॥

O my Lord, when will my eyes be decorated with tears of love flowing constantly when I chant Your holy name? When will my voice choke up, and when will the hairs of my body stand on end at the recitation of Your name?

युगायितं निमेषेण चक्रुषा प्रापुषायितम् ।  
शून्यायितं जगत् सर्वं गोविन्द-विरहे भी ॥ ७॥

O Govinda! Feeling Your separation, I am considering a moment to be like twelve years or more. Tears are flowing from my eyes like torrents of rain, and I am feeling all vacant in the world in Your absence.
I know no one but Krishna as my Lord, and He shall remain so even if He handles me roughly by His embrace or makes me brokenhearted by not being present before me. He is completely free to do anything and everything, for He is always my worshipful Lord unconditionally.

Iṣṭa Kṛṣṇadāsa kirāja virāj virāchītāṁ śiśāṣṭakam, sāmyeṁ cāt ॥

Śiśāṣṭakam

Chete-dārṣṭe-mārjane bhav-mahā-dāvānitrī.ṁ nīrūparṇam
ṣṭreyā-keśā-vanādikā-vaiprū.ṁ nimāmgarāhān ॥

Aannāsū.ā. ṛvadāḥ-ḥartā-ṛtvāṇaḥ pūrṇāṁmūtāsāṅadān
śarvātmalāpanāṁ prāhaṁ vijayate śrīkṛṣṇa sākṣītān ॥ १॥

Nāsāṁ akāri bhūṭhaṁ nījārav.śaktiṁ:
ṛttrī.ṁ vinaṁś.ṁ sāmṛ.ṁ n kālāḥ: ॥

Etrāhāṁ tva kṛṣṇa bhagavān.ś tavāpāpi
ḍūravesmo-ēṛt.şām.ś hājaṇīṁ n-ānu.ṛāga: ॥ २॥

Tūṅavadī śūnācchāṁ trāpoṁ samihṣīṇa ॥
Amaṇīnā maṇādēna kītānīyaḥ: sada harī: ॥ ३॥

N-śudhāṁ n-jñāṁ n-sūndārī.ṁ
kaviṁtāṁ vai jagadīś.ś kāmāṁ: ॥

Mam jayamāṇi jayamāṇi ēśā.ṛe
bhvaṭā.ṛ bhaktaṁ: ahaṁtakī lakhī ॥ ४॥

Ampī nandan-tanū.ś cinkram.ś
patītanā maṁ viṣendā-ḥav.ḥaṁ ॥
कृपया तव पाद-पंकजः
स्थित घृति-सदन्तं विचित्रयः॥ ५॥
नयनं गलद-अश्रु-धारया
वदनं गदद-रुद्या गिरा ।
पुत्रकैर निचितं वपुः कदः
तव नाम-ग्रहणे भविष्यति ॥ ६॥
युगायतं निबिषेण चक्षुः
शून्यायतं जगतं सरः गोविन्द-विरहेण मे ॥ ७॥
आशिष्य वा पाद-रतीं पिन्दः
माम-अंदर्शनानां मर्म-हर्तां करोतु वा ।
यथा तथा वा विद्धातु रम्यः
मत्रां-प्राण-नाथस्तु स एव न-अपरः ॥ ८॥

इति कृष्णदासकविराजविचित्रितं शिक्षांकम् सम्पूर्णम् ।

Eन्तोददु अन्त्रु प्रोक्रुत्व व्यु रम्मु गोपलस्वम्यः (त्ग अत्त्व्वद्द्वं'ओम)

shikShAStaka (chaitanyamahAprabhu)
pdf was typeset on November 25, 2021

Please send corrections to sanskrit@cheerful.com