shikShAShTaka (chaitanyamahAprabhu)

शिक्षाष्टक (चैतन्यमहाप्रभु)

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

Translation by
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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-दावात्रिनिर्वापणं
श्रेयं-कैरव-चन्द्रिका-वितरणं विधा-वधू-जीवनम् ।
आनन्द-अमृतिः-कर्घनं प्रति-पदं पूर्णामृतात्स्वादनं
सर्वापूर्व-स्थपनं परं विज्ञातं 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.

अयि नन्द-तनूज किकर्मः
पतितं मां विष्मेभव-अन्नुथौः।
कृपया तव पाद-पंकजः
स्थित धूलि-सहस्रं चिर्चितयः ॥ 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-अश्रु-पारया
वदनं गदद्-रुद्धया गिरा।
पुलकेर निचितं वनुः कदा
तव नाम-ग्रहणं 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 निमेजेण चक्षुषा प्रावृषायितम्।
शून्यायितं जगतं सर्वं गोविन्दो-विरहेण मे ॥ 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.
कृपया तव पाद-पंकजः  
स्थित धूर्ति-सद्दश चिन्तितय ॥ ५॥

नयनं गलदु-अश्रु-घारया  
बलनं गलद-रूख्या गिरा ।
पुत्रकै निचित वघु: कदा  
तव नाम-ग्रहणे भविष्यति ॥ ६॥

युगापि निमित्तेण चक्षुया प्रात्रापायितम् ।
शून्यापि जगत रसं गोविन्द-विरहेण मे ॥ ७॥

आश्रिष्य वा पाद-रत्नी पिन्धु  
माम-अदर्शनानु मर्म-हर्तां करोतु वा ।
यथा तथा वा विद्धानु लम्पटः  
मत-प्राण-नाथस्तु स पव न-अपरः ॥ ८॥

इति कृष्णदासकविराजविचित शिक्षाष्टक सम्पूर्णम् ।

Eन्तोदु अन्त्र प्रुक्षेऽअद् व्य रम्म गोपलरव्यम् (त्ग अत्प्रदुङ्गोम)