

श्रीकृष्णाष्टकम् *śrīkṛṣṇāṣṭakam*

अनुवादकः रामुलु गजवाड

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वसुदेवसुतं देवं कंसचाणूरमर्दनम् ।

देवकीपरमानन्दं कृष्णं वन्दे जगद्गुरुम् ॥ १

*vasudevasutam devam kamsacāṇūramardhanam |
devakīparamānandam kṛṣṇam vande jagadgurum || 1*

Salutations to Kṛṣṇa (God), the universal teacher, son of Vasudeva, the supreme joy of his mother Devakī, vanquisher of Kāṁsa and Cānūra. 1

vasudevasutam (vasudeva + sutam) = to the son of Vasudeva, devam = to God, Kāṁsacāṇūramardanam (Kāṁsa + cāṇūramardanam) = to the vanquisher of Kāṁsa & Cānuura, devakīparamānandam (devakī + parama + ānandam) = to the supreme joy of Devakī, kṛṣṇam = to Kṛṣṇa, vande = I salute, jagadgurum (jagat + gurum) = to the universal teacher (nouns & attributes are with accusative case endings) 1

अतसीपुष्पसङ्काशं हारनूपुरशोभितम् ।

रत्नकङ्कणकेयूरं कृष्णं वन्दे जगद्गुरुम् ॥ २

*atasīpuṣpasāṅkāśam hāranūpuraśobhitam |
ratnakaṅkaṇakeyūram kṛṣṇam vande jagadgurum || 2*

Salutations to Kṛṣṇa, the universal teacher, whose body is tender like a lily, adorned with bell-anklets, armllet (Keyūra) studded with gems. 2

atasīpuṣpasāṅkāśam (*atasī + puṣpa + sāṅkāśam*) = one who has tender and shining body like a lily, *hāranūpura* (*hāra + nūpura*) = bell-anklets, *śobhitam* = splendid (lovely), *ratnakaṅkaṇakeyūram* (*ratna + kaṅkaṇa + keyūram*) = armlet studded with gems, *kṛṣṇam* = to Kṛṣṇa, *vande* = I salute, *jagagurum* (*jagat + gurum*) = to the universal teacher. (*nouns & attributes are in accusative case endings*) 2

कुटिलालकसंयुक्तं पूर्णचन्द्रनिभाननम् ।

विलसत्कुण्डलधरं कृष्णं वन्दे जगद्गुरुम् ॥ ३

kuṭilālakasaṁyuktam pūrṇacandranibhānanam |
vilasatkunḍaladharam kṛṣṇam vande jagadgurum || 3

Salutations to Kṛṣṇa, the universal teacher whose face resembles a full moon with splendid looking curly locks of hair and glittering ear-rings. 3

kuṭilālaka = curly locks of hair, *saṁyuktam* (*saṁ + yuktam*) = combined with, *pūrṇacandra* (*pūrṇa + candra*) = full-moon, *nibha* = like, *ananam* = face, *vilasat* = glittering, *kunḍaladharam* (*kunḍala + dharam*) = wearing ear-rings, *kṛṣṇam* = to Kṛṣṇa, *vande* = I salute, *jagadgurum* (*jagat + gurum*) = to the universal teacher. (*nouns & attributes are with accusative case endings*) 3

मन्दारगन्दसंयुक्तं चारुहासं चतुर्भुजम् ।

बहिर्पिञ्चावचूडाङ्गं कृष्णं वन्दे जगद्गुरुम् ॥ ४

mandāragandhasaṁyuktam cāruhāsaṁ caturbhujam |
barhipiñcāvachūḍāṅgam kṛṣṇam vande jagadgurum || 4

Salutations to Kṛṣṇa, the universal teacher with four arms (description of Viṣṇu) with beautiful smile, lovely fragrance of Mandāra flowers and adorned with a peacock feather in the hair. 4

mandāra = Manādra flowers, *ganda* = fragrance, *sāmyuktam* = with, *cāru* = beautiful, *hāsam* = smile, *caturbhujam* (*catur* + *bhujam*) = four arms, *barhi* = peacock feather, *piñcāvācūdāṅgam* (*piñcāva* + *cūda* + *aṅgam*)= decorative knot of hair, *kṛṣṇam* = to Kṛṣṇa, *vande* = I salute, *jagadgurum* (*jagat* + *gurum*) = universal teacher. (nouns & attributes are with accusative case endings) 4

उत्पुल्लपद्मपत्राक्षं नीलजीमूतसन्निभम् ।

यादवानां शिरोरत्नं कृष्णं वन्दे जगद्गुरुम् ॥ ५

utpullapadmapatrākṣam nīlajīmūtasannibham ।

yādavānām śīroratnam kṛṣṇam vande jagadgurum ॥ 5

Salutations to Kṛṣṇa, the universal teacher with eyes resembling the petals of a full blown lotus, and whose body resembles dark blue clouds, is the crest-jewel of the cowherd boys of Vṛndāvana. 5

utpulla = full bloomed, *padmapatrākṣam* (*padma* + *patra* + *akṣam*) = to the one with eyes resembling lotus petals, *nīlajīmūta* (*nīla* + *jīmūta*) = dark blue clouds, *sannibham* = resembling, *yādavānām* = of or among Yādavās, *śīroratnam* (*śīraḥ* + *ratnam*) = crest jewel, *kṛṣṇam* = to Kṛṣṇa, *vande* = I salute, *jagadgurum* (*jagat* + *gurum*) = to the universal teacher. (nouns & attributes are in accusative case endings) 5

रुक्मिणीकेलिसंयुक्तं पीताम्बर सुशोभितम् ।

अवाप्ततुलसीगन्धं कृष्णं वन्दे जगद्गुरुम् ॥ ६

rukmiṇīkelisamyuktaṁ pītāambarasūśobhitam ।

avāpta tulasīgandham kṛṣṇam vande jagadgurum ॥ 6

Salutations to Kṛṣṇa, the universal teacher having the fragrance of Tulasi (basil), adorned in yellow apparel and sporting with his consort Rukmiṇī. 6

Rukmiṇīkeḷisaṁyuktam (*rukmiṇī + keḷi + saṁyuktam*) = sporting with Rukmini his consort, *pītāmbara* (*pīta + ambara*) = yellow apparel, *suśobhitam* = adorned and looks splendid, *avāpta* = got (having), *tulasīgandham* (*tulasī + gandham*) = fragrance of Tulasi, *kṛṣṇam* = to Kṛṣṇa, *vande* = I salute, *jagadgurum* (*jagat + gurum*) = to the universal teacher. (nouns & attributes are in accusative case endings) 6

गोपिकानां कुचद्वन्द्वकुङ्कुमाङ्कितवक्षसम् ।

श्रीनिकेतं महेष्वासं कृष्णं वन्दे जगद्गुरुम् ॥ ७

gopikānām kucadvandvakuṅkumāṅkitavakṣasam |
śrīniketaṁ maheṣvāsaṁ kṛṣṇaṁ vande jagadgurum || 7

Salutations to Kṛṣṇa, the universal teacher the holder of the great bow (Śrāṅga) and abode of Lakṣmī, is like kuṅkum mark on the chests of gopies between the pair of breasts. (kuṅkum is the red powder used as a mark on the forehead as tilak. This can be interpreted as dear to their heart). 7

gopikānām = of gopies (the milk maids of Vṛndāvana), *kucadvandva* (*kuca + dvandva*) = pair of breasts, *kuṅkuma* = red powder used as *tilak* or mark on the forehead, *āṅkita* = mark, *vakṣasam* = chest, *śrīniketaṁ* (*śrī + nicketaṁ*) = (heart of Śrī Lakṣmī) is his abode, *maheṣvāsaṁ* = the great bow Śrāṅga (description of Lord Viṣṇu), *kṛṣṇam* = to Kṛṣṇa, *vande* = I salute, *jagadgurum* (*jagat + gurum*) = to the universal teacher. (nouns & attributes are in accusative case endings) 7

श्रीवत्साङ्कं महोरस्कं वनमालाविराजितम् ।

सङ्कचक्रधरं देवं कृष्णं वन्दे जगद्गुरुम् ॥ ८

śrīvatsāṅkaṁ mahoraskaṁ vanamālāvirājitam |
saṅkacakraḍharaṁ devaṁ kṛṣṇaṁ vande jagadgurum || 8

Salutations to Kṛṣṇa. the universal teacher, who has a broad chest bearing the mark Śrīvatsāṅka, or the footprint of Sage Bṛgu (on chest of Śrī Kṛṣṇa which is the abode of Lakṣmī), and adorned with a garland of wild-flowers and holding the conch (Pāñcajanya) and the disc (Sudarśana). 8

śrīvatsāṅkaṁ = mark on the chest of (*Viṣṇu* as *Kṛṣṇa*) which is the abode of *Lakṣmī* (the mark is the footprint of sage *Bṛgu* on the chest of *Viṣṇu*), *mahoraskaṁ* (*maha* + *raskaṁ*) = the broad chest, *vanamālā* (*vana* + *mālā*) = garland of wild-flowers, *virājitam* = well displayed, *saṅka* = the conch known as *Pāñcajanya*, *cakra* = disc known as *Sudarśana*, *dharaṁ* = holding, *devaṁ* = to Deva, God, *kṛṣṇaṁ* = to Kṛṣṇa, *vande* = I salute, *jagadgurum* (*jagat* + *gurum*) = to the universal teacher. (nouns & attributes are in accusative case endings) 8

कृष्णाष्टकमिदं पुण्यं प्रातरुत्थाय यः पठेत् ।

कोटिजन्मकृतं पापं सद्य एव विनयिष्यति ॥ ९

kṛṣṇāṣṭakamidam puṇyam prātarutthāya yaḥ paṭhet |
koṭijanmakṛtam pāpam sadya eva vinayiṣyati ||9

One who recites these eight holy verses describing the attributes of Kṛṣṇa, early in the morning upon getting up, his accumulated sins in ten million births are truly destroyed immediately. 9

kṛṣṇāṣṭakam (*kṛṣṇa* + *aṣṭakam*) = collection of eight verses on *Kṛṣṇa*, *idam* = this, *puṇyam* = holy or virtuous, *prāta* = morning, *rutthāya* = upon getting up, *yaḥ* = who, *paṭhet* = should read, *koṭi* = ten million, *janma* = births, *kṛtam* = done, *pāpam* = sin, *adya* = immediately, *eva* = indeed, *vinayiṣyati* = destroyed. 9