



Śrī Nityānanda Astakam

Śrī Śrī Nityānanda Candrāya Namaḥ

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Śrīla Vṛndāvan Dāsa Thākura

“Lord Nityānanda’s Lotus Face is More Beautiful Than the Autumn Moon”

Eight Prayers Glorifying Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu



(1)

*śarat-candra-bhrāntim sphurad-amala-kāntim gaja-gatim
hari-premonmattam dhṛta-parama-sattvam smita-mukham
sadā ghūrṇan-netram kara-kalita-vetram kali-bhidam
bhaje nityānandam bhajana-taru-kandam niravadhi*

(2)

*rasānām āgāram svajana-gaṇa-sarvasvam atulam
tadīyaika-prāṇa-pratima-vasudhā-jāhnavī-patim
sadā-premonmādam parama-viditam manda-manasām
bhaje nityānandam bhajana-taru-kandam niravadhi*

(3)

*śacīsūnu-prestham nikhila-jagad-iṣṭam sukha-mayam
kalau majjaj-jīvoddharaṇa-karaṇoddāma-karuṇam
harer-vyākhyānād vā bhava-jaladhi-garvonnati-haram
bhaje nityānandam bhajana-taru-kandam niravadhi*

(4)

*aye bhrātar nṛṇam kali-kaluṣinām kim nu bhavitā
tathā prāyaścittam racaya yad-anāyāsatamime
vrajanti tvām ittham saha bhagavatā mantrayati yo
bhaje nityānandam bhajana-taru-kandam niravadhi*



(5)

*yatheṣṭam re bhrātaḥ! kuru hari-hari-dhvānam anīsaṁ
tato vaḥ saṁsārābudhi-taraṇa-dāyo mayi laget
idaṁ bāhu-sphoṭair atati raṭayan yaḥ pratigṛham
bhaje nityānandaṁ bhajana-taru-kandaṁ niravadhi*

(6)

*balāt saṁsārāmbhoniḍhi-haraṇa-kumbhodbhavam aho
satām śreyah-sindhunnati-kumuda-bandhum samuditam
khala-śrenī-sphūrjit-timira-hara-sūrya-prabham aham
bhaje nityānandaṁ bhajana-taru-kandaṁ niravadhi*

(7)

*naṭantaṁ gāyāntaṁ harim anuvadantaṁ pathi pathi
vrajantaṁ paśyantaṁ svam api na dayantaṁ jana-gaṇam
prakurvantaṁ santaṁ sakaruṇa-dy-g-antaṁ prakalanād
bhaje nityānandaṁ bhajana-taru-kandaṁ niravadhi*

(8)

*su-bibhrāṇaṁ bhrātuḥ kara-sarasijaṁ komalataram
mitho vaktālokocchalita-paramānanda-hṛdayam
bhramantaṁ mādhuryair ahaha! madayantaṁ pura-jaṇān
bhaje nityānandaṁ bhajana-taru-kandaṁ niravadhi*

(9)

*rasānām ādhāraṁ rasika-vara-sad-vaiṣṇava-dhanaṁ
rasāgāraṁ sāraṁ palita-tati-tāraṁ smaraṇataḥ
param nityānandāstakam idam apūrvam paṭhati yaḥ
tad-aṅghri-dvandvābjaṁ sphuratu nitarām tasya hṛdaye*



Sri Nityānanda Astakam

Translation by
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Unless you get the mercy from Nityānanda Prabhu there is no hope of getting mercy from Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu. Therefore there is no hope of approaching Rādhā and Kṛṣṇa, this is our process. So I'll will now chant the Nityānandāstakam written by Śrī Vṛndāvana Dāsa Ṭhākura.

1) Lord Nityānanda's lotus face is so beautiful, I have no language to describe. The moon in the autumn season is very beautiful but Lord Nityānanda Prabhu's face is more beautiful than this. So cooling like the autumn moon. The effulgence coming out from His body and His bodily features are very, very beautiful, supremely beautiful. Such beauty cannot be found anywhere. He always moves like a mad elephant because He is intoxicated with *kṛṣṇa-prema-rasa-madirā*. *Kṛṣṇa-prema-rasa* is like a liquor and He has drunk it and become intoxicated like a mad elephant. His movement is always very slow, *mṛdu-manthara*, very slow movement. He is always mad after *kṛṣṇa-prema*. His body is *śuddha-sattva-maya*. He always has a smiling face, never morose, always smiling, *su-hāsyā-vadana*. His eyes are very fickle moving to and fro. He is catching hold of a cane in his hand. That Lord Nityānanda, who by the beating of this cane destroys the reactions of the people affected by Kali-yuga, *kali-kāla-nāśa*. They should take shelter of Nityānanda Prabhu and cry for the mercy of Lord Nityānanda. He is the root of the tree of *kṛṣṇa-bhakti-kalpa-taru*. *Taru* means tree. If *kṛṣṇa-prema-bhakti* is a tree then Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu is the root. To that Lord Nityānanda, who is the unlimited root of the tree of devotional service, I offer my obeisances, and I worship that Lord Nityānanda.

2) Lord Nityānanda is the reservoir of all mellows. He is the life and soul of all the devotees. No one can compare to Him in the three planetary systems. He is very dear to one and all. He is the Lord of Vasudhā Devi and Jāhnavi Devi, who consider Lord Nityānanda dearer than life. He is always in an ecstatic mood of divine love, ecstatic love! Always maddened and intoxicated with pure love of Godhead, intoxicated with *kṛṣṇa-prema-rasa-madirā*. The unintelligent, non-devotees, *manda-mati*, cannot understand that He is the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself. He is not known to them. To that Lord Nityānanda, who is the unlimited root of the tree of devotional service, I offer my obeisances, and I worship that Lord Nityānanda.

3) Lord Nityānanda is very dear to Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu, the son of Śacīdevī. He always does good to the whole world. He is always supremely blissful. He is the embodiment of supreme happiness and blissfulness. He is *sat-prema*, pleasurable portion. He is so merciful, one cannot trace out the end of His mercy, it is unlimited. He is so merciful to the people of Kali-yuga, those who are most degraded and fallen. To them, He is very merciful. In *Bhagavad-gītā* it has been said, *daiivī hy eṣā guṇamayī, mama māyā duratyayā* [Bg. 7.14]. This material world is a manifestation of *māyā-śakti*. It is very, very difficult to surmount. She is insurmountable. But Nityānanda Prabhu, by doing *hari-saṅkīrtana* has just crushed the pride of *māyā-śakti*. He is always chanting the holy name of Lord Hari:

Śrī Nityānanda Astakam

*hare kṛṣṇa hare kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa hare hare
hare rāma hare rāma rāma rāma hare hare*

By chanting the holy name of Lord Hari, He checks the flooding ocean of repeated birth and death and delivers the souls drowning in the age of Kali. In other words, He is showing an easy way to cross this dreadful ocean of materialistic existence. To that Lord Nityānanda, who is the unlimited root of the tree of devotional service, I offer my obeisances, and I worship that Lord Nityānanda.

4) Nityānanda Prabhu speaks to Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu: “O my brother, what will happen to those most distressed and fallen *jīvas* of Kali-yuga? What will happen to them, unless You shower Your mercy on them. How will they be able to atone for these sins? Please show them a way, for their deliverance, as a result of which they can approach and get Your lotus feet.” He always talks to Śrīman Mahāprabhu in this way. To that Lord Nityānanda, who is the unlimited root of the tree of devotional service, I offer my obeisances, and I worship that Lord Nityānanda.

5) That Nityānanda Prabhu goes to every house and raising His arms, and requests, “O my brother, all of you engage yourself in the chanting of *harināma*:

*hare kṛṣṇa hare kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa hare hare
hare rāma hare rāma rāma rāma hare hare*

If you do this, you will be able to cross over the dreadful ocean of birth and death of this material world. I remain assurity for you that this promise is true! I am responsible for it, do not fear.” He says, I am assurity for you, guarantee. Lord Nityānanda goes to every doorstep and says like this. To that Lord Nityānanda, who is the unlimited root of the tree of devotional service, I offer my obeisances, and I worship that Lord Nityānanda.

6) Nityānanda Prabhu is like Agastya Muni who by drinking a handful of water made all the oceans dry up, forcibly swallowing the ocean of material existence. He arose like the moon to swell up the ocean, *kalyāṇa-samudra*. To swell the ocean of mercy, *jīvera-kalyāṇa*, the welfare of the *jīvas*. His *kalyāṇa* [mercy] is like an ocean. Nityānanda Prabhu very easily destroys the sinful reactions of the most sinful, degraded persons, *kali-hata-jana*, [victims of the Age of Kali]. He is always doing good to the devotees and is very, very dear to them. He is the rising full moon that expands the ocean that is the welfare of the saintly devotees. He has arisen like the cooling moon that is like the soothing moonshine of *crores* of moons, *koṭi-candra-suśītala*. He is the blazing sun that dispels the darkness of multitudes of ignorant fools that has arisen from their sinful activities. He destroys their sinful reactions. He is like the sun for them. To that Lord Nityānanda, who is the unlimited root of the tree of devotional service, I offer my obeisances, and I worship that Lord Nityānanda.

7) Nityānanda Prabhu travels on every path, always singing, dancing, and chanting ‘Hari! Hari! Hari bol! Hari bol!’ Chanting ‘Hare Kṛṣṇa,’ He is always engaged in *harināma-saṅkīrtana*, thereby attracting those devotees doing *hari-kīrtana*. He always casts merciful sidelong glances over His dear devotees. In this way, without considering His own interests, He moves through the streets of all the towns, cities and villages throughout the material world, casting His merciful glance over the devotees and *sādhus*. He is very merciful to the devotees of Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu. To that Lord Nityānanda, who is the unlimited root of the tree of devotional service, I offer my obeisances, and I worship that Lord Nityānanda.

8) Nityānanda Prabhu holds the very beautiful soft lotus hand of His brother, Gaurāṅga Mahāprabhu, and when They glance at each other’s faces, Their hearts become full of transcendental bliss and ecstasy. Wherever He goes, all the people become mad and intoxicated with the beauty of Nityānanda Prabhu. His beauty is incomparable that cannot be described in languages. He wanders through the towns, cities and villages making the people happy and blissful by His chanting of the *harināma mahā-mantra*. He is always doing *harināma-kīrtana*. To that Lord Nityānanda, who is the unlimited root of the tree of devotional service, I offer my obeisances, and I worship that Lord Nityānanda.

9) Vṛndāvan Dāsa Ṭhākura says, “Nityānanda Prabhu truly gives *bhakti-rasa*. He is the reservoir of all mellows of devotional service. He is the wealth, life and soul of the *rasika-bhaktas*, those *vaiṣṇavas* expert at relishing those mellows. He is the essence of the entire universe, the three planetary systems, by whose remembrance, the sinful reactions of all the sinful persons are destroyed. Whomever reads and recites these eight verses, the *Nityānandāstaka* everyday with firm faith, written by Vṛndāvan Dāsa Ṭhākura will achieve Nityānanda Prabhu’s mercy and the two lotus feet of Nityānanda Prabhu will very soon be revealed to Him, which is very rare. These verses are very sweet. By remembering them the fallen souls are delivered by destroying their sinful reactions. May the two lotus feet of Lord Nityānanda eternally appear in the hearts of those who read these eight unprecedented transcendental verses glorifying Lord Nityānanda. This is what Vṛndāvan Dāsa Ṭhākura says.

*Jaya Śrī Nityānanda Prabhu ki jaya!
Patita-Pāvana Śrī Nitāicānd ki jaya!
Patita-Uddhāra Śrī Nityānanda ki jaya!*