

Śrī-Nityānandāṣṭaka

Śrīla Vṛndāvana dāsa Ṭhākura

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

I worship Lord Nityānanda, the limitless root of the tree of devotional service. As He walks with the grace of a majestic elephant, His pure, splendid beauty shines like the full autumn moon. Though He Himself is the Absolute Truth, He is maddened with pure love for Lord Hari. He smiles as He rolls His eyes in apparent intoxication, He carries a stick in His hand [in the mood of a cowherd boy], and He breaks the power of the Age of Kali.

*rasānām āgāram svajana-gaṇa-sarvasvam atulam
tadīyaika-prāṇa-pramita-vasudhā-jāhnava-patim
sadā-premonmādam param aviditam manda-manasām
bhaje nityānandam bhajana-taru-kandam niravadhi*

I worship Lord Nityānanda, the limitless root of the tree of devotional service. He is the abode of the mellows of devotional service, and no one can be compared to Him. He is the be-all and end-all for His devotees, and the husband of Vasudhā and Jāhnava, to whom He is more dear than life itself. Because He is always maddened with pure love for Kṛṣṇa, the foolish nondevotees cannot understand that He is the Supreme Personality of Godhead Himself.

*śacī-sūnu-preṣṭham nikhila-jagad-iṣṭam sukha-mayam
kalau majjaj-jivoddharaṇa-karaṇoddāma-karuṇam
harer ākhyānād vā bhava-jaladhi-garvonnati-haram
bhaje nityānandam bhajana-taru-kandam niravadhi*

I worship Lord Nityānanda, the limitless root of the tree of devotional service. He is very dear to the son of Śacī-devī and is worshiped by the entire universe. Out of His great mercy He chants the holy name of Lord Hari, thus rescuing the souls drowning in the age of Kali and crushing the pride of the ocean of repeated birth and death.

*aye bhrātar nīṇām kali-kaluṣiṇām kim nu bhavitā
tathā prāyaścittam racaya yad-anāyāsata ime*

*vrajanti tvām ittham saha bhagavatā mantrayati yo
bhaje nityānandaṁ bhajana-taru-kandaṁ niravadhi*

I worship Lord Nityānanda, the limitless root of the tree of devotional service. He said to Lord Caitanya, “O brother, the people are all becoming infected by the sins of Kali-yuga. How will they atone for these sins? Please give them a way to easily approach You.”

*yatheṣṭham re bhrātaḥ kuru hari-hari-dhvānam anīṣaṁ
tato vaḥ saṁsārāmbudhi-taraṇa-dāyo mayi laget
idaṁ bāhu-sphoṭair aṭati raṭayan yaḥ pratigṛham
bhaje nityānandaṁ bhajana-taru-kandaṁ niravadhi*

I worship Lord Nityānanda, the limitless root of the tree of devotional service. He went to each house in Bengal and, raising His arms, said, “ O brother, if you will, please constantly chant the holy name of Lord Hari. If you do this, you will become free from the ocean of repeated a death. Please give Me this gift of your liberation.”

*balāt saṁsārāmbhoniḍhi-harana-kumbhodbhavam aho
satām śreyaḥ-sindhūnnati-kumuda-bandhum samuditam
khala-śreṇī-sphūrjit-timira-hara-sūrya-prabham aham
bhaje nityānandaṁ bhajana-taru-kandaṁ niravadhi*

I worship Lord Nityānanda, the limitless root of the tree of devotional service. He is the Agastya Muni who forcibly swallows the ocean of repeated death. He is a rising full moon (friend of the night-blooming lotus) who expands the ocean of the saintly devotees’ good fortune. He is the blazing sun who extinguishes the darkness of the community of demons.

*naṭantaṁ gāyantaṁ harim anuvadantaṁ pathi pathi
vrajantaṁ paśyantaṁ svam api na dayantaṁ jana-gaṇam
prakurvantaṁ santaṁ sa-karuṇa-dṛg-antaṁ prakalanād
bhaje nityānandaṁ bhajana-taru-kandaṁ niravadhi*

I worship Lord Nityānanda, the limitless root of the tree of devotional service. He traveled on every path, dancing, singing the names of Lord Hari, and describing His glories. Without considering His own interests, He was merciful to the people, and He cast upon them His merciful sidelong glance.

*su-bibhrāṇam bhrātuḥ kara-sarasijaṁ komalataṛam
mitho vaktrālokocchalita-paramānanda-hṛdayam
bhramantaṁ mādhyair ahaḥ madayantaṁ pura-janān*

bhaje nityānandaṁ bhajana-taru-kandaṁ niravadhi

I worship Lord Nityānanda, the limitless root of the tree of devotional service. He fondly grasped His brother Lord Caitanya's soft and beautiful lotus hand, and together they wandered here and there, delighting the townspeople with Their sweet beauty. They both became filled with bliss when They gazed upon each other's lotus faces.

*rasānāṁ ādhāraṁ rasika-vara-sad-vaiṣṇava-dhanaṁ
rasāgāraṁ sāraṁ patita-tati-tāraṁ smaraṇataḥ
paraṁ nityānandāṣṭakam idam apūrvam pathati yaḥ
tad-aṅghri-dvandvābjaṁ sphuratu nitarāṁ tasya hṛdaye*

These eight verses glorifying Lord Nityānanda are the abode of the mellows of devotional service, and they are the wealth of the pure devotees expert at relishing those mellows. All the fallen, conditioned souls can get liberation just by remembering them. These verses are very excellent, transcendental, and unprecedented. May the two lotus feet of Lord Nityānanda appear eternally in the hearts of those who read these verses and remember the Lord.