

Invocation Prayers

Verses and songs recited by
Srila Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja
each morning before Srimad Bhagavatam class



*nārāyaṇam namaskṛtya
naram caiva narottamam
devīm sarasvatīm vyāsam
tato jayam udīrayet*

Before reciting this *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, which is the very means of conquest, one should offer respectful obeisances unto the Personality of Godhead, Nārāyaṇa, unto Nara-nārāyaṇa Ṛṣi, the super-most human being, unto mother Sarasvatī, the goddess of learning, and unto Śrīla Vyāsadeva, the author. [*Bhag.* 1.2.4]

*vede rāmāyaṇe caiva purāṇe bhārata tathā
ādāv ante ca madhye ca hariḥ sarvatra gīyate*

“In the Vedic literature, including the Rāmāyaṇa, Purāṇas and Mahābhārata, from the very beginning (*ādau*) to the end (*ante ca*), as well as within the middle (*madhye ca*), only Hari, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, is explained.” [*Hari-varṇa* cited *Cc. Adī* 7.131]

*mūkam karoti vācālam
paṅguṁ laṅghayate girim
yat-kṛpā tam aham vande
śrī-guruṁ dīna-tāraṇam*

“The Supreme Personality of Godhead has the form of *sac-cid-ānanda-vigraha* [Bs. 5.1]—transcendental bliss, knowledge and eternity. I offer my respectful obeisances unto Him, who turns the dumb into eloquent speakers and enables the lame to cross mountains. Such is the mercy of the Lord.” [Śrīdhara Swami, *Bhāvartha Dīpikā*, *Maṅgala Stotrum* 1, Cited *Cc. Madhya* 17.18]



Prayer to Lord Jagannatha

Every day before Srimad Bhagavatam Class
Srila Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja would sing this song he had learned as a child..



*paramānanda he mādharma
paduṅgaluci makaranda*

*se-makaranda pāna-kari
ānande bolo hari hari*

*hariṅka nāme vānda velā
pāri karive cakā-dolā*

*se cakā-dolāṅka-pāyāre
mana-mo rahu nirantare*

*mana mo nirantare rahu
hā-kṛṣṇa boli jīva jāu*

*hā-kṛṣṇa boli jāu jīva
mote udhāra rādhā-dhava*

*mote udhāra rādhā-dhava
mote udhāra rādhā-dhava*

“O supremely blissful Mādhava! The nectar is coming from Your lotus feet. Drinking that nectar I blissfully chant, “Hari! Hari! With the name ‘Hari’ I am binding a raft on which Lord Jagannātha (*Chaka-dola*) will ferry me across this ocean of material existence. My mind always remains at the lotus feet of that Lord Jagannātha who has very large round eyes. In this way, I call out “Ha Kṛṣṇa!” And give up my life. O husband of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, Rādhā-dhava, please deliver me.” [Traditional Orissian *bhajan*.]



The Glories of the Srimad Bhagavatam

*dharmah projjhita-kaitavo
'tra paramo nirmatsarāṇām satām
vedyam vāstavam atra vastu
śivadam tāpa-trayonmūlanam*

*śrīmad-bhāgavate mahā-muni-
kṛte kiṁ vā parair īśvarah
sadyo hṛdy avarudhyate 'tra
kṛtibhiḥ suśrūṣubhis tat-kṣaṇāt*

“Completely rejecting all religious activities which are materially motivated, this *Bhāgavata Purāna* propounds the highest truth, which is understandable by those devotees who are fully pure in heart. The highest truth is reality distinguished from illusion for the welfare of all. Such truth uproots the threefold miseries. This beautiful *Bhāgavatam*, compiled by the great sage Vyāsadeva [in his maturity], is sufficient in itself for God realization. What is the need of any other scripture? As soon as one attentively and submissively hears the message of *Bhāgavatam*, by this culture of knowledge the Supreme Lord is established within his heart.” [Bhāg. 1.1.2]

*nigama-kalpa-taror galitam phalam
śuka-mukhād amṛta-drava-saṁyutam
pibata bhāgavatam rasam ālayam
muhur aho rasikā bhuvi bhāvukāḥ*

“O expert and thoughtful men, relish *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, the mature fruit of the desire tree of Vedic literatures. It emanated from the lips of Śrī Śukadeva Gosvāmī. Therefore this fruit has become even more tasteful, although its nectarean juice was already relishable for all, including liberated souls.” [Bhāg. 1.1.3]

*anarthopāśamaṁ sāksād
bhakti-yogam adhokṣaje
lokasyājānato vidvāṁś
cakre sātva-ta-saṁhitām*

“The material miseries of the living entity, which are superfluous to him, can be directly mitigated by the linking process of devotional service. But the mass of people do not know this, and therefore the learned Vyāsadeva compiled this Vedic literature, which is in relation to the Supreme Truth.” [Bhāg. 1.7.6]

*yasyām vai śrūyamāṇāyām
kṛṣṇe parama-pūruṣe
bhaktir utpadyate puṁsaḥ
śoka-moha-bhayāpahā*

“Simply by giving aural reception to this Vedic literature, the feeling for loving devotional service to Lord Kṛṣṇa, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, sprouts up at once to extinguish the fire of lamentation, illusion and fearfulness.” [Bhāg. 1.7.7]

*śrīmad-bhāgavatam purāṇam
amalam yad vaiṣṇavānām priyam
yasmīn pāramahāṁsyam ekam
amalam jñānam param gīyate*

*tatra jñāna-virāga-bhakti-
sahitam naiṣkarmyam āviskṛtam
tac chṛṇvan su-paṭhan vicāraṇa-
paro bhaktyā vimucyen naraḥ*

“Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam is the spotless Purāṇa. It is most dear to the Vaiṣṇavas because it describes the pure and supreme knowledge of the paramahāṁsas. This Bhāgavatam reveals the means for becoming free from all material work, together with the processes of transcendental knowledge, renunciation and devotion. Anyone who seriously tries to understand Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, who properly hears and chants it with devotion, becomes completely liberated.” [Bhāg. 12.13.18]

*artho 'yam brahma-sūtrāṇām
bhāratārtha-vinirṇayaḥ
gāyatrī-bhāṣya-rūpo 'sau
vedārtha-paribṛmhitah*

“The meaning of the Vedānta-sūtra is present in Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam. The full purport of the Mahābhārata is also there. The commentary of the Brahma-gāyatrī is also there and fully expanded with all Vedic knowledge.” [Garuda Purāṇa, text 143, cited Cc. Mad. 25.113 and Hari-bhakti-vilāsa 10.394]

Srimad Bhagavatam Invocations

*sarva-vedetihāsānām
sāraṁ sārāṁ samuddhṛtam*

“The essence of all Vedic literature and all histories has been collected in this *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.” [Bhāg. 1.3.41]

*sarva-vedānta-sāraṁ hi
śrī-bhāgavatam iṣyate
tad-rasāmṛta-typtasya
nānyatra syād ratih kvacit*

“*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is declared to be the essence of all Vedānta philosophy. One who has felt satisfaction from its nectarean mellow will never be attracted to any other literature.” [Bhāg 12.13.15]

*‘kṛṣṇa-bhakti-rasa-svarūpa’ śrī-bhāgavata
tāte veda-śāstra haite parama mahattva*

“*Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* gives direct information of the mellow derived from service to Kṛṣṇa. Therefore *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is above all other Vedic literatures.” [Cc. Mad. 25.150]

*cāri-veda-upaniṣade yata kichu haya
tāra artha lañā vyāsa karilā sañcaya*

*yei sūtre yei ṛk—viśaya-vacana
bhāgavate sei ṛk śloke nibandhana*

“Vyāsadeva collected whatever Vedic conclusions were in the four Vedas and 108 Upaniṣads and placed them in the codes of the *Vedānta-sūtra*.”

“In the *Vedānta-sūtra*, the purport of all Vedic knowledge is explained, and in *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* the same purport has been explained in eighteen thousand verses.” [Cc. Mad. 25.98-99]

*jīvera nistāra lāgi’ sūtra kaila vyāsa
māyāvādi-bhāṣya śunile haya sarva-nāśa*

“Śrīla Vyāsadeva presented the Vedānta philosophy for the deliverance of conditioned souls, but if one hears the commentary of Śaṅkarācārya, everything is spoiled.” [Cc. Mad. 6.169]

Srimad Bhagavatam Invocations

*“yāha, bhāgavata paḍa vaiṣṇavera sthāne
ekānta āśraya kara caitanya-carāṇe*

“Go and approach a bona-fide Vaiṣṇava to study *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and in this way completely surrender to the lotus feet of Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu.” [C. Antya 5.131]

*bhāgavata ye nā māne, se—yavana-sama
tāra śāstrā āche janme-janme prabhu yama*

“Whoever has no regard for the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is the same as a *yavana*, an untouchable heathen. He will be punished birth after birth by Lord Yamarāja.” [C. Bhāg. Ādi 1.39]

*Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa
Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare
Hare Rāma Hare Rāma
Rāma Rāma Hare Hare*