Chants
and
Prayers

as recited by the devotees of
Sri Ramakrishna and Sri Sarada Devi,
the Holy Mother
Introduction

Chants and prayers are the important spiritual practices of all religions. These are the great source of inspiration to all spiritual seekers.

This is a small collection of chants and prayers from the Vedas and other scriptures meant for the daily use of the devotees of Sri Ramakrishna and Holy Mother.

I thank Jim Selig who gave so much of his time to print these out in this book form.

Let these chants be an intrinsic part of our daily life.

Swami Shantarupananda

Portland, Oregon
August 23, 2000
Sri Krishna's Birthday
Chants and Prayers

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Chant Before Class
From Katha Upanisad

Om saha navava tu, saha nau bhunaktu,
saha viryam karavavahai,
tejas_vina_avadhitm_astu, ma vidvisavahi
Om
shanti, shanti, shanti.

Om
May Brahman protect us, teacher & student, both.
May Brahman nourish us both.
May we both acquire energy (as a result of this study)
May we both become illumined.
May love and harmony be with us all.

Vedic Chant 1

Om, dyauh santir_antariksam santih prthivi santir_
apah santir_osadhayah santih, vanaspatayah santir_
visvedevah santir_brahma santih, sarvam santih
santir_eva santih, sa ma santir edhi.

Peace be unto earth
Peace be unto heavens
Peace be unto lands
Peace be unto waters
Peace be unto plants
Peace be unto animals
Peace be unto all beings
Om
Peace Peace Peace
Om
Purnamada Purnamidam Purnat Purna-mudacyate
Purnasya Purna-madaya Purna-meva-vasisyate
Om Shanti Shanti Shanti

Om
The Infinite Fullness is Brahman.
The Infinite fullness is the manifested universe.
The Infinite Fullness rises from the Infinite Fullness.
Cut off the Infinite Fullness,
Alone remains the Infinite Fullness.
Om
Peace Peace Peace

Om asato ma sad gamaya
Tamaso ma jyotir gamaya
Mrityor ma amritam gamaya
Om shanti shanti shantih

Om
From the unreal lead me to the Real
From darkness lead me to Light.
From death lead me to Immortality.
Om
Peace, Peace, Peace
Gayatri Mantra

Reg-Veda

Om
bhur bhuvah suvah
tat-savitur varenyam
bhargo devasya dhimahi,
dhiyo yo nah pracodayat.

Om
Let us meditate on the
adorable effulgence of the divine Creator,
the Source of the physical, subtle and causal worlds.
May He stimulate our intelligence!

Chant Before Meals

(Gita 4:24)

Om
Brahmar-panam Brahma havir
Brahmag-nau Brahmaṇa hutam
Brahmaiva tena ganta-vyam
Brahma-karma samadhina

Hari Om Tat Sat

Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti

Brahman is the Ritual
Brahman is the Offering
Brahman is He who offers
To the fire that is Brahman.
If a man sees Brahman
In every action
He will find Brahman.
(Translation by Swami Pranabananda)
"Breaker of this World's Chain"

Khandana

KHANDANA BHAVA BANDHANA JAGA VANDANA VANDI TOMAI
NIRAN JANA NARA RUPA DHARA NIRGUNA GUNA MAI //

MOCHANA AGHA DUSHNA JAGA BHUSANA CHIDGANA KAI
JNANAN JANA VIMALA NAYANA VIKSHANE MOHA JAI //

BHASVRA BHAVA SAGARA CHIRA UNMADA PREMA PATHAR
BHAKTARJANA JUGALA CHARNA TARANA BHAVA PAR //

JRIMBHITA YUGA ISHWARA JAGAD ISHWARA YOGASAHAIVI
NIRO DHANA SAMAHITMANA NIRAKI TAVA KRIPAI /

BHAN JANA DUKHAGANJANA KARUNAGHANA KARMAKATHOR
PRANAR PANA JAGATA TARANA KRINTANA KALIDOR //

VANCHANA KAMA KANCHANA ATININDITA INDRIYARYAGH
TYAGISHWARA HE NARA VARA DEHA PADE ANURAG //

NIRBHAYA GATA SAMSHAYA DRIDHA NISHCHAYA MANA SAVAN
NISHKARANA BHAKATA SHARANA TYAJI JATI KULA MAN
SAMPADA TAVA SHRIDAPA JVABA GOSHADA BARI JATHAY
PREMAR PANA SAMADA RASHANA
JAGA JANA DUHKHA JAI.

NAMO NAMO PRAHU VAKYA MANATITA MANO
BACHANAIKADAR//
JOYTIRA JOTI U JALA HRIDI KANDARA //
TUMI TAMO BHANJANA HAR

NAMO NAMO PRABHU VAKYA MANA TITA //
MANO BACHANAUKADHAR.
JYOTIRA JYOTI UJALA HRIDI KANDARA //
TUMI TAMO BHANJANA HAR

DHE DHE DHE LANGA RANGA BHANGA BAJE ANGA
SANGA MIRI DANGA //

GAHICHHE CHANDA BHAKATA BRINDA ARATI TOMAR //

JAYA JAYA ARATI TOMAR, HARA HARA ARATI TOMAR //
SHIVA SHIVA ARATI TO MAR

KHANDANA BHAVABANDHANA JAGA BANDANA
BANDI TOMAY

JAI SRI GURU MAHARAJ, JIKI JAI!
1. Breaker of the bondage of worldly existence, Thou adored of all the worlds, we salute Thee. Pure Being Thou art, though clad in human form; Absolute Thou art, yet infinite are Thy glories.

2. Thou ornament of the universe, Thy body is verily spirit condensed; Thine eyes are pure with the collyrium of Knowledge. Thou deliverest us from sin's defilement; At Thy mere glance, all our delusion vanishes.

3. Thou effulgent Sea of spiritual emotions, Thou ever-turbulent Ocean of love. Thy blessed feet, won by Thy devotees, Carry them across the dark waters of the world.

4. Lord of the universe, Thou hast come as the Lord of this age And helpest us to attain union with Thee. Our minds wholly restrained and absorbed in Thee, We behold Thee by Thy grace.

5. Remover of sorrow's indignity, Thou art compassion itself And awesome are Thine actions. By giving Thy life Thou hast severed the bonds of this iron age Thou hast saved the world.

6. Shunning lust and gold and sense joy ever-condemned, Thou art the greatest of those who have renounced the world, O Man Supreme, grant us devotion at Thy feet.

7. Fearless art Thou and free from all doubts - Thy mind adamantine in its certainty. Haven, for no reason, of all who adore Thee, Thou carest naught for their caste, their lineage, honor or shame.

8. Holding Thy glorious feet as our treasure, We find the ocean of worldly existence a mere puddle Left in the hoofprint of a cow. Thou givest love to all alike, O Same-sighted One, And the sorrow of men vanishes throughout the world.

9. Salutations, salutations, Lord! Beyond the grasp of speech and mind, Thou art yet their sole support. O Light of light, illuminating the cauld of our heart, Thou art the Destroyer and Remover of darkness. Thy devotees, gathered together, sing hymns in Thine adoration; Victory! Victory! Adoration to Thee! O Thou Remover if Ignorance, our adoration to Thee! O Thou Transcendent, Eternal Good, to Thee our adoration!

Breaker of the bondage of worldly existence, Thou adored of all the worlds, we salute Thee.
Om Hring Ritang

"Hymn to Sri Ramakrishna"
Swami Vivekananda

Om Hring Ritang tvama-chalo gunajit gunedyah
Naktang-divang sakarunang tava pada-padham
Mohang-kashang vahukritang na bhaje yatoham
Tasmad tvameva sharanang mama dina-bandho.

Bhaktir-bhagascha bhajanang bhava-bhedakari
Gachhan-tyalang svvipulang gamanaya tattvam
Vaktro-dhritantu hridi me na cha bhuti kinchit
Tasmad tvameva sharanang mama dina-bandho.

Tejas-taranti tarasa tvayi tripta-trishnah
Rage krite ritapathe tvayi Ramakrishne
Martyamritang tava padang maranormi-nasham
Tasmad tvameva sharanang mama dina-bandho.

Krtiyang karoti kalushhang kuha-kanta-kari
Shnantang shivang suvimalang tava nama natha
Yasma-dahang tva-sharano jagadeka-gamy
Tasmad tvameva sharanang mama dina-bandho.

Om sthapakaya cha dharmasya sarva-dharma swarupine
Avatara-varish-thaya Ramakrishnaye te namah.
Om namo Sri Bhagavate Ramakrishnaye namo namah!
Om namo Sri Bhagavate Ramakrishnaye namo namah!
Om namo Sri Bhagavate Ramakrishnaye namo namah!
Offering to the Fire of Brahman

I, who am an embodied being, endowed with intellect, life-breath, and their functions, now offer up all my actions and their fruits to the fire of Brahman.

No matter what I may have done, said, or thought, in waking, in dreaming, or in dreamless sleep, with my mind, my tongue, my hands, or my other members: May all this be an offering to Brahman.

We offer up ourselves and all we have at the feet of Sri Ramakrishna.

Ramakrishna, You are my refuge
Your grace alone is my refuge
I take refuge in You
Salutations to the Guru
Victory to Ramakrishna!
Sri Parvadevi Stotram
Swami Abhedananda

Prakritim paramam abhayam varadam
nara rupadharam janatapa haram
Sharanagata sevaka toshakaram
pranamami param janaim jagatam

Gunahina sutan aparadha yutan
kirpayadhya samuddhara mogatam
Taranum bhavasagara parakarim
pranamami param janaim jagatam

Vishayam kusumam parihritya sadam
calanamburumritam shanti sudham
Pibah bhringa mano bhavaroga haram
pranamami param janaim jagatam

Kripam kuru mahadevi, suteshu pranateshu ca
Caranashraya danena, kripamayi namo'stute

Lajjapatavrte nityam, saraide jnana dayike
Papebhoyo nah sadah rakshah, kripamayi namo'stute

Ramakrishna gata pranam, tannama shravana priyam
Tadbhava ranjita karam, pranamami muhur muhuh

Pavitram charitam yasyah, pavitram jivanam tathah
Pavitratam svarupinyai, tayai kurmo namo namah

Devim prasannam pranatarti hastrim
yogindra pujiyam yugadharma pattrim
Tam saradam bhakti vijnana dattrim
dayam svarupam pranamami nityam

Sneheha badhnashi mano'smadiyam
doshan asheshan sargun karoshi
Ahetuna no dayase sadoshan
svanke grihiitvam yadidam vicitram

Prasida maitar vinayena yace
nityam bhava snehavati suteshu
Premaka bindum cira dagdha citte
vishinca cittam kuru nah sushanthram

Jananim sharaadam devim, ramakrishnam jagad gurum
Pada padme tayoh sritva, pranamami muhur muhuh
Hymn to Sarada Devi

(Translation of Sri Sarada Devi Stotram)

1. I offer my salutations to Sri Sarada Devi, who is the Mother of the universe and who satisfied the wants of the devotees who surrender at her feet, who is the primordial power of God, the remover of all fear, who grants boons to the devotees, and has taken human form to remove the afflictions of mankind.

2. O Mother, please release your child who is devoid of merits, full of faults, and deluded by the power of maya. O Sri Sarada Devi, the mother of the universe and a boat to cross the ocean of this world, I offer my salutations to Thee.

3. O bee in the form of my mind, give up sitting on the flowers of worldly pleasures and sip the honey from the lotus of Mother's feet for getting rid of the disease of this world. O Sri Sarada Devi, the mother of the universe, I offer my salutations to you.

4. O great goddess, Sri Sarada Devi, please bestow your grace on me your child who has prostrated at your feet. Please give me refuge at your feet. I offer my salutations to thee, O Compassionate One!

5. O Sarada, giver of knowledge, who is always covered by a veil as a token of modesty, O Compassionate One, please protect us from sins for all times.

6. I bow down to Sri Sarada Devi whose life was centered in Sri Ramakrishna, who took delight in listening to his name, and who was always charged with devotion for him.

7. We offer our salutations to Sri Sarada Devi, whose life was absolutely pure, whose character was spotless—rather who was the embodiment of purity.

8. I bow to Sri Sarada Devi, the giver of devotion and knowledge, the Compassionate One, who is worthy of being worshipped by the king of the yogis, who removes the afflictions of the devotees who surrender at Her feet, the Devi who helped in establishing the religion of the age.

9. You have tied our hearts by your affection in spite of our faults; you show compassion towards us by transforming our faults into merit. Mother, you are really wonderful!

10. O Mother, I pray to you humbly: Be always affectionate to your child, and make my ever-burning heart calm by sprinkling a drop of your motherly affection on me.
Thou art my Brahman Eternal, O Mother!
Heart-enchanting Divine Mother
Thou Art the nature of Bliss Absolute!
The power of Brahman and bestower of happiness!
Who art of the nature of Existence, Consciousness, and Bliss!
Who art the cause of creation, preservation, and dissolution!

Sri Chaitanya

Sri Chaitanya (1485-1533) is one of India's greatest saints. He is famed for his ecstatic devotion to Krishna.

Chant the Name of the Lord

Chant the Name of the Lord and His Glory unceasingly
That the mirror of the heart may be wiped clean
And quenched that mighty forest fire,
Worldly lust, raging furiously within.
Oh Name, stream down in moonlight on the lotus-heart,
Opening its cup to knowledge of Thyself.
Oh self, drown deep in the waves of His bliss,
Chanting His Name continually,
Tasting His nectar at every step,
Bathing in His Name, that bath for weary souls.

Various are Thy Names, Oh Lord,
In each and every Name Thy power resides.
No times are set, no rites are needful, for chanting of Thy Name,
So vast is Thy mercy.
How huge, then, is my wretchedness
Who finds, in this empty life and heart
No devotion to Thy Name!

Oh, my mind,
Be humbler than a blade of grass,
Be patient and forbearing like the tree,
Take no honor to thyself,
Give honor to all,
Chant unceasingly the Name of the Lord.
Oh Lord and Soul of the Universe,
Mine is no prayer for wealth or retinue.
The playthings of lust or the toys of fame;
As many times as I may be reborn
Grant me, Oh Lord, a steadfast love for Thee.

A drowning man in this world's fearful ocean
Is Thy servant, Oh Sweet one.
In Thy Mercy
Consider him as dust beneath Thy feet.

Ah, How I long for the day
When an instant's separation from Thee, Oh Govinda,
Will be as a thousand years,
When my heart burns away with its desire
And the world, without Thee, is a heartless void.

Prostrate at Thy feet let me be, in unwavering devotion,
Neither imploring the embrace of Thine arms
Nor bewailing the withdrawal of Thy Presence
Though it tears my soul asunder.
Oh Thou, who stealst the hearts of Thy devotees,
Do with me what Thou wilt--
For Thou art my heart's Beloved, Thou and Thou alone.