

BHAJA GOVINDAM

(Dwadasha Manjarika Stotram)

**Bhaja Govindam Bhaja Govindam Govindam Bhaja Moodamate
SamprAte sannihite kaLe nahi nahi rakshati du-hrin-karaNe**

|| PeeTika ||

Worship Govinda, Worship Govinda and Worship Him, oh foolish one. When the end of your life approaches, this “du hrin karaNa (formula in grammar) will definitely never protect you (or provide you salvation).

**MooDa jahIhi Dhanagama trishaNam kuru sadbuddim manasi vitrashnam
Yallabhase nija karmopAttam vittam tena vinodaya chittam**

1

Oh fool, give up your thirst for monetary transaction; use your mind to develop the good habit of detachment. Use the jewels that come out of your true karma (work performed with a sense of detachment) to satisfy and entertain your mind.

**nArI sthanabhara nAbhI deshAm Drushtva mAyA mohAvesham
Yetan mAmsavasadi vikAram manasi vichintaya vAram vAram**

2

A mind that is full of ignorance and filled with error in judgment wanders and creates lust at the sight of a woman’s body. Reason it out and clarify to yourself; the body is only made up of muscles, fat, blood and other functional ingredients (therefore there is nothing to get excited or passionate about the human body).

**NalinI dalagata jalamati taralam tadvad jeevitam atishaya chapalam
Viddi VyAdhyabhimAna grastam lokam shokahatam cha samastam**

3

Like the water droplet on a lotus leaf that is so unstable, this life itself is very much unstable due to desires. Please understand that all the people in the world are caught up in either disease or ego and will succumb to sadness (failure to cure or to fulfill desires).

**Yavadvitto-paarjana saktaha-stAvannija parivaro raktaha
PashyA-jjivati jarjara dehe vArtAm kopi na pruchchati gehe**

4

So long as you are earning money or material wealth, all the relatives and family will be interested in you. Later, once you are old and infirm (with no income), although everyone knows you are alive no one even at home will enquire about your welfare.

**Yavat pavano nivasati dehe kushalam tAvat pruchchati gehe
Gatavati vAyow deha pAye Bharaya bibhyati tasmin kaye**

5

So long as air resides in your body, people at home will ask you about your welfare and health. Once the air or breath (Praana Vayu) leaves your body, your own wife or life partner will be scared to see your body.

**Artham anartham bhAvaya nityam nAsti tatah sukha lesa satyam
PutrAdapi dhanaBhajAm bhItih sarvatrai-shA vihita Ritih**

6

Understand that everyday money leads to disaster. There is not even an atom of happiness that money can bring; this is the real truth. For anyone who has money, the fear from one’s own children always exists. This has been the way of life, at all times, everywhere.

**Bala-stAvat krIdAsaktaha taruNa-stAvat taruNi-saktaha
Vrida-stAvat chintA-saktaha parE bramhaNi kopi n saktaha 7**

During childhood, everyone is interested in playing, during youth everyone is interested in other youth (their companion or partners), during old age everyone is interested (or immersed) in their worries. Alas, NONE is interested in the PARA-BRAHMAN.

**KA tE kAntA kaste putraha samsAroyam-atIva vichitraha
Kasya tvam kah kuta AyAta-statvam chintaya tadiha BhrAtaha 8**

Who is your lover? Who are your children? This world (consisting of families) is extremely peculiar. Whom do you belong to? Who are you? Where did you come from? Where did you come from? Oh my brethren, think and analyze this.

**Satsamgatve nissamgatvam nissangatve nirmohatvam
Nirmohatve nishchala tatvam nishchala tatve jeevan-muktihi 9**

From the company of the good people, move to the company of no one. From the company of no one, move to the company of no desires (detachment). From the company of no desires move to the company of eternal truth (or reality). This eternal reality will relieve you from the cycle of life.

**Vayasi gate kah kAma vikAraha shushke nIre kah kAsaraha
KshINe vitte kah parivaro jnAte tatve kah samSaraha 10**

With the setting of old age the world of desires must leave, after all where is the reservoir if there is no water. Once the material wealth is gone where are the relatives? Once eternal truth and reality is understood where is the family?

**MA kuru dhana-jana Yauvana garvam Harati nimeshAt kalah sarvam
MAyAmayam-idam-akhilam hitva bramha padam tvam pravisha veditva 11**

Don't feel proud of money, people or youth. Time will take away all these things. Understand that all these things are untrue (like magic). Understand the true nature of Brahman and become one with HIM.

**DinayAminyau sAyam prAtaha Shishira-vasantau punarAyAtaha
KAlah krIdati gachchatAyuhu stadapi na muncht-yAshA vAyuhu 12**

Days and nights, evenings and mornings, winter and spring have all come (and gone) again. Time plays its tricks and our age progresses. In spite of this, the pang of desire does not leave us!

**DvAdasha manjari kAbhirasheshaha kaThitho vaiyAkaraNa-syaishaha
Upadesho-bhoodvidyaa nipuNaihi Srimat-Shankara bhagavat-charaNaihi**

The scholar adored as Bhagavat Paada, the great philosopher Srimat Shankara gave this advice to a grammarian in the form of a bouquet of twelve verses containing the eternal truth.