

Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya

Om namo bhagavate vāsudevāya

om—O my Lord; namaḥ—I offer my respectful obeisances; bhagavate—unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead; vāsudevāya—unto the Supreme Lord

“O my Lord, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, son of Vasudeva, O all-pervading Personality of Godhead, I offer my respectful obeisances unto You.”

Srila Prabhupada states in his purport to this verse in Srimad Bhagavatam 1.1.1:

“Obeisances unto the Personality of Godhead, Vāsudeva, directly indicate Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, who is the divine son of Vasudeva and Devakī.”

This mantra can be chanted at any time. Srila Prabhupada chanted this three times before reciting Vedic sastra, such as Bhagavad-Gita, Srimad Bhagavatam, etc.

It is formally known as dvādaśākṣara-mantra and was spoken by Narada Muni to Dhruva Maharaja in Srimad Bhagavatama 4.8.54.

Srila Prabhupada in the beginning of his purport to this verse says:

“Om namo bhagavate vāsudevāya is known as the dvādaśākṣara-mantra. This mantra is chanted by Vaiṣṇava devotees, and it begins with praṇava, or omkāra.”

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