

Prayers for Offering foodstuffs

Śrīla Prabhupāda Praṇati

nama om̐ viṣṇu-pādāya kṛṣṇa-preṣṭhāya bhū-tale
śrīmate bhaktivedānta-svāmin iti nāmine

TRANSLATION

I offer my respectful obeisances unto His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, who is very dear to Lord Kṛṣṇa, having taken shelter at His lotus feet.

namas te sārāsvate deve gaura-vāṇī-pracāriṇe
nirviṣeṣa-śūnyavādi-pāścātya-deśa-tāriṇe

TRANSLATION

Our respectful obeisances are unto you, O spiritual master, servant of Sarasvatī Gosvāmī. You are kindly preaching the message of Lord Caitanyadeva and delivering the Western countries, which are filled with impersonalism and voidism.

Śrī Gaurāṅga Praṇāma

namo mahā-vadānyāya kṛṣṇa-prema-pradāya te
kṛṣṇāya kṛṣṇa-caitanya-nāmne gaura-tviṣe namaḥ

TRANSLATION

O most munificent incarnation! You are Kṛṣṇa Himself appearing as Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya Mahāprabhu. You have assumed the golden color of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī, and You are widely distributing pure love of Kṛṣṇa. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You.

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namo brahmaṇya-devāya
go-brāhmaṇa-hitāya ca
jagad-dhitāya kṛṣṇāya
govindāya namo namaḥ

SYNONYMS

namaḥ—all obeisances; brahmaṇya-devāya—to the Lord worshipable by persons in brahminical culture; go-brāhmaṇa—for cows and brāhmaṇas;

hitāya—beneficial; ca—also; jagat-hitāya—to one who always is benefiting the whole world; kṛṣṇāya—unto Kṛṣṇa; govindāya—unto Govinda; namaḥ namaḥ—repeated obeisances.

TRANSLATION

Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto Lord Kṛṣṇa, who is the worshipable Deity for all brahminical men, who is the well-wisher of cows and brāhmaṇas, and who is always benefiting the whole world. I offer my repeated obeisances to the Personality of Godhead, known as Kṛṣṇa and Govinda.

PURPORT

This is a quotation from the Viṣṇu Purāṇa (1.19.65).

These are the prayers which Śrīla Prabhupāda instituted in the offering of foodstuffs to Lord Kṛṣṇa. Devotees only offer the Lord that which He desires and likes (patram puspam phalam toyam - Bhagavad-gītā 9.26)

By reciting each of the four prayers in order, three times in sequence, with attention, faith, love and devotion, the Lord is pleased to accept the food we offer Him, and in exchange, He removes any karmic influence and invests it with His own love and mercy, which is why it is then called Prasadam (mercy), and is not just eaten, but honored by the devotees very carefully with great reverence.

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