

[Śrī Dāmodarāṣṭaka]

By Satyavrata Muni

(found in the Padma Purāṇa of Kṛṣṇa Dvaipāyana Vyāsa, spoken by Satyavrata Muni in a conversation with Nārada Muni and Śaunaka Ṛṣi)

Verse 1

*namāmiśvaram sac-cid-ānanda-rūpaṁ
lasat-kuṇḍalam gokule bhrājamanam
yaśodā-bhiyolūkhalād dhāvamānam
parāmṛṣṭam atyantato drutya goṇyā*

“To the Supreme Controller, who possesses an eternal form of blissful knowledge, whose glistening earrings swing to and fro, who manifest Himself in Gokulā, who stole the butter that the gopīs kept hanging from the rafters of their storerooms and who then quickly jumped up and ran in retreat in fear of Mother Yaśodā but was ultimately caught – to that Supreme Lord, Śrī Dāmodara, I offer my humble obeisances.”

Verse 2

*rudantaṁ muhur netra-yugmaṁ mṛjantam
karāmbhoja-yugmena sātaṅka-netram
muhuh śvāsa-kamṇa-trirekhāṅka-kaṇṭha-
sthita-graivaṁ dāmodaraṁ bhakti-baddham*

“Upon seeing His mother’s whipping stick, He cried and rubbed His eyes again and again with His two lotus hands. His eyes were fearful and His breathing quick, and as Mother Yaśodā bound His belly with ropes, He shivered in fright and His pearl necklace shook. To this Supreme Lord, Śrī Dāmodara, I offer my humble obeisances.”

Verse 3

*itīdṛk sva-līlābhir ānanda-kuṇḍe
sva-ghoṣaṁ nimajjantam ākhyāpayantam
tadīyeṣita-jñeṣu bhaktair jitatvaṁ
punaḥ prematas taṁ śatāvṛtti vande*

“Those superexcellent pastimes of Lord Kṛṣṇa’s babyhood drowned the inhabitants of Gokulā in pools of ecstasy. To the devotees who are attracted only to His majestic aspect of Nārāyanā in Vaikuṅṭha, the Lord herein reveals: “I am conquered and overwhelmed by pure loving devotion.” To the Supreme Lord, Śrī Dāmodara, my obeisances hundreds and hundreds of times.”

Verse 4

*varaṁ deva mokṣaṁ na mokṣāvadhiṁ vā
na canyaṁ vṛṇe 'haṁ vareṣād apīha
idaṁ te vapur nātha goṇāla-bālaṁ
sadā me manasy āvirāstāṁ kim anyaiḥ*

“O Lord, although You are able to give all kinds of benedictions, I do not pray to You for liberation, nor eternal life in Vaikuṅṭha, nor any other boon. My only prayer is that Your childhood pastimes may constantly appear in my mind. O Lord, I do not even want to know Your feature of Paramātmā. I simply wish that Your childhood pastimes may ever be enacted in my heart.”

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Verse 5

*idaṁ te mukhāmbhojam atyanta-nīlair
vṛtaṁ kuntalaiḥ snigdha-raktaiś ca gopyā
muhuś cumbitaṁ bimba-raktādharaṁ me
manasy āvirāstāṁ alaṁ lakṣa-lābhaiḥ*

“O Lord, the cheeks of Your blackish lotus face, which is encircled by locks of curling hair, have become reddened like bimbā fruits due to Mother Yaśodā’s kisses. What more can I describe than this? Millions of opulences are of no use to me, but may this vision constantly remain in my mind.”

Verse 6

*namo deva dāmodarānanta viṣṇo
prasāda prabho duḥkha-jālābdhi-magnam
kṛpā-dṛṣṭi-vṛṣṭyāti-dīnaṁ batānu
gṛhāṇeṣa mām ajñam edhy akṣi-dṛśyaḥ*

“O unlimited Viṣṇu! O Master! O Lord! Be pleased upon me! I am drowning in an ocean of sorrow and am almost like a dead man. Please shower the rain of mercy on me; uplift me and protect me with your nectarean vision.”

Verse 7

*kuverātmajau baddha-mūrtyaiva yadvat
tvayā mocitau bhakti-bhājau kṛtau ca
tathā prema-bhaktiṁ svakāṁ me prayaccha
na mokṣe graho me 'sti dāmodareha*

“O Lord Dāmodara, in Your form as baby Mother Yaśodā bound you to a grinding stone with a rope for tying cows. You then freed the sons of Kuvera-Manigrīva and Nalakūvara, who were cursed to stand as trees and You gave them the chance to become your devotees. Please bless me in this same way. I have no desire for liberation into Your effulgence.”

Verse 8

*namas te 'stu dāmne sphurad-dīpti-dhāmne
tvadīyodarāyātha viśvasya dhāmne
namo rādhikāyai tvadīya-priyāyai
namo 'nanta-līlāya devāya tubhyam*

“O Lord! The entire universe was created by Lord Brahmā, who was born from Your abdomen, which was bound by a rope by Mother Yaśodā. To this rope I offer my humble obeisances. I offer my obeisances to Your most beloved Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī and to Your unlimited pastimes.”