

Eight Verses on Guha

(Guha Ashtakam)

Sree Narayana Guru

1

Meditate on Guha in right earnest;
He is the Lord of all Devas,
And he is the essence of their army.
He is full of peace and born of bliss,
 He is truth embodied,
 He is grounded on nothing,
He becomes the ground for the world.
He is a series of subject-object interaction,
He stays beyond sattva, rajas and tamas,
 He is known by the blessing of Guru,
 He is merciful and munificent.
He is a garden of youthfulness in which
His beloved wife Valli as a beetle frolics.

2

Meditate on Guha in right earnest;
He is the Lord of all Devas and
He is worshipped by Vishnu and Brahma.
 He shines like sun
 in the hearts of true devotees,
He has been the guest of Varuna for long
 He is both being and non-being
 in the three worlds,
He is yet formless and has gone
 beyond the form,
He is the abode of various worlds,
He is the home of those who praise him,
 He is adored by great people and
His upper arm is adorned with bracelets.

3

Meditate on Guha in right earnest;
He is the Lord of all Devas,
He is Skanda and his body is saffron-coloured,
He is the bliss arising from creative pulse,
He is supreme bliss,
He resembles a galaxy of lights
Streaming with beauty and grandeur.
He is the cessation of mind,
He is devoid of ignorance
That binds you as a chain.
He is beginningless and the cause of all,
He is sorrowless
and the fulfillment of happiness.

4

Meditate on Guha in right earnest,
He is the Lord of all Devas.
He was ornamented with coiled-up snakes,
And his body is smeared with sacred ashes,
 He is unattached to worldliness,
His body is surrendered to the wheel of light,
 He has no home but he is the home for all,
He is powerful enough to protect his devotees,
He will not do any karma apart from his dharma,
 He loves his devotees ardently,
 He is well established in Brahman
 And yet he appears to be crimson-red.

5

Meditate on Guha in right earnest,
He is the Lord of all Devas.
He is of the body, lustrous and handsome,
He is adored by virtuous people,
He is adorned with comely matted-hair,
He is with sacred thread worn in great sacrifice
Performed by worshipping people in propitiation
He is with six genuine faces
And the lotus-feet adorable
By even those who are inimical to him.
He burns down the fear of worldliness,
He is the cause of various objects
And he himself remains causeless.

6

Meditate on Guha in right earnest,
He is the Lord of all Devas.
He is honoured even by reclusive sages,
He is beyond any measurement.
His matted-hair is nicely bejeweled
with the serpent,
He has conquered the lord of lust,
He is overwhelmed with
the stirring waves of elixir,
He is unattached to anything,
And yet attached to all as the basis.
He belittles the sun with his own lustre,
His mind is good and he has defied the fear,
He is the only desirable One
that never binds you.

7

Meditate on Guha in right earnest,
He is the Lord of all Devas.
He is eminent,
He grants contentment to devotees,
He draws attraction of enlightened souls,
He eliminates the sins of evil-doers,
He is the light in the end of music, silence,
He is the one and the many at the same time,
He is unattached to anything,
And yet attached to all as the basis.
He has made the celestial tree coward
By giving away boundless gifts,
He chases away the darkness of life,
He is the annihilator of time,
And yet he remains unaffected by time.

8

Meditate on Guha in right earnest,
He is the Lord of all Devas.
He ever shines in the hearts of sages,
He is truth itself, and he has no house,
He has taken the universe as his house,
His body looks like a red hibiscus flower,
He is handsome, and filled with greatness,
He has worn a garland of pearls on his chest,
He is with the lotus-feet fondled by his wife,
He is the One born in the heaven for the world,
His throat is black with deadly poison,
And yet he is unaffected by poison.

Translated by Swami Sudhi Chaitanya

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गुहाष्टकं

(Guhashtakam in Devanagari
with transliteration)

१

शान्तं शंभुतनूजं सत्यमनाधारं जगदाधारं
ज्ञातृज्ञाननिरन्तरं लोकगुणातीतं गुरुणातीतं
वल्लीवत्सलं भृंगारण्यकं तारुण्यं वरकारुण्यं
सेनासारमुदारं प्रणमत देवेशं गुहमावेशं ।

śāntam śambhutanūjam satyamanādhāram jagadādhāram
jhāñātrjñānanirantara lōkaguṇātītam guruṇātītam
vallīvatsala bhṛṅgāraṇyaka tāruṇyam varakāruṇyam
sēnāsāramudāram praṇamata dēvēśam guhamāvēśam.

2

विष्णुब्रह्मसमर्च्यं भक्तजनादित्यं वरुणातिथ्यं
भावाभावजगत्रयरूपमथारूपं जितसारूपं
नानाभुवनसमाधेयं विनुताधेयं वरराधेयं
केयूरांगनिषंगं प्रणमत देवेशं गुहमावेशं ।

viṣṇubrahmasamarccyam bhaktajanādityam varuṇātithyam
bhāvābhāvajagatrayarūpamathārūpam jītasārūpam
nānābhuvanasamādhēyam vinutādhēyam vararādhēyam
kēyūrāṅganiṣaṅgam praṇamatadēvēśam guhamāvēśam

३

स्कन्दं कुड्कुमवर्णं स्पन्दमुदानन्दं परमानन्दं
ज्योतिस्तोम निरन्तररम्य महस्साम्यं मनसायाम्यं
मायाशुंखल बन्धविहीन मनादीनं परमादीनं
शोकापेतमुदान्तं प्रणमत देवेशं गुहमावेशं ।

skandam kuṇkumavarnam spandamudānandam paramānandam
jyōtiḥstōma nirantara ramyamahassāmyam manasāyāmyam
māyāśrṅkhalabandhavihīnamanādīnam paramādīnam
śōkāpētamudāntam praṇamata dēvēśam guhamāvēśam.

4

व्याघ्रव्यावृतभूषं भस्मसमालेपं भुवनालेपं
ज्योतिश्चक्र समर्पितकायं अनाकायव्ययमाकायं
भक्तत्राणन शक्त्यायुक्तं अनुद्युक्तं प्रणयासक्तं
सुब्रह्मण्यमरण्यं प्रणमत देवेशं गुहमावेशं ।

vyālavyāvṛtabhūṣam bhasmasamālēpam bhuvanālēpam
jyōtiścakrasamarppitakāyam anākāyavyamākāyam
bhaktatrāṇana śaktyāyuktamanudyuktam praṇayāsaktam
subrahmaṇyamarāṇyam praṇamatadēvēśam guhamāvēśam.

5

श्रीमत् सुन्दरकायं शिष्टजनासेव्यं सुजटासेव्यं
 सेवातुष्ट समर्पितसूत्रमहासत्रं निजषड्वक्त्रं
 प्रत्यर्थ्यानत पादसरोरुहमावाहं भवभीदाहं
 नानायोनिमयोनिं प्रणमत देवेशं गुहमावेशं ।

śrīmat sundarakāyam śiṣṭajanāsēvyam sujatāsēvyam
 sēvātuṣṭasamarppitasūtra mahāsatram nijaṣadadvaktram
 pratyartthyānata pādasarōruhamāvāham bhavabhidāham
 nānāyōnimayōnim prañamata dēvēśam guhamāvēśam.

6

मान्यं मुनिभिरमान्यं मञ्जुजटासर्पं जितकन्दर्पं
 आकल्पामृतं तरळतरंगमनासंगं सकलासंगं
 भासाह्यधरितभास्वन्तं भविकस्वान्तं जीतभीस्वान्तं
 नानायोनिमयोनिं प्रणमतदेवेशं गुहमावेशं ।

manyam munibhiramānyam mañjujaṭāsarppam jitakandarppam
 ākalpāmṛta taralataraṅgamanāsaṅgam sakalāsaṅgam
 bhāsāhyadharitabhāsvantam bhavikasvāntam sakalāsaṅgam
 kāmam kāmanikāmam praṇamata dēvēśam guhamāvēśam.

7

शिष्टं शिवजनतुष्टं बुधहृदयाकृष्टं हृतपापिष्टं
 नादान्तद्युतिमेकमनेकमनासंगं सकलासंगं
 दानविनिर्जित निर्जरदारुमहाभीरुं तिमिराभीरुं
 कालाकालमकालं प्रणमत देवेशं गुहमावेशं ।

śiṣṭam śivajanatuṣṭam budhahṛdayākṛṣṭam hṛtapāpiṣṭam
 nādāntadyutimēkamanēkamanāsaṅgam sakalāsaṅgam
 dānavinirjita nirjaradārumahābhīrum timirābhīrum
 kālākālamakālam praṇamata dēvēśam guhamāvēśam.

8

नित्यं नियमिहृदिस्थं सत्यमनागारं भुवनागारं
 बन्धूकारुण लङ्घितशरीरमुरोहारं महिमाहारं
 कौमारीकरपीडित पादपयोजातं दिविभूजातं
 कण्ठे कालमकालं प्रणमत देवेशं गुहमावेशं ।

nityam niyamihṛdistham satyamanāgāram bhuvanāgāram
 bdhūkārunālalita śarīramurōhāram mahimāhāram
 kaumārīkarapīḍita pādapayōjātam divibhūjātam
 kanṭhēkālamakālam praṇamata dēvaśam guhamāvēśam.