

# ***Bhaja Govindam with meaning***

***bhajagovindaM bhajagovindaM  
govindaM bhajamuuDhamate .  
saMpraapte sannihite kaale  
nahi nahi rakshati DukRiJNkaraNe .. (1)***

Worship Govinda, Worship Govinda, Worship Govinda. Oh fool! Rules of Grammar will not save you at the time of your death.

***mUDha jahiihi dhanaagamatRishhNaam  
kuru sadbuddhiM manasi vitRishhNaam.  
yallabhase nijakarmopaattaM  
vittaM tena vinodaya chittam. .. (2)***

Oh fool ! Give up your thirst to amass wealth, devote your mind to thoughts to the Real. Be content with what comes through actions already performed in the past.

***naariistanabhara naabhiideshaM  
dRishhTvaa maagaamohaavesham.  
etanmaaMsaavasaadi vikaaraM  
manasi vichintaya vaaram vaaram. .. (3)***

Do not get drowned in delusion by going wild with passions and lust by seeing a woman's navel and chest. These are nothing but a modification of flesh. Do not fail to remember this again and again in your mind.

***naliniidalagata jalamatitaralaM  
tadvajjivitamatishayachapalam .  
viddhi vyaadhyabhimaanagrastaM  
lokaM shokahataM cha samastam .. (4)***

The life of a man is as uncertain as rain drops trembling on a lotus leaf. Know that the whole world remains a prey to disease, ego and grief.

***yaavadvittoparjana saktaH  
staavannija parivaaro raktaH .  
pashchaajjivati jarjara dehe  
vaartaaM ko.api na pRichchhati gehe .. (5)***

So long as a man is fit and able to support his family, see the affection all those around him show. But no one at home cares to even have a word with him when his body totters due to old age.

***yaavatpavano nivasati dehe  
taavatpRichchhati kushalaM gehe .  
gatavati vaayau dehaapaaye  
bhaaryaa bibhyati tasminkaaye .. (6)***

When one is alive, his family members enquire kindly about his welfare. But when the soul departs from the body, even his wife runs away in fear of the corpse.

***baalastaavatkriiDaasaktaH  
taruNastaavattaruNiisaktaH .***

**vRiddhastavachchintaasaktaH  
pare brahmaNi ko.api na saktaH .. (7)**

The childhood is lost by attachment to playfulness. Youth is lost by attachment to woman. Old age passes away by thinking over many past things. But there is hardly anyone who wants to be lost in parabrahmam.

**kaate kaantaa kaste putraH  
saMsaaro.ayamatiiva vichitraH .  
kasya tvaM kaH kuta aayaataH  
tattvaM chintaya tadiha bhraataH .. (8)**

Who is your wife ? Who is your son ? Strange is this samsara. Of whom are you ? From where have you come ? Brother, ponder over these truths here.

**satsaNgatve nissN^gatvaM  
nissaNgatve nirmohatvam.h .  
nirmohatve nishchalatattvaM  
nishcalatattve jiivanmuktiH .. (9)**

From Satsangh comes non-attachment, from non-attachment comes freedom from delusion, which leads to self-settledness. From self-settledness comes Jeevan Mukti.

**vayasigate kaH kaamavikaaraH  
shushhke niire kaH kaasaaraH .  
kshiiNevitte kaH parivaaraH  
GYaate tattve kaH saMsaaraH .. (10)**

What good is lust when youth has fled ? What use is a lake which has no water ? Where are the relatives when wealth is gone ? Where is samsara when the Truth is known ?

**maa kuru dhana jana yauvana garvaM  
harati nimeshhaatkaalaH sarvam.h .  
maayaamayamidamakhilaM hitvaa  
brahmapadaM tvaM pravisha viditvaa .. (11)**

Do not boast of wealth, friends, and youth. Each one of these are destroyed within a minute. Free yourself from the illusion of the world of Maya and attain the timeless Truth.

**dinayaaminyau saayaM praataH  
shishiravasantau punaraayaataH .  
kaalaH kriiDati gachchhatyaayuh  
tadapi na muJNcatyaashaavaayuh .. (12)**

Daylight and darkness, dusk and dawn, winter and springtime come and go. Time plays and life ebbs away. But the storm of desire never leaves.

**dvaadashamaJNjarikaabhirasheshhaH  
kathito vaiyaakaraNasyaishhaH .  
upadesho bhuudvidyaanipuNaiH  
shriimachchhankarabhagavachchharaNariH .. (12a)**

This bouquet of twelve verses was imparted to a grammarian by the all-knowing Shankara, adored as the bhagavadpada.

**kaate kaantaa dhana gatachintaa  
vaatula kiM tava naasti niyantaa .  
trijagati sajjanasaM gatiraikaa  
bhavati bhavaarNavataraNe naukaa .. (13)**

Oh mad man ! Why this engrossment in thoughts of wealth ? Is there no one to guide you ? There is only one thing in three worlds that can save you from the ocean from samsara. Get into that boat of satsangha quickly. Stanza attributed to Padmapada.

**jaTilo muNDii luJNchhitakeshaH  
kaashhaayaambarabahukRitaveshhaH .  
pashyannapi cana pashyati muDhaH  
udaranimittaM bahukRitaveshhaH .. (14)**

There are many who go with matted locks, many who have clean shaven heads, many whose hairs have been plucked out; some are clothed in saffron, yet others in various colors — all just for a livelihood. Seeing truth revealed before them, still the foolish ones see it not. Stanza attributed to Totakacharya.

**aNgam galitaM palitaM muNDam  
dashanavihiinaM jataM tuNDam.  
vRiddho yaati gRihitvaa daNDam  
tadapi na muJNcatyaashaapiNDam.. (15)**

Strength has left the old man's body; his head has become bald, his gums toothless and leaning on crutches. Even then the attachment is strong and he clings firmly to fruitless desires. Stanza attributed to Hastamalaka.

**agre vahniH pRishhThebhaanuH  
raatrau chubukasamarpitajaanuH .  
karatalabhikshastarutalavaasaH  
tadapi na muJNcatyaashaapaashaH .. (16)**

Behold there lies the man who sits warming up his body with the fire in front and the sun at the back; at night he curls up the body to keep out of the cold; he eats his beggar's food from the bowl of his hand and sleeps beneath the tree. Still in his heart, he is a wretched puppet at the hands of passions. Stanza attributed to Subodha.

**kurute gaNgasaagaragamanaM  
vrataparipaalanamathavaa daanam.h .  
GYaanavihinaH sarvamatena  
muktiM na bhajati janmashatena .. (17)**

One may go to gangasagar(ganes), observe fasts, and give away riches in charity ! Yet, devoid of jnana, nothing can give mukthi even at the end of a hundred births. Stanza attributed to Sureshwaracharya.

**sura ma.ndira taru muula nivaasaH  
shayyaa bhuutala majinaM vaasaH .  
sarva parigraha bhoga tyaagaH  
kasya sukhaM na karoti viraagaH .. (18)**

Take your residence in a temple or below a tree, wear the deerskin for the dress, and sleep with mother earth as your bed. Give up all attachments and renounce all comforts. Blessed with such vairagya, could any fail to be content ? Stanza attributed to Nityananda.

**yogarato vaabhogaratovaa  
saN^garato vaa saNgaviihinaH .  
yasya brahmaNi ramate chittaM  
nandati nandati nandatyeva .. (19)**

One may take delight in yoga or bhoga, may have attachment or detachment. But only he whose mind steadily delights in Brahman enjoys bliss, no one else. Stanza attributed to Anandagiri.

**bhagavad.h giitaa kiJNchidadhiitaa  
gaNgaa jalalava kaNikaapiitaa .  
sakRidapi yena muraari samarchaa  
kriyate tasya yamena na charchaa .. (20)**

Let a man read but a little from Gitaa, drink just a drop of water from the ganges, worship murari (govinda) just once. He then will have no altercation with Yama. Stanza attributed to dR^iDhabhakta.

**punarapi jananaM punarapi maraNaaM  
punarapi jananii jaThare shayanam.h .  
iha saMsaare bahudustaare  
kRipayaa.apaare paahi muraare .. (21)**

Born again, death again, birth again to stay in the mother's womb ! It is indeed hard to cross this boundless ocean of samsara. Oh Murari ! Redeem me through Thy mercy. Stanza attributed to Nityanatha.

**rathyaa charpaTa virachita kanthaH  
puNyaapuNya vivarjita panthaH .  
yogii yoganiyojita chitto  
ramate baalonmattavadeva .. (22)**

There is no shortage of clothing for a monk so long as there are rags cast off the road. Freed from vice and virtue, onward he wanders. One who lives in communion with God enjoys bliss, pure and uncontaminated, like a child and as someone intoxicated. Stanza attributed to Nityanatha.

**kastvaM ko.ahaM kuta aayaataH  
kaa me jananii ko me taataH .  
iti paribhaavaya sarvamasaram.h  
vishvaM tyaktvaa svapna vichaaram.h .. (23)**

Who are you ? Who am I ? From where do I come ? Who is my mother, who is my father ? Ponder thus, look at everything as essenceless and give up the world as an idle dream. Stanza attributed to surendra.

**tvayi mayi chaanyatraiko vishhNuH  
vyarthaM kupyasi mayyasahishhNuH .  
bhava samachittaH sarvatra tvaM  
vaaJNchhasyachiraadyadi vishhNutmam.h .. (24)**

In me, in you and in everything, none but the same Vishnu dwells. Your anger and impatience is meaningless. If you wish to attain the status of Vishnu soon, have samabhava always. Stanza attributed to medhaatithira.

**shatrau mitre putre bandhau  
maa kuru yatnaM vighrahasandhau .  
sarvasminnapi pashyaatmaanaM  
sarvatrotsRija bhedaaGYaanam.h .. (25)**

Do not waste your efforts to win the love of or to fight against friend and foe, children and relatives. See yourself in everyone and give up all feelings of duality completely. Stanza attributed to medhaatithira.

**kaamaM krodhaM lobhaM mohaM  
tyaktvaa.atmaanaM bhaavaya ko.aham.h .  
aatmaGYaana vihiinaa muuDhaaH  
te pachyante narakaniguuDhaaH .. (26)**

Give up lust, anger, infatuation, and greed. Ponder over your real nature. Fools are they who are blind to the Self. Cast into hell they suffer there endlessly. Stanza attributed to bharativamsha.

**geyaM giitaa naama sahasraM  
dhyeyaM shriipati ruupamajasram .  
neyaM sajjana saNge chittaM  
deyaM diinajanaaya cha vittam. .. (27)**

Regularly recite from the Gita, meditate on Vishnu [thro' Vishnu sahasranama] in your heart, and chant His thousand glories. Take delight to be with the noble and the holy. Distribute your wealth in charity to the poor and the needy. Stanza attributed to sumatira.

**sukhataH kriyate raamaabhogaH  
pashchaaddhanta shariire rogaH .  
yadyapi loka maraNAM sharaNaM  
tadapi na muJNchati paapaacharaNam.h .. (28)**

He who yields to lust for pleasure leaves his body a prey to disease. Though death brings an end to everything, man does not give up the sinful path.

**arthamanarthaM bhaavaya nityaM  
naastitataH sukhaleshaH satyam.  
putraadapi dhana bhaajaaM bhiitiH  
sarvatraishhaa vihiaa riitiH .. (29)**

Wealth is not welfare, truly there is no joy in it. Reflect thus at all times. A rich man fears even his own son. This is the way of wealth everywhere.

**praaNaayaamaM pratyahaaraM  
nityaanitya vivekavichaaram.  
jaapyasameta samaadhividhaanaM  
kurvavadhaanaM mahadavadhaanam .. (30)**

Regulate the pranas, remain unaffected by external influences and discriminate between the real and the fleeting. Chant the holy name of God and silence the turbulent mind. Perform these with care, with extreme care.

**gurucharaNaambuja nirbhara bhakataH  
saMsaraadachiraadbhava muktaH .  
sendriyamaanasa niyamaadevaM  
drakshyasi nija hR^idayasthaM devam. .. (31)**

Oh devotee of the lotus feet of the Guru ! May thou be soon free from Samsara. Through disciplined senses and controlled mind, thou shalt come to experience the Indwelling Lord of your heart !

**muuDhaH kashchana vaiyaakaraNo  
DukRiJNkaraNaadhyayana dhuriNaH .**

***shriimachchhamkara bhagavachchishhyai  
bodhita aasichchhodhitakaraNaH .. (32)***

Thus was a silly grammarian lost in rules cleansed of his narrow vision and shown the Light by Shankara's apostles.

***bhajagovindaM bhajagovindaM  
govindaM bhajamuuDhamate .  
naasmaraNaadanyamupaayaM  
nahi pashyaamo bhavataraNe .. (33)***

Worship Govinda, worship Govinda, worship Govinda, Oh fool ! Other than chanting the Lord's names, there is no other way to cross the life's ocean.