

## SRI DAMODAR ASHTAKAM



(1)

namāmīśvaram sac-cid-ānanda-rūpam  
lasat-kuṇḍalam gokule bhrājamanam  
yaśodā-bhiyolūkhalād dhāvamānam  
parāmr̥ṣtam atyantato drutya gopyā

(2)

rudantam muhur netra-yugmam mṛjantam  
karāmbhoja-yugmena sātaṅka-netram  
muhuḥ śvāsa-kampa-tirekhāṅka-kaṇṭha-  
sthita-graivam dāmodaram bhakti-baddham

(3)

itīdr̥k sva-līlābhir ānanda-kuṇḍe  
sva-ghoṣam nimajjantam ākhyāpayantam  
tadīyeṣita-jñeṣu bhaktair jitatvam  
punaḥ prematas tam śatāvṛtti vande

(4)

varam deva mokṣam na mokṣāvadhim vā  
na canyam vṛṇe 'ham vareṣād apīha  
idam te vapur nātha gopāla-bālam  
sadā me manasy āvirāstām kim anyaiḥ

(5)

idam te mukhāmbhojam atyanta-nīlair  
vrtam kuntalaiḥ snigdha-raktaiś ca gopyā  
muḥś cumbitam bimba-raktādharam me  
manasy āvirāstām alam lakṣa-lābhaiḥ

(6)

namo deva dāmodarānanta viṣṇo  
prasīda prabho duḥkha-jālābdhi-magnam  
kṛpā-dṛṣṭi-vṛṣṭyāti-dīnam batānu  
grhāṇeṣa mām ajñam edhy akṣi-dṛśyaḥ

(7)

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

(8)

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



#### TRANSLATION

1) To the supreme controller, who possesses an eternal form of blissful knowledge, whose glistening earrings swing to and fro, who manifested Himself in Gokula, who stole the butter that the gopis kept hanging from the rafters of their storerooms and who then quickly jumped up and ran in retreat in fear of Mother Yasoda but was ultimately caught - to that Supreme Lord, Sri Damodara, I offer my humble obeisances.

2) 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 Yasoda bound His belly with ropes, He shivered in fright and His pearl necklace shook. To this Supreme Lord, Sri Damodara, I offer my humble obeisances.

3) Those superexcellent pastimes of Lord Krsna's babyhood drowned the inhabitants of Gokula in pools of ecstasy. To the devotees who are attracted only to His majestic aspect of Narayana in Vaikuntha, the Lord herein reveals: "I am conquered and overwhelmed by pure loving devotion." To the Supreme Lord, Damodara, my obeisances hundreds and hundreds of times.

4) O Lord, although You are able to give all kinds of benedictions, I do not pray to You for liberation, nor eternal life in Vaikuntha, 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 Paramatma. I simply wish that Your childhood pastimes may ever be enacted in my heart.

5) O Lord, the cheeks of Your blackish lotus face, which is encircled by locks of curling hair, have become reddened like bimba fruits due to Mother Yasoda'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.

6) O unlimited Visnu! 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.

7) O Lord Damodara, in Your form as a baby Mother Yasoda bound You to a grinding stone with a rope for tying cows. You then freed the sons of Kuvera, Manigriva and Nalakuvara, 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.

8) O Lord, the entire universe was created by Lord Brahma, who was born from Your abdomen, which was bound by a rope by Mother Yasoda. To this rope I offer my humble obeisances. I offer my obeisances to Your most beloved Srimati Radharani and to Your unlimited pastimes.