

# Vedānta Class **Prayers**

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॥ श्रीः ॥

## Introduction

This booklet contains many different prayers; some invoking the lineage of teachers and the teaching like Guruvandanam and Guruśiṣyaparampara Prārthanā. There are also included numerous Vedic peace mantras (known as śānti pāṭhaḥ) which are traditionally invoked before and after scriptural studies. One will also find a beautiful universal prayer for peace called the Svasti Mantraḥ.

These prayers are recited with the intention to earn the grace of the Lord. This grace is earned in order to help us acquire emotional maturity and wisdom, not for mere material gain. There is no doubt that these prayers will bless the listener profoundly when assimilated and recited with this intention.

My best wishes and love to all of you who are now learning and invoking the Lord's grace through the chanting of these sacred prayers. It is ever a blessing to share them with you.

**Śrī Svāmī Vāgīśānanda Sarasvatī**

Introduction extracted and edited from the ॐ Press booklet  
'Vedic Chanting Self-Study'

॥ हरिः ॐ ॥

# Prayers chanted at the

om śrī gurubhyo namaḥ hariḥ om  
(1)

om śrutismṛtiparāṇānām ālayam karuṇālayam

namāmi bhagavatpādam śaṅkaram lokaśaṅkaram  
(2)

śaṅkaram śaṅkarācāryam keśavam bādarāyaṇam

sūtrabhāṣyakṛtau vande bhagavantau  
punaḥ punaḥ  
(3)

īśvarogururātmeti mūrtibhedavibhāgine

vyomavadvyāptadehāya dakṣiṇāmūrtaye namaḥ  
(4)

om brahmānandaṁ  
paramasukhadaṁ kevalaṁ jñānamūrtim

dvandvātītaṁ gaganasadrśaṁ  
tattvamasyādilakṣyam

ekaṁ nityaṁ vimalamacalaṁ  
sarvadhīsākṣibhūtaṁ

bhāvātītaṁ triguṇarahitaṁ sadguruṁ  
taṁ namāmi om  
(5)

# beginning of class

ॐ श्री गुरुभ्यो नमः हरिः ॐ

ॐ श्रुतिस्मृतिपराणानां आलयं करुणालयम् ।

नमामि भगवत्पादं शङ्करं लोकशङ्करम् ॥

शङ्करं शङ्कराचार्यं केशवं बादरायणम् ।

सूत्रभाष्यकृतौ वन्दे भगवन्तौ पुनः पुनः ॥

ईश्वरोगुरुरात्मेति मूर्तिभेदविभागिने ।

व्योमवद्व्याप्तदेहाय दक्षिणामूर्तये नमः ॥

ॐ ब्रह्मानन्दं परमसुखदं केवलं ज्ञानमूर्तिं

द्वन्द्वतीतं गगनसदृशं तत्तमस्यादिलक्ष्यम्

एकं नित्यं विमलमचलं सर्वधीसाक्षिभूतं

भावातीतं त्रिगुणरहितं सद्गुरुं तं नमामि ॐ

om sadāśivasamārambhām	ॐ सदाशिवसमारम्भां
śaṅkarācāryamadhyamām	शङ्कराचार्यमध्यमाम् ।
asmadācāryaparyantām	अस्मदाचार्यपर्यन्तां
vande guruparamparām om (6)	वन्दे गुरुपरम्पराम् ॐ ॥
om vāñme manasi prathṣṭhitā	ॐ वाञ्छे मनसि प्रतिष्ठिता ।
mano me vāci pratiṣṭhitam	मनो मे वाचि प्रतिष्ठितम् ।
āvirāvirma edhi	आविरावीर्म एधि ।
vedasya ma āñīstaḥ	वेदस्य म आणीस्थः ।
śrutaṁ me mā prahāsiḥ	श्रुतं मे मा प्रहासीः ।
anenādhītenāhorātrān sandadhāmi	अनेनाधीतेनाहोरात्रान् सन्दधामि ।
ṛtaṁ vadiṣyāmi satyaṁ vadiṣyāmi	ऋतं वदिष्यामि । सत्यं वदिष्यामि ।
tanmā mavatu tadvaktāram avatu	तन्मामवतु । तद्वक्तारमवतु ।
avatu mām avatu vaktāram avatu vaktāram	अवतु माम् । अवतु वक्तारम् । अवतु वक्तारम् ।

om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ (7)  
om yaśchandasāmṛṣabho viśvarūpaḥ  
chandobhyo'dhyamṛtātsambabhūva  
sa mendro medhayā spr̥ṇotu  
amṛtasya deva dhāraṇo bhūyāsam  
śarīraṁ me vicarṣanam  
jihvā me madhumattamā  
karṇābhyāṁ bhūri viśruvam  
brahmaṇaḥ kośo'si medhayā pihitaḥ  
śrutam me gopāya (8)  
āvahanti vitanvānā  
kurvāṇā'cīramātmanaḥ  
vāsāṁsi mamagāvaśca

ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥  
ॐ यश्छन्दसामृषभो विश्वरूपः ।  
छन्दोभ्योऽध्यमृतात्सम्बभूव ।  
स मेन्द्रो मेधया स्पृणोतु ।  
अमृतस्य देव धारणो भूयासम् ।  
शरीरं मे विचर्षनम् ।  
जिह्वा मे मधुमत्तमा ।  
कर्णाभ्यां भूरि विश्रुवम् ।  
ब्रह्मणः को शोऽसि मेधया पिहितः ।  
श्रुतं मे गोपाय ।  
आवहन्ति वितन्वाना  
कूर्वाणाऽचीरमात्मनः  
वासांसि ममगावश्च

annapāṇe ca sarvadā	अन्नपाणे च सर्वदा
tato me śriyamāvaha	ततो मे श्रियमावह
lomaśāṁ paśubhiḥ saha svāhā	लोमशां पशुभिः सह स्वाहा
āmāyantu brahmacāriṇaḥ svāhā	आमायन्तु ब्रह्मचारिणः स्वाहा
vimāyantu brahmacāriṇaḥ svāhā	विमायन्तु ब्रह्मचारिणः स्वाहा
pramāyantu brahmacāriṇaḥ svāhā	प्रमायन्तु ब्रह्मचारिणः स्वाहा
damāyantu brahmacāriṇaḥ svāhā	दमायन्तु ब्रह्मचारिणः स्वाहा
śamāyantu brahmacāriṇaḥ svāhā	शमायन्तु ब्रह्मचारिणः स्वाहा
yaśojane sāni svāhā	यशोजने सानि स्वाहा
śreyānvasyasosāni svāhā	श्रेयान्वस्यसोसानि स्वाहा
tantvā bhaga praviśāni svāhā	तन्त्वा भग प्रविशानि स्वाहा
samā bhaga praviśaḥ svāhā	समा भग प्रविशः स्वाहा
tasmin sahasraśākhe	तस्मिन् सहस्रशाखे

nibhagāham tvayimrje svāhā  
yathāpaḥ pravatāyanti  
yathā māsā aharjaram  
evam mām brahmcāriṇaḥ  
dhātarāyantu sarvataḥ svāhā  
prativeśosi pramābhāhi pramāpadyasva  
om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ (9)

\*

om namo bhagavate vaivasvatāya mṛtyave  
brahmavidyācāryāya naciketase ca (10)  
om ugram vīram mahāviṣṇum jvalantaṁ  
sarvatomukham  
nṛsimhaṁ bhīṣaṇaṁ bhadraṁ  
mṛtyu-mṛtyu-nnamāmya'ha (11)

\*Please note that, at this point during some classes, the teacher will chant the 'Gaṇapati Atharvaveda Upaniṣad' including the 'Bhadraṁ Karṇebhiḥ' invocation for peace (and/or other mantras at the teacher's discretion). Please refer to the ॐ Press booklet 'Gaṇeśa Upaniṣad'. Please note that the selection of prayers, especially before the beginning of class, will change from day to day. The editors will continue to update this booklet as time permits.

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निभगा॑हं त्वयि॑मृजे॒ स्वाहा॑  
यथापः॑ प्रव॑तायन्ती  
यथा॒ मासा॑ अहर्जर॑म्  
ए॒वं मां ब्र॑ह्मचारि॑णः  
धात॑रायन्तु स॒र्वतः॑ स्वाहा॑  
प्र॒ति॒वे॒शो॒सि॑ प्र॒मा॑भाहि॒ प्र॒मा॑पद्यस्व  
ॐ शान्तिः॑ शान्तिः॑ शान्तिः॑ ॥

ॐ नमो॑ भगवते॒ वैव॑स्वताय॒ मृ॒त्यवे॑  
ब्रह्म॑विद्याचार्याय॒ नचि॑केतसे च ।

ॐ उग्रं॑ वी॒रं॑ महा॒विष्णुं॑ ज्व॒लन्तं॑ स॒र्वतो॑मुखम् ।  
नृ॒सिंहं॑ भी॒षणं॑ भद्रं॑ मृ॒त्यु-मृ॒त्यु-न्न॑मा॒म्यऽहम्॑ ॥ \*\*

\*\*The intonation (svara) marks shown for this mantra (11) are not Vedic in nature. They have been adopted for this version of the 'ugram vīram' mantra by Śrī Svāmī Vāgīśānanda Sarasvatī. The same is true for the following mantra (12), except that the svara marks for this mantra have been adopted by Pūjya Śrī Svāmī Dayānanda Sarasvatī. Also, the 'śriyam' (mantra 12) has been added by Pūjya Śrī Svāmī Dayānanda Sarasvatī to honor the Ārṣa Vidyā Gurukulam, Saylorsburg, PA, USA.

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om̐ namo bhagavate dakṣiṇāmūrtaye mahyam̐  
(śriyam̐) medhām̐ prajñām̐ prayaccha svāhā (12)

om̐ hrīm̐  
dakṣiṇāmūrtaye tubhyam̐ vaṭamūlaṇivāsine  
dhyānaikanirataṅgāya namo rudrāya śambhave  
hrīm̐ om̐ (13)

om̐ saha nāvavatu saha naubhunaktu  
saha vīryam̐ karavāvahai  
tejasvināvadhītamastu mā vidviṣāvahai  
om̐ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ (14)

Oh, Lord! We now bow our heads in reverential salutations unto all teachers and to the sacred lineage of teachers. We invoke their grace to remove our self-ignorance. (1) I salute Śaṅkarabhagavatpāda; the abode of śruti (Vedas), smṛti and the purāṇas; the wellspring of compassion; the one who blesses the world with happiness. (2) I salute again and again Śaṅkarācārya who is Lord Śiva, Bādarāyaṇa (Vyāsa), and Lord Viṣṇu. I salute He who embodies the venerable ones; they who wrote the aphorisms (Brahmasūtras) and commentaries (bhāṣya) thereon. (3) Salutations to Lord Dakṣiṇāmūrti, who is all-pervasive like space; who appears (as-though) subdivided as Lord, Teacher and Self. (4)

**Guruśiṣyaparampara Prārthanā**

ॐ नमो भगवते दक्षिणामूर्तये मह्यं  
(श्रियं) मेधां प्रज्ञां प्रयच्छ स्वाहा ।

ॐ ह्रीं दक्षिणामूर्तये तुभ्यं वटमूलणिवासिने  
ध्यानैकनिरतज्ञाय नमो रुद्राय शम्भवे ह्रीं ॐ

ॐ सह नाववतु । सह नौभुनक्तु ।

सह वीर्यं करवावहै ।

तेजस्विनावधीतमस्तु । मा विद्विषावहै ॥

ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

The one whose nature is absolute-fullness; that is Brahman. The one who gives me self-knowledge and happiness with no reason; who is 'non-dual'; who is of the nature of limitless-awareness; who is in-and-through, and yet transcends all pairs of opposites; who is all-pervasive, like space; who embodies the implied meaning of the great saying (mahāvākyam) 'That Thou Art'; who is 'one without a second'; who is timeless and yet unopposed to time; who is pure, free from binding likes and dislikes; who is motionless; who is the witness to the presence and absence free from all qualities, yet in-and-through all qualities. I salute that revered teacher who is quality-less-existence. (5)

**Gurustutiḥ**

I salute the lineage of teachers which began with Śiva, the Lord, down through the ages to Śaṅkarācārya, extending to the present day to my own revered teacher. (6)

**Guruśiṣyaparampara Prārthanā**

May my speech be based in accordance with my mind.

May my mind be based in accordance with my speech.

Oh, self-effulgent one; reveal Thyself to me.

May both speech and mind carry the wisdom of the Vedas to me.

Through my scriptural studies, I shall destroy the 'as-though' difference between day and night.

I shall speak what is verbally true.

I shall think what is mentally true.

May Brahman protect me.

May Brahman protect the teacher.

May Brahman protect me.

May Brahman protect the teacher. May Brahman protect the teacher.

Om peace peace peace (7)

**Vedic peace mantra from the Ṛgveda**

May that (omkāra) which is made manifest from the Vedas eternal; that (omkāra) which is the mantra among Veda-mantras; that (omkāra) which is likened to a bull (among cows), endowed as manifold forms; may that (omkāra) strengthen me and brighten my intellect. O, Lord/Īśvara! May I become the 'enjoyer' of eternal truth. May my body and mind remain healthy. May my tongue speak nothing but sweetness. May ears hear (the teacher) with depth and alacrity. You indeed are Brahman, veiled by the dance of all objects of the 'world'. May you protect all auspicious words that I hear. (8)

**Vedic peace mantra from the Kṛṣṇa Yajurveda**

Then, bring me wealth which will quickly multiply and be sustained; clothes, cattle, food, water and woolly animals. Allow the curious to come to me with many questions. May their intellects be bright with sense mastery and mental agility. May I be renowned among the people. May I be held up as a righteous example. Oh, Lord/Īśvara, may

I know Your nature as both immanence and transcendence. May I purify myself in preparation for such knowledge. Let students come to me from all directions like cascading waters; like fleeting months passing by. You are home. Allow me to comprehend Your nature as limitless-fullness. om peace peace peace (9)

**From the Taittiriya Upaniṣad/Kṛṣṇa Yajurveda**

Salutations to Lord Death (Yama), son of Sūrya; the teacher of Brahmavidyā (the knowledge of Brahman) to his illustrious hero-student, Naciketas. (10) **Mantra composed by Śrī Ādi Śaṅkarācārya to be chanted before the beginning of study of his commentary (bhāṣyam) on the Kaṭha Upaniṣad.**

My salutations to the fierce One; the most exalted One; the all-pervasive One; the most effulgent One; the omnipotent One; Īśvara in the form of half-human/half-lion; the One who strikes fear in the hearts of those who go against Dharma; the most attractive One; the master of death and death-less-ness. (11) **From the Nṛṣimha Uttara**

**Tāpaniya Upaniṣad/Atharvaveda**

My salutations to Lord Dakṣiṇāmūrti, the glorious One, He of infinite wealth; the embodiment of wisdom; of limitless prosperity; to you I surrender everything unto the fire of knowledge. (12) **From the**

**Dakṣiṇāmūrti Upaniṣad/Kṛṣṇa Yajurveda**

(13) **From the Dakṣiṇāmūrti Upaniṣad/Kṛṣṇa Yajurveda; Mūlam Mantra for Pūjya Śrī Svāmī Dayānanda Sarasvatī's Ārṣavidyālaya Gurukulam, Coimbatore, TN, India.**

May He protect us (both).

May He nourish us (both).

May we (both) acquire the capacity (to study and understand the scriptures).

May our studies be brilliant.

May we not argue with each other.

om peace peace peace (14)

**Vedic peace mantra from the Kṛṣṇa Yajurveda**

# Prayers chanted at the conclusion of class

om svasti prajābhyaḥ paripālayantām

nyāyena mārgēṇ mahīm mahīśāḥ

gobrāhmaṇebhyaśsubhamastu nityam

lokāssamastāssukhino bhavantu  
(1)

kāle varṣatu parjanyaḥ

pr̥thivī sasyaśālinī

deśoyam kṣobharahitaḥ

brāhmaṇāssantu nirbhayāḥ  
(2)

om\* sarveṣām svastirbhavatu

sarveṣām śāntirbhavatu

sarveṣām pūrṇambhavatu

sarveṣām maṅgalambhavatu  
(3)

ॐ स्वस्ति प्रजाभ्यः परिपालयन्ताम् ।

न्यायेन मार्गेण महीं महीशाः ॥

गेब्राह्मणेभ्यश्शुभमस्तु नित्यम् ।

लेकास्समस्तास्सुखिनो भवन्तु ॥

काले वर्षतु पर्जन्यः ।

पृथिवी सस्यशालिनी ॥

देशोऽयं क्षोभरहितः ।

ब्राह्मणास्सन्तु निर्भयाः ॥

ॐ\* सर्वेषां स्वस्तिर्भवतु ।

सर्वेषां शान्तिर्भवतु ॥

सर्वेषां पूर्णंभवतु ।

सर्वेषां मङ्गलंभवतु ॥

om̐* sarve bhavantu sukhinaḥ	ॐ* सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः ।
sarve santu nirāmayāḥ	सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः ॥
sarve bhadraṇi paśyantu	सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु ।
mā kaścid duḥkhabhāg bhavet (4)	मा कश्चिद् दुःखभाग् भवेत् ॥
om̐* asato mā sadgamaya	ॐ* असतो मा सद्गमय ।
tamaso mā jyotirgamaya	तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय ।
mr̥tyormā amṛtaṁ gamaya (5)	मृत्योर्माऽमृतं गमय ॥
om̐ pūrṇamadaḥ pūrṇamidaṁ	ॐ पूर्णमदः पूर्णमिदं
pūrṇāt pūrṇamudatcyate	पूर्णात् पूर्णमुदच्यते ।
pūrṇasya pūrṇamādāya	पूर्णस्य पूर्णमादाय
pūrṇamevāvaśiṣyate	पूर्णमेवावशिष्यते ॥
om̐ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ (6)	ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥
ḥariḥ om̐ śrī gurubhyo namaḥ ḥariḥ om̐ (7)	हरिः ॐ श्री गुरुभ्यो नमः हरिः ॐ ॥

\*These 'oms' (pp. 15 – 18) begin verses that may be chanted independently.  
The class may or may not chant them in this invocation. Follow the teacher.

May all beings be happy.  
May the kings righteously rule the Earth.  
Let there be abundance for animals and people of  
wisdom at all times.  
May all enjoy fullness. (1)

May it rain at the proper time.  
May the soil produce grains.  
May this country be free from famine.  
May men of contemplation (those that see  
beyond objects of awareness) be fearless. (2)

May all have good fortune.  
May all know peace.  
May all know fullness.  
May all know freedom from suffering. (3)

May all be happy.  
May all be healthy.  
May all be prosperous.  
May none suffer. (4)

**Verses 1 – 4: A universal prayer for peace (Svasti Mantraḥ)**

Lead me from the unreal to the real;  
From ignorance to illumination;  
From mortality to death-less-ness. (5)

**From the Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad/Śukla Yajurveda**

All is Fullness. This is 'full'.  
From Fullness, this 'full' is made manifest.  
Removing this 'full' from Fullness,  
Fullness alone remains.  
om̐ peace peace peace (6)

**Vedic peace mantra from the Śukla Yajurveda**

Oh, Lord! We now bow our heads in reverential salutations  
unto all teachers and to the sacred lineage of teachers.  
We invoke their grace to remove our self-ignorance. (7)

**Guruśiṣyaparampara Prārthanā**

# श्री स्वामी वागीशानन्द सरस्वती

## Śrī Svāmī Vāgīśānanda Sarasvatī

Śrī Svāmī Vāgīśānanda Sarasvatī is a senior disciple of Pūjya Śrī Svāmī Dayānanda Sarasvatī, and has been studying and teaching Vedānta since 1975.

Svāmī jī was in his teens when he became fascinated with mystical poetry and non-dualistic philosophies. In 1975, at the age of 19, he left his home in the United States and traveled to India to study in a traditional gurūkulam. After graduating from a three-year residential course in Vedānta and Sanskrit, he attended four subsequent three-year courses in the United States and in India.

Using the traditional methodology called saṁpradāya, Svāmī Vāgīśānanda 'unlocks' the scriptures of Vedānta, thereby removing the veil of ignorance; the cause of all human suffering. He is a traditional saṁnyāsi (a renunciant who is committed to a life of knowledge and has taken a vow of non-injury). A master of the South Indian Kṛṣṇa Yajur Veda style of chanting, Svāmī jī has traveled the world teaching Sanskrit, Vedic chanting and Vedānta.

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