

Vedānta Class Prayers

॥ श्रीः ॥

Compiled and edited under the guidance of
Śrī Svāmī Vāgīśānanda Sarasvatī

Introduction

This booklet contains many different prayers; some invoking the lineage of teachers and the teaching like Guruvandanam and Guruśiṣyaparamparā 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 publication
'Vedic Chanting Self-Study: The Companion Booklet Part 2'

॥ 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

dvandvātitaṁ gaganasadrśaṁ tattvamasyādilakṣyam

ekaṁ nityaṁ vimalamacalaṁ sarvadhīśākṣibhūtaṁ

bhāvātitaṁ triguṇarahitaṁ sadguruṁtaṁ 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 ।
āvirāvīrma edhi	आविरावीर्म एधि ।
vedasya ma āñisthaḥ	वेदस्य म आणीस्थः ।
śrutaṁ me mā prahāsiḥ	श्रुतं मे मा प्रहासीः ।
anenādhitēnāhorātrān sandadhāmi	अनेनाधीतेनाहोरात्रान् सन्दधामि ।
ṛtaṁ vadiṣyāmi satyaṁ vadiṣyāmi	ऋतं वदिष्यामि । सत्यं वदिष्यामि ।
tanmāmavatu tadvaktāramavatu	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)

(Om)* āvahanti vitanvānā
kurvāṇā'cīramātmanaḥ
vāsāgṁsi 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 ।

(ॐ)* आवहन्ति वितन्वाना
कुर्वाणाऽचीरमात्मनः
वासांसि ममगावश्च

*(Om) will only be chanted if Mantra 9 is chanted independently of mantra 8.

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
śreyānvaśyasosāni svāhā	श्रेयान्वश्यसोसानि 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 ugraṁ viraṁ mahāviṣṇuṁ jvalantaṁ sarvatomukham

nṛsiṁhaṁ bhīṣaṇaṁ bhadraṁ mṛtyu-mṛtyu-nnamāmya'ham
(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 publication '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.

निभगा॑हं त्वयि॑मृजे॒ स्वाहा॑

यथापः॑ प्रव॑तायन्ती

यथा॑ मासा॑ अहर्जर॑म्

ए॒वं मां ब्र॑ह्मचारि॑णः

धा॒तराय॑न्तु स॒र्वतः॑ स्वाहा॑

प्र॒ति॒वे॒शो॒सि॑ प्र॒मा॑भाहि॒ प्र॒मा॑पद्यस्व

ॐ शान्तिः॑ शान्तिः॑ शान्तिः॑ ॥

ॐ नमो॑ भगवते॒ वैवस्व॑ताय मृत्यवे

ब्रह्म॑विद्याचार्याय॒ नचि॑केतसे च ।

ॐ उग्रं॑ वीरं॑ महा॒विष्णुं॑ ज्वलन्तं॒ सर्वतो॑मुखम् ।

नृसिंहं॑ भीषणं॑ भद्रं॑ मृत्यु-मृत्यु-न्नमा॑म्यऽहम् ॥*

*The intonation (svara) marks shown for this mantra (11) are not Vedic in nature. They have been adopted for this version of the 'Ugraṁ Viraṁ' 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 'śriyaṁ' (mantra 12) has been added by Pūjya Śrī Svāmī Dayānanda Sarasvatī to honor the Ārṣa Vidyā Gurukulam, Saylorsburg, PA, USA.

Om namo bhagavate dakṣiṇāmūrtaye
mahyaṁ (śriyaṁ)* medhāṁ prajñāṁ prayaccha svāhā
(12)

Om hrīṁ dakṣiṇāmūrtaye tubhyaṁ vaṭamūlanivāsine
dhyānaikaniratāṅgāya namo rudrāya śambhave hrīṁ Om
(13)

Om saha nāvavatu
saha naubhunaktu
saha vīryaṁ karavāvahai
tejasvināvadhītamastu mā vidviṣāvahai

Om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ (14)

*Added by Pūjya Śrī Svāmī Dayānanda Sarasvatī.

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) Gurusīṣyaparamparā Prārthanā

ॐ नमो भगवते दक्षिणामूर्तये ।

मह्यं (श्रियं)* मेधां प्रज्ञां प्रयच्छ स्वाहा ॥

ॐ ह्रीं दक्षिणामूर्तये तुभ्यं वटमूलनिवासिने
ध्यानैकनिरताङ्गाय 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 of thought; 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) Gurusīṣyaparamparā 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 Taittirīya 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 Nṛsimha Uttara Tāpanīya 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; Mūla Mantra for Svāmī
Dayānanda Sarasvatī's Ārṣa Vidyā Gurukulam, Saylorsburg, PA, USA.**

**(13) From the Dakṣiṇāmūrti Upaniṣad/Kṛṣṇa Yajurveda; Mūla Mantra for
Pūjya Śrī Svāmī Dayānanda Sarasvatī's Ārṣa Vidyā Gurukulam, Anaikatti,
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 mārgēṇa mahīm mahīśāḥ

gobrāhmaṇebhyaśsubhamastu nityam

lokāssamastāssukhino bhavantu
(1)

kāle varṣatu parjanyaḥ

pr̥thivī sasyaśālinī

deśoyam kṣobharahitaḥ

brāhmaṇāssantu nirbhayāḥ
(2)

Om* sarveṣāṃ svastirbhavatu

sarveṣāṃ śāntirbhavatu

sarveṣāṃ pūrṇambhavatu

sarveṣāṃ 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 ॥

Om* sarve bhavantu sukhinah	ॐ* सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः ।
sarve santu nirāmayāḥ	सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः ॥
sarve bhadraṇi paśyantū	सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु ।
mā kaścid duḥkhabhāg bhavet (4)	मा कश्चिद् दुःखभाग् भवेत् ॥
Om* 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 pūrṇamudacyate	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 'Om̐s' (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)

Guruśiṣyaparamparā 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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