

CHAPTER 17

The eight letter hymn and its magnificence

श्रीशुक उवाच

किं जपन् मुच्यते तात सततं विष्णुतत्परः।

संसारदुःखात्सर्वेषां हिताय वद मे पितः॥१॥

Śukadeva said– Dear father, what is the hymn reciting by which continuously, the man avails freedom from the worldly pains by the grace of god Viṣṇu? Please, tell me that sacred hymn as it will be beneficial for all.

व्यास उवाच

अष्टाक्षरं प्रवक्ष्यामि मन्त्राणां मन्त्रमुत्तमम्।

यं जपन् मुच्यते मर्त्यो जन्मसंसारबन्धनात्॥२॥

Vyāsa said– Dear son, I will tell you the best hymn which is knitted in the eight

letters and its recital will ensure emancipation to the people from the worldly bondages of birth and death.

हृत्पुण्डरीकमध्यस्थं शंखचक्रगदाधरम्।
 एकाग्रमनसा ध्यात्वा विष्णुं कुर्याज्जपं द्विजः॥३॥
 एकान्ते निर्जनस्थाने विष्वक्त्रे वा जलान्तिके।
 जपेदष्टाक्षरं मन्त्रं चित्ते विष्णुं निधाय वै॥४॥
 अष्टाक्षरस्य मन्त्रस्य ऋषिर्नारायणः स्वयम्।
 छन्दश्च देवी गायत्री परमात्मा च देवता॥५॥
 शुक्लवर्णं च ॐकारं नकारं रक्तमुच्यते।
 मोकारं वर्णतः कृष्णं नाकारं रक्तमुच्यते॥६॥
 राकारं कुङ्कुमाभं तु यकारं पीतमुच्यते।
 णाकारमञ्जनाभं तु यकारं बहुवर्णकम्॥७॥

It is advisable to the Brahmin that he should first establish exclusive attention with the imagination of god Viṣṇu with his conch, discus and gadā weapons in the middle part of his lotus heart. The eight-letter hymn should be recited in solitude, a deserted place before the icon of Śrī Viṣṇu or at the band of a pond or reservoir with keen concentration of mind on god Viṣṇu. God Viṣṇu himself is Ṛṣi to this hymn, the hymn is Gāyatrī, the god is the supreme soul, Om is white, Na is red, Mo is dark, Na is bed, Ra is of Kumkuma colour, Ya is yellow, Ṇa is deep dark as Añjana and Ya is of different colours. Dear, son, this Om Namo Nārāyaṇaya is the hymn applied for various purposes and renders heavenly fruits and emancipation to those who do its japa with keen devotion.

ॐ नमो नारायणायेति मन्त्रः सर्वार्थसाधकः।
 भक्तानां जपतां तात स्वर्गमोक्षफलप्रदः।
 वेदानां प्रणवेनैष सिद्धो मन्त्रः सनातनः॥८॥
 सर्वपापहरः श्रीमान् सर्वमन्त्रेषु चोत्तमः।

एनमष्टाक्षरं मन्त्रं जपन्नारायणं स्मरेत्॥९॥
 संध्यावसाने सततं सर्वपापैः प्रमुच्यते।
 एष एव परो मन्त्र एष एव परं तपः॥१०॥
 एष एव परो मोक्ष एष स्वर्ग उदाहृतः।
 सर्ववेदरहस्येभ्यः सार एष समुद्धृतः॥११॥
 विष्णुना वैष्णवानां हि हिताय मनुजां पुरा।
 एवं ज्ञात्वा ततो विप्रो ह्यष्टाक्षरमिमं स्मरेत्॥१२॥

This everlasting hymn is authoritative from the Prāṇaya of Vedas (the elemental letters). It is the best hymn, enriched with prosperity and killer of all sins. The man who recites it with concentration on Nārāyaṇa after Sandhyā daily, gets himself scot-free from all sins. It is the best hymn and it is too the best penance. Further, it is considered as the best emancipation and the heaven. In the ancient period, this elemental hymn was extracted from the mystery of all the Vedas by god Viṣṇu. Taking this all into account, the Brahmin should do japa of this eight-letter hymn.

स्नात्वा शुचिः शुचौ देशे जपेत्पापविशुद्धये।
 जपे दाने च होमे च गमने ध्यानपर्वसु॥१३॥
 जपेन्नारायणं मन्त्रं कर्मपूर्वे परे तथा।
 जपेत्सहस्रं नियुतं शुचिर्भूत्वा समाहितः॥१४॥

This hymn should be recited for sweeping off the evils after taking a bath and observing sanctity of place and the body duly cleaned. This Nārāyaṇa hymn should be recited before and after of japa, donation, offering, departure, concentration and on the occasion of festival as also every act whatsoever. The devotee of god Viṣṇu should do one thousand or a lakh japa on the twelfth day of every month with sound concentration.

मासि मासि तु द्वादश्यां विष्णुभक्तो द्विजोत्तमः।

स्वात्वा शुचिर्जपेद्यस्तु नमो नारायणं शतम्॥१५॥
 स गच्छेत्परमं देवं नारायणमनामयम्।
 गन्धपुष्पादिभिर्विष्णुमनेनाराध्य यो जपेत्॥१६॥
 महापातकयुक्तोऽपि मुच्यते नात्र संशयः।
 हृदि कृत्वा हरिं देवं मन्त्रमेनं तु यो जपेत्॥१७॥

The man who does japa for one hundred eight times of the hymn Om Namo Nārāyaṇaya with due concentration after a bath, attains to supreme god Nārāyaṇa. The man who does japa of god Viṣṇu by offering fragrance and flower coincides japa of this hymn, he undoubtedly avails of emancipation in spite of heinous offences made by him. He who does japa of this hymn with keen devotion to god Viṣṇu, definitely attains to the best position and his mind becomes free from all evil thoughts.

सर्वपापविशुद्धात्मा स गच्छेत्परमां गतिम्।
 प्रथमेन तु लक्षणेन आत्मशुद्धिर्भविष्यति॥१८॥
 द्वितीयेन तु लक्षणेन मनुशुद्धिमवाप्नुयात्।
 तृतीयेन तु लक्षणेन स्वर्गलोकमवाप्नुयात्॥१९॥
 चतुर्थेन तु लक्षणेन हरेः सामीप्यमाप्नुयात्।
 पञ्चमेन तु लक्षणेन निर्मलं ज्ञानमाप्नुयात्॥२०॥
 तथा षष्ठेन लक्षणेन भवेद्विष्णौ स्थिरा मतिः।
 सप्तमेन तु लक्षणेन स्वरूपं प्रतिपद्यते॥२१॥
 अष्टमेन तु लक्षणेन निर्वाणमधिगच्छति।
 स्वस्वधर्मसमायुक्तं जपं कुर्याद्द्विजोत्तमः॥२२॥
 एतत्सिद्धिकरं मन्त्रमष्टाक्षरमतन्द्रितः।
 दुःस्वप्नातुरपैशाचा उरगा ब्रह्मराक्षसाः॥२३॥

The mind becomes pure by recital of one lakh times, siddhi is obtained when japa is made two lakh times, abode of heaven can be obtained when japa made three lakh times, proximity to god Viṣṇu is attained as a result of four lakh times and knowledge is

acquired when japa is made five lakh times. Similarly, japa to the extent six lakh renders the power of stable mind in Viṣṇu, seven lakh brings consciousness of the form of god and eight lakh ensures emancipation. The Brahmins should do japa of this hymn with observing their respective rules of living (Dharma). The eight-letter hymn is competent to provide with axioms. It should be recited by giving up laxity. The person doing japa of this becomes so influential that the bad dreams, monsters, devils, snakes, Brahmarākṣasa, thief and mental ailments of petty nature do not dare to harm him.

जापिनं नोपसर्पन्ति चौरक्षुद्रादयस्तथा।
 एकाग्रमनसा व्यग्रो विष्णुभक्तो दृढव्रतः॥२४॥
 जपेन्नारायणं मन्त्रमेतन्मृत्युभयापहम्।
 मन्त्राणां परमो मन्त्रो देवतानां च दैवतम्॥२५॥
 गुह्यानां परमं गुह्यमोङ्काराद्यक्षराष्टकम्।
 आयुष्यं धनपुत्रांश्च पशून्विद्यां महद्यशः॥२६॥
 धर्मार्थकाममोक्षांश्च लभते च जपन्तरः।
 एतत्सत्यं च धर्म्यं च वेदश्रुतिनिदर्शनात्॥२७॥
 एतत्सिद्धिकरं नृणां मन्त्ररूपं न संशयः।
 ऋषयः पितरो देवाः सिद्धास्त्वसुरराक्षसाः॥२८॥
 एतदेव परं जप्त्वा परां सिद्धिमितो गताः।
 ज्ञात्वा यस्त्वात्मनः कालं शास्त्रान्तरविधानतः।
 अतंकाले जपनेति तद्विष्णोः परमं पदम् ॥२९॥

The devotee should do japa of this Nārāyaṇa hymn with full concentration, sound mind and strong resolution as well. It kills the fear of death. It is the best hymn and god of the gods (viz. adorable to gods). This eight letter hymn consisting of Om etc. letters is the most confidential among the things that require secrecy. The man doing its japa attains to longevity, wealth, son,

animal (pet), learning, fame and Dharma, Artha, Kāma and Mokṣa also. It is true and supported by religion as contemplated in the Vedas and Śrūtis. There is no doubt that Nārāyaṇa in the form of hymn, provides with axiom to the people. The Rṣis, Pts, gods, Siddha, monster and demons have availed of the supreme siddhi by virtue of reciting this very hymn. The man who does japa of this hymn when known to the time of death nearer through the perusal of astrology and other scriptures, definitely attains to the supreme position of god Viṣṇu.

नारायणाय नम इत्ययमेव सत्यं

संसारघोरविषसंहरणाय मन्त्रः।

शृण्वन्तु भव्यमतयो मुदितास्त्वरामा।

उच्चैस्तरामुपदिशाम्यहमूर्ध्वबाहुः॥३०॥

भूत्वोर्ध्वबाहुर्दद्याहं सत्यपूर्वं ब्रवीम्यहम्।

हे पुत्र शिष्याः शृणुत न मन्त्रोष्ठाक्षरात्परः॥३१॥

सत्यं सत्यं पुनः सत्यमुत्क्षिप्य भुजमुच्यते।

वेदाच्छास्त्रं परं नास्ति न देवः केशवात्परः॥३२॥

आलोच्य सर्वशास्त्राणि विचार्य च पुनः पुनः।

इदमेकं सुनिष्पन्नं ध्येयो नारायणः सदा॥३३॥

इत्येतत्सकलं प्रोक्तं शिष्याणां तव पुण्यदम्।

कथाश्च विविधा प्रोक्ता मया भज जनार्दनम्॥३४॥

अष्टाक्षरमिमं मन्त्रं सर्वदुःखविनाशनम्।

जप पुत्र महाबुद्धे यदि सिद्धिमभीप्ससि॥३५॥

इदं स्तवं व्यासमुखात्तु निःसृतं

सन्ध्यात्रये ये पुरुषाः पठन्ति॥

ते धौतपाण्डुरपटा इव राजहंसाः

संसारसागरमपेतभयास्तरन्ति॥३६॥

इति श्रीनरसिंहपुराणे अष्टाक्षरमाहात्म्यं

नामसप्तदशोऽध्यायः॥१७॥

Listen to my suggestions O the people of

minds free from attachments-I say by lifting both my arms up boldly that this Om Nārāyaṇa Nama hymn is the panacea to kill the effect of the worldly serpent in the form of this world. My son including pupils, listen to what is being said by me lifting my hands up solemnly that-there is no other hymn greater than the eight letter hymn. I say frequently and truly that no other scripture than the Veda and no other god than Viṣṇu is existed. As a result of going over frequently on the Veda, commenting on them and considering the essence lying there, the supreme duty solely rings the bell of mind that one should do continuous concentration on the god Viṣṇu. Son, I have now told this sacred episode to you and all pupils including other stories and now suggest you that you should take shelter under god Viṣṇu. O learned son, do japa of this eight letter hymn if you want siddhi as it kills all sorrows. The people who will do japa of this psalm as stated by Śrīvyāsa, will definitely and fearlessly cross this ocean of world by forming their mind as white as Rājamaṃsa and the washed white clothes.

Thus, the eighteenth chapter on 'the magnificence of eight-letter hymn' in Śrī Nṛsimha Purāṇa approaches the end.