

Gīta Govinda
(Excerpts)

CHAPTER 1

*pralaya-payodhi-jale dhṛtavān asi vedam
vihita-vahitra-charitram akhedam
keśava dhṛta-mīna-śarīra jaya jagadīśa hare (V. 5)*

O Hari!

You came to the ocean of the final dissolution of the universe
And easily saved the Vedas, just as a ship effortlessly rescues a drowning man.
O Keśava! Taking the form of a fish, may you be victorious. O Jagadīśvara!

*tava kara-kamala-vare nakham adbhuta-śṛṅgam
dalita-hiranyakaśipu-tanu bhṛṅgam
keśava dhṛta-narahari-rūpa jaya jagadīśa hare (V. 8)*

You have assumed the form of Nṛsimha, part man and part lion.
Your lotus hands have amazing claws with astonishingly sharp tips,
With them you rip apart the wasp-like body of Hiranyakaśipu.
May you be victorious! O beloved of the world, Jagadīśvara!

*chalayasi vikramaṇe balim adbhuta-vāmana
pada-nakha-nīra-janita-jana-pāvana
keśava dhṛta-vāmana-rūpa jaya jagadīśa hare (V. 9)*

O Śrī Hari! Master of the entire universe!

Assuming the form of a young boy,
You tricked the demon king, Bali, into giving back the universe
By asking for three paces of land.
All the beings of the universe have become purified
By the water that touched your toenails.
O astonishing Vāmana-deva! May you be victorious!

nindasi yajña-vidher ahaha śruti-jātam
sadaya-hṛdaya darśita-paśu-ghātam
keśava dhṛta-buddha-śarīra jaya jagadīśa hare (V. 13)

O Hari!
You have assumed the form of the Buddha.
Being tender hearted and compassionate, you denounce the Vedas
Where they teach that violence be inflicted upon animals during some sacrifices.
May you be victorious! O Jagadīśvara!

CHAPTER 2

śritakamalākucamaṇḍala e dhṛtakuṇḍala e
kalitalalitavanamāla jayajaya deva hare (V. 1)

Shining in the lotus mandala of the heart and breasts, wearing coiled earrings
You play with the garlands of forest flowers. Victory, Victory divine Hari.

dinamaṇimaṇḍalamaṇḍana e bhavakhaṇḍana e
munijanamānasahaṁsa jaya jaya deva hare (V. 2)

Adorned by the circle of the sun's jeweled light,
You break through the bond of existence
Like a glorious Swan on the still lake of a sage's mind.
Be victorious! Be victorious! Beloved Hari!

*amalakamaladalalocana e bhavamocana e
tribhuvanabhavananidāna jaya jaya deva hare (V. 5)*

With crystal pure and deep lotus eyes,
You free us from conditioned existence,
You are the essence of the very existence of the three worlds.
Victory to you! O Hari!

*abhinavajaladharasundara e dhṛtamandara e
śrimukhacandrakora jaya jaya deva hare (V. 7)*

You are as beautiful as a fresh rain cloud,
Holding up the mountain, Govardhan, like an umbrella.
You are a cakora bird drinking from the moonbeams that are Śri's beautiful face.
Be victorious! Victory! O Hari!