प्रानिजलि:

SRI VIVEKĀNANDA PRABHĀTA PRĀṆJALI
(An Early Morning Hymn to Vivekānanda)

SWAMI HARSHANANDA
1. O Vivekananda! You are the Lord Siva who has come down to this world, after being roused from your deep samadhi in your own abode, by the cries of people scorched in the fires of mundane existence! Salutations to you in this hour of dawn!

2. O Vivekananda! You are the king of men (Narendra), whether in childhood or in youth, whether in frolic or in study, whether in protecting others or in sacrificing yourself for the sake of others. Salutations to you in this hour of dawn!

3. O Vivekananda! By your pranks you proved yourself to be Hanuman-like and by your music you proved yourself to be an artiste! By your encyclopaedic knowledge you proved yourself to be a scholar and by your visions you proved yourself to be a Maharshi! By your detachment you proved yourself to be the leader of monks! What is it that you were not? Salutations to you in this hour of dawn!

4. O Vivekananda! By running to the Paramahamsa like a mad man with only one shoe on your feet, you showed how intense the desire for liberation should be! O my Guru! Grant me also a similar desire for liberation! Salutations to you in this hour of dawn!

5. O Vivekananda! After first testing your Guru with a host of searching questions, you offered yourself at his lotus feet and immensely pleased him by your pure and devoted service! Salutations to you in this hour of dawn!

6. O Vivekananda! If your Guru (Sri Ramakrishna) is the fragrance, you are the wind that carries it! If he is the trumpet, you are the trumpeter that blows it loudly! If he is the sun, you are very the reflecting mirror! Salutations to you in this hour of dawn!

7. O Vivekananda! The arrogance of the people who were proudly praising the superiority of their own faith was blasted by you! You also showed how priceless the Vedic Religion is. Salutations to you in this hour of dawn!

8. O Vivekananda! O Monk! You roamed about in this country of Bharatavarsha shedding your divine lustre of vast knowledge even like the blazing fire emitting sparks! Salutations to you in this hour of dawn!

9. O Vivekananda! The matchless attraction of your face is wonderful! So are your manliness, renunciation, child-like simplicity, deep love and sympathy! Salutations to you in this hour of dawn!

10. O Vivekananda! It is your command that every man has to strive not only for his own salvation through the four Yogas (either singly or in combination with others), but also lovingly work for the welfare of the world. Salutations to you in this hour of dawn!

11. O Monk Vivekananda! The god of dawn (Aruna) is offering his salutations! The well-bloomed flower is already being covered over by the bees! The cuckoo is singing in sweet tones for your sake! Salutations to you in this hour of dawn!

12. O Vivekananda! The faithful ones are assembled here in your presence, to bow down to your feet in this hour of dawn, and feel blessed by getting your benediction!
Please give them your darsan! Salutations to you in this hour of dawn!

13. This hymn was composed in a new metre, Bhujanga Sragvini by name, on the sacred Sri Krishna Janmashtami day, in a Himalayan Retreat. Whosoever recites it with devotion will obtain strength, manliness and the spirit of renunciation.

SOME SPOTLIGHTS ON SWAMIJI

(The Birth Centenary celebrations of Swami Vivekananda held a few years back provided an opportunity to scholars and thinkers to give expression, through speeches and writings, to what, they each thought, was the dominant note in the Vivekananda Symphonic. A few of such spotlights on Swami are given below. They may help many readers to a new understanding of the Swami's genius, and many others to a deepening of their understanding of his life and work).

The great Swami Vivekananda embodied in his personal life and preaching all that was best in the religion and culture of the land of his birth.

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Swami Vivekananda was one of our greatest spiritual leaders and his teachings are a perennial source of inspiration to us.

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Swami Vivekananda was in many ways a soldier-saint. He energised and awakened our people from their slumber and inertia.

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The young Swami radiated fire through his face. His words acted like shots of dynamite. . . . . . It is Swamiji who commanded a foundry to be built to cast man. . . . . . Never, never has there been a purer, a more powerful personality, a living fire symbolising the passion and will of the people of India, a world citizen at the same time.

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Swami was a great saint, teacher, philosopher and above all a great patriot.

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Swami Vivekananda was one of the greatest Yogis India has produced in modern times.

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Swami Vivekananda is one of the founding fathers of Indian nationhood.

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Swami Vivekananda enunciated a philosophy of power and pleasure for the benefit of the disheartened and beaten Indians, but that was of the power of the spirit and of the pleasure of self-realization in the service and comfort of humanity.

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In Swami Vivekananda's life and message we find a happy union of the ethical idealism of the Buddha and the spiritual idealism of Sankara.

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Swami Vivekananda was a great spiritual man, a great soul whose life brought forth the light not only to India, but to the world.

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When the Swami would utter the five-letter word 'India' there would be such deep pathos in his voice that whosoever was near him would catch the contagion of his love for that sacred land.

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Once the Swami said that his greatest weakness was his love for India. If it was a weakness, it was a blessed weakness.

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Swami Vivekananda's love for India was a part of his love for the whole world.