

# SRI RĀMAKRṢṆA-NĀMA-SAṆKĪRTANAM

## श्रीरामकृष्ण-नाम-संकीर्तनम्

SWAMI HARSHANANDA

सर्वजीव-पापनाश-कारणं भवेश्वरं  
स्वीकृतं च गर्भवास-देहपाशमीदृशम् ।  
यापितं स्वलील्या च येन दिव्यजीवनम्  
तं नमामि देवदेवरामकृष्णमीश्वरम् ॥

—स्वामी विरजानंदः

'I bow down to the Lord Ramākṛṣṇa, the God of gods, the cause of the destruction of the sins of all embodied beings, the Master of creation, who accepted this type of bondage of the human birth (out of compassion for the bound souls) and who led a wonderful life as if it were a sport.'

ॐ श्रीविवेकानन्दादि-सच्छिष्य-सुपूजिताय श्रीसारदादेव्याऽविरत-सेविताय श्रीरामकृष्णपरमहंसाय  
अवतारिष्ठाय च ते नमः ।

Om. Obeisance to Śrī Rāmākṛṣṇa Paramahansa, the greatest of incarnations, who was worshipped by true disciples like Vivekānanda and served incessantly by Śrī Sāradādevī.

जीवन-कथनम्  
*Description of Life*

*Note:* Every sentence or phrase of the original Nāmasaṅkīrtana ends with the word 'Rāmākṛṣṇa', in the vocative case. It means 'O Rāmākṛṣṇa'. The rest of the words are generally adjectives to the word 'Rāmākṛṣṇa'. After the first nāma, in the subsequent translations of the nāmas, the word 'O Rāmākṛṣṇa' should be considered as understood. The translation is not literal but is more like a paraphrase.

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1. परब्रह्म-पराशक्ति-जगद्रूप रामकृष्ण  
O Rāmakṛṣṇa! The Supreme Brahman! The Supreme Sakti (Power Divine or Mother Divine)! Of the form of this world!
2. धर्मरक्षणाय जगति देहधारि रामकृष्ण  
You incarnated yourself in this world to protect Dharma.
3. जन्मपूत-बंगदेश-विप्रवंश रामकृष्ण  
You sanctified the Brahmin family of Bengal by taking birth (in that family).
4. चंद्रमणि-क्षुदीराम-सौख्यदातृ रामकृष्ण  
You gave happiness to (mother) Candramanī Devī and (father) Ksudīrām.
5. शैशवेऽपि शिल्पगीत-कलानिपुण रामकृष्ण  
Even in childhood you were an expert in the arts of sculpturing and singing.
6. पक्षिपंक्ति-दर्शनात्समाधिमाप्त रामकृष्ण  
You attained samādhi while witnessing a flight of birds.
7. सप्तमाब्द-लुप्तपितृप्रेम-बाल रामकृष्ण  
You lost the love of your father (because of his death) when you were yet a boy of seven.
8. बाल्य एव विरागाग्नि-दह्यमान रामकृष्ण  
Even in boyhood you were consumed by the fire of renunciation.
9. भूतभुवि ध्यानमग्न-बाल्ययोगि रामकृष्ण  
You were a yogi even in boyhood, immersed deeply in meditation in (the cremation ground), the home of spirits.
10. भिक्षुयोगिसाधुरसंग-मोदमान रामकृष्ण  
You delighted in the company of religious mendicants, yogis and sannyāsins.
11. विशालाक्षिसद्वपथे विस्मृतात्म रामकृष्ण  
You lost consciousness (in samādhi) while on the way to the temple of (Mother) Viśālāksī.
12. सूत्रधरणकाल-पालित-प्रतिज्ञ रामकृष्ण  
At the time of your being invested with the sacred thread you fulfilled the word you had given (to Dhanī).
13. धनीदत्त-भिक्षयाऽति-तुष्यमाण रामकृष्ण  
You were extremely happy to receive the (first) alms from the hands of (the servant-maid) Dhanī.
14. सूरिसभा-राजमान-बालसूर्य रामकृष्ण  
You shone like the rising sun in the assembly of pundits (in the house of Dharmadās Lāhā).
15. शैवरात्रि-नाटके शिवायमान रामकृष्ण  
You became identified with Śiva during the drama enacted on the night of Śivarātri.
16. श्रीनिवास-बल्यकार-पूजिताङ्घ्रि रामकृष्ण  
Your feet were worshipped by Śrīnivāsa, the bangle-seller.
17. सदा भक्तिगीत-देवपूजनरत रामकृष्ण  
You were ever immersed in devotional songs and worship of the Divine.
18. कृष्णरागयुक्त-राधिकायमान रामकृष्ण  
You (verily) became Rādhā, endowed with devotion to Kṛṣṇa.
19. लोकशिक्षणं विहाय मोक्षकाम रामकृष्ण  
You forsook secular education and strove for liberation only.
20. दक्षिणेश-कालिकार्चनादि-निरत रामकृष्ण  
You were ever immersed in services like worship of the Mother Kālī of Dakṣiṇeśvar.
21. भक्तिहीन-रासमणिं शिक्षितवन् रामकृष्ण  
You chastised Rāsamani who showed lack of devotion (to the Divine Mother).
22. जगन्मातृदर्शनाय रोषवन् हि रामकृष्ण  
You wept bitterly to have a vision of the Mother of the Universe.
23. आत्महनन-समय-दत्त-मातृदृष्टि रामकृष्ण  
You were vouchsafed the vision of the Divine Mother when you tried to end your life.

24. सर्वकाल-जगन्मातृ-दृष्टिभरित रामकृष्ण  
You were ever endowed with the vision of the Divine Mother.
25. शिवोन्मादनिरासाय कृतोद्वाह रामकृष्ण  
You were married to (Śrī Sāradā Devī) (by your mother) to rid you of your divine madness.
26. विवाहे कृतेऽपि तवाचलं मनो रामकृष्ण  
Your mind remained unaffected even after marriage.
27. भैरवेयपादतले शिष्यभूत रामकृष्ण  
You became a disciple at the feet of Bhairavī Brāhmanī.
28. तंत्रशास्त्र-साधनेन सिद्धिमाप्त रामकृष्ण  
You attained perfection through the disciplines of the Tantraśāstra.
29. भक्तिमग्नचित्तयुक्त-परमभक्त रामकृष्ण  
You are a supreme devotee, endowed with a mind immersed in devotion to God.
30. रामभक्ति-विस्मृतात्म-वानरसम रामकृष्ण  
You are equal to [Hanumān the great] monkey who effaced himself in his devotion to Rama.
31. कृष्णभक्ति-विस्मृतात्म-राधिकैव रामकृष्ण  
You are verily Rādhikā, who effaced herself in her devotion to Kṛṣṇa.
32. तोतापुरि-विदितवेदशिरस्तत्त्व रामकृष्ण  
You were taught the principles of Vedānta by Totāpurī.
33. चिरसमाधि-मेरुशिखर-दृढस्थान रामकृष्ण  
You were ever stationed firmly on the highest peak of Samādhi.
34. साधनसमयेऽपि शिक्षितात्मगुरो रामकृष्ण  
You taught your gurus even while you performed sādhanas (under their guidance).
35. क्रैस्तपूर्वचित्रधर्म-चरणनिरत रामकृष्ण  
You were engaged in practising a variety of (alien) religions like Christianity.
36. सर्वधर्म-समानत्व-सत्यदर्शि रामकृष्ण  
You realized the truth that all religions are equal.
37. एकवस्तु-विविधनाम-तत्त्वदर्शि रामकृष्ण  
You realized the truth that the One Ultimate Reality assumes several names and forms.
38. स्वपत्न्यै विशुद्धहर्षबोधदातृ रामकृष्ण  
You gave pure joy and spiritual knowledge to your wife.
39. प्रयागादि-तीर्थनगर्यटनशील रामकृष्ण  
You went on a pilgrimage to holy places like Prayāga.
40. तत्र दुःखिजनान् वीक्ष्य मोचिताश्रु रामकृष्ण  
You shed tears [of compassion] when you saw there, people afflicted with misery.
41. स्वपत्न्यामपूर्वमातृदृष्टिभर्तृ रामकृष्ण  
You were filled with the unique attitude, as towards the Divine Mother, even towards your wife.
42. समाधिस्थ सारदा सुपूजितवन् रामकृष्ण  
You worshipped Śrī Sāradā Devī (during the Sodaśīpūjā) when she was in samādhi.
43. ब्राह्मसभ्य-केशवादि-कर्षितवन् रामकृष्ण  
You attracted the attention of the leaders of the Brāhma Samāj like Keśavacandra Sen and others.
44. भक्तसेवकागम प्रतीक्षमाण रामकृष्ण  
You eagerly awaited the arrival of your devotee servants.
45. साधुशिष्य-भक्तवृन्द-भृगुकमल रामकृष्ण  
You were like the lotus attracting the bees, the bees being the monastic disciples and [other] groups of devotees.
46. साधुशिष्य-भक्त-हृदय-कमल-तरणि रामकृष्ण  
You were like the sun to the lotus of the hearts of the monastic disciples and [other] devotees.

47. नरेन्द्रादि-छात्रकोटि-शिक्षमाण रामकृष्ण  
You trained a number of disciples like Narendra.

48. भक्तपाप-कर्षणाद्भुजयाऽऽग्रस्त रामकृष्ण  
You were consumed by the disease got as a result of drawing into yourself the sins of your devotees.

49. रोगदुःखनिर्विषण्ण-मनोयुक्त रामकृष्ण  
Your mind was unaffected by the suffering brought about by the disease.

50. महासमाधौ हि परब्रह्मलीन रामकृष्ण  
You were merged in the Supreme Brahman at the time of your Mahāsamādhī.

**गुणकथनम्**  
*Description of Qualities*

51. निर्विकार-निराकार-परब्रह्म रामकृष्ण  
You are the highest Brahman, without modifications and without forms.

52. जगत्-सृष्टि-कर्तृ-पातृ-हंतृ-देव रामकृष्ण  
You are the Lord [God] who creates, sustains and destroys the world.

53. तैल्वत्तिलेषु जगत्यभिव्याप्त रामकृष्ण  
You have permeated the world as oil permeates the oil-seeds.

54. सर्वभूत-हृदयदेश-बुद्धिदसाक्षि रामकृष्ण  
You, situated in the heart [as the indwelling Spirit], are the witness of the minds of all beings.

55. साधकाद्यनुग्रहाय वपुर्धरसि रामकृष्ण  
You incarnate yourself [in this world] for bestowing your grace on the spiritual aspirants and others.

56. सुंदरतनु-दीप्तवदन-कृपादृष्टि रामकृष्ण  
You [are endowed with] a handsome body, bright face and eyes full of compassion.

57. सर्वकाल-मंदहास-रुचिरवक्त्र रामकृष्ण  
Your face is beautiful, being ever lighted up with a gentle smile.

58. सुमनसाऽपि छेदयोग्य-मृदुशरीर रामकृष्ण  
Your body is so delicate that it can be hurt even by a flower.

59. वेदशास्त्र-पुराणादि-सारवेत्तु रामकृष्ण  
You know the essence of the Vedas, Śāstras and the Puranas.

60. सर्ववेदशास्त्रवाक्प्रमाणकर्तृ रामकृष्ण  
You bestow authority to the words of all the Vedas and Śāstras.

61. ज्ञानिजनो यस्य पदेऽर्भकायितो रामकृष्ण  
Even the learned ones became like children at your feet.

62. कुशलमते तीक्ष्णमनाः प्राज्ञ कवे रामकृष्ण  
You are wise, of sharp intellect, a man of deep knowledge and a seer.

63. दीनबंधु-दयासिंधु-संश्रितगति रामकृष्ण  
You are the friend of the lowly, an ocean of mercy, and the goal of the people who take refuge.

64. अपरिशुद्ध-गिरिशचंद्र-शरणदातृ रामकृष्ण  
You gave refuge to the wayward Girīśacandra.

65. पुत्रशोकतप्त-मातृ-शांतिदायि रामकृष्ण  
You conferred peace on the sorrowing Mother who had lost her son.

66. कुष्ठरोगि-घोररुजां विनाशयसि रामकृष्ण  
You destroyed the fell disease of a leper.

67. मृत्सुवर्ण-समानत्व-दर्शितवन् रामकृष्ण  
You looked upon both a clod of earth and gold with an equal eye.

68. सर्वदशा-कनक-काम-वर्जित-यति रामकृष्ण  
You are a sannyasin (par excellence) who has eschewed lust and greed in all states (of consciousness).

69. आमरणं प्रास्खलित-ब्रह्मचर्यं रामकृष्ण  
Your celibacy was unbroken till the last day of your life.

70. निखिलतमोऽशेष-हंतु-भासमान रामकृष्ण  
You are (like the sun) shining, destroying all kinds of darkness completely.

71. घनीभूत-सत्यवयुन-हर्षरूप रामकृष्ण  
You are Sac-cid-ānanda, solidified as it were.

72. प्रेमरूप पूर्णरूप शक्तिरूप रामकृष्ण  
You are Love, Perfection and Power in the fullest measure.

73. सकल-कुवासना-बीज-नाशकारि रामकृष्ण  
You destroy the seeds of all evil tendencies [in us].

74. कलुषहरण-मधुरधरण-भवसुवैद्य रामकृष्ण  
You are the best physician for the disease of worldliness, destroying the impurities and restoring sweetness.

75. सहजनित्य-शुद्ध-बुद्ध-मुक्त-रूप रामकृष्ण  
The nature of being eternal, pure, awakened and liberated is intrinsic to you.

76. ज्ञान-योगसिद्धिमचिरमाप भवान् रामकृष्ण  
You have attained the fulfilment of Jñānayoga in no time.

77. निर्विकल्पसिद्धिमाप्त-राजयोगि रामकृष्ण  
You are a Rājayogin, who has attained nirvikalpa-samādhi.

78. देवनाम-निशामनाद् अश्रुविमुग् रामकृष्ण  
You [are a bhakta] who sheds tears on hearing the names of God.

79. लोकसंग्रहाय सतत-कर्म-निरत रामकृष्ण  
You are (a Karmayogin) ever immersed in work for the good of the world.

80. कृत्स्नयोगसिद्धितुल्य-पादधूलि रामकृष्ण  
The dust of your [lotus] feet is equal to the attainments of all Yogas.

81. योगगम्य योगिगम्य देवदेव रामकृष्ण  
You are the God of gods, the goal of Yoga and the goal of Yogins.

82. निखिलयोगिपते योगसिद्धिदातृ रामकृष्ण  
You are the Lord of all the Yogins. You are the giver of perfection in Yoga.

**उपदेशकथनम्**  
*Description of Teachings*

83. ऋक्षमहन्यदृष्टमपि भवत्येव रामकृष्ण  
Though the star is not seen in the day-time, it does verily exist.

84. अज्ञगूढ ईश्वरोऽपि तथा भवति रामकृष्ण  
Similarly, God, though hidden to the ignorant people, does exist.

85. माययाऽपिहितत्वाद्दीक्षितस्तु रामकृष्ण  
But He is not seen, since He is covered by Māyā.

86. हेमकामगणं कुमायेति वेद्मि रामकृष्ण  
I understand that [objects belonging to] the group of 'lust and greed' constitute Māyā.

87. तस्य बंधुरहंकार इतीरितो रामकृष्ण  
Its friend is called 'Egoism'.

88. भक्तिहीनपंडितस्तु गृध्रसमो रामकृष्ण  
A scholar who has no devotion [to God] is like a vulture.

89. साधिकार-पुरुष एव गुरुर्भवेद् रामकृष्ण  
It is only a man 'commissioned by God' that can become a guru.

90. असति जगति मग्नजनोऽमुक्त एव रामकृष्ण  
People who are immersed in this transient world will remain verily bound.

91. साधुसंग-नामजपौ मोक्षकरौ रामकृष्ण  
Company of [spiritually] good people and repetition of the divine name help in attaining liberation.

92. मलिनवासनास्त्यजेद्धि साधनकृद् रामकृष्ण  
One who is performing sādhanas must give up evil tendencies.

93. सस्मृहस्य मुक्तिवचनमस्ति किं नु रामकृष्ण  
Is a person with desires (in his heart) fit even to hear the word 'mukti'?

94. आत्मजयः स्त्रीषु मातृभाव एव रामकृष्ण  
'Self-control' is attaining the attitude as towards the mother, towards all women.

95. श्रद्धधान इमां मुक्तिमचिरमाप रामकृष्ण  
One who has faith [in these teachings] will attain this liberation very soon.

96. ईश्वरे प्रपत्तिरस्ति सुलभपथो रामकृष्ण  
Surrender to God is an easy path [to salvation].

97. विना शुद्धमलिन-विवेकेन मृगो रामकृष्ण  
He who has no discrimination between the pure and the impure is a brute.

98. परानुक्त ईश्वरे मुक्त एव रामकृष्ण  
One who is extremely attached to God is verily free

99. ज्ञान-कर्म-भक्ति-पथा विमुक्तिदा रामकृष्ण  
The paths of Jñāna, Karma and Bhakti give us liberation.

100. निर्गुणं च गुणयुतं च परब्रह्म रामकृष्ण  
The Highest Brahman is both with attributes and without attributes.

101. ईश्वरोऽपि याचनाद्धि पृश्निरभूद् रामकृष्ण  
Even God became puny (in the Vāmanāvatāra) due to begging!

102. हेर्नाम गृहे यस्य भय नास्ति रामकृष्ण  
He in whose house the name of God [is chanted] has no fear

### याञ्चाकथनम् Description of Supplications

103. अनायास-मृत्युमव यच्छ गुरो रामकृष्ण  
O Father! Grant me a smooth departure from this world!

104. दैन्यशून्य-जीवनं प्रयच्छ देव रामकृष्ण  
O God! Give me a life free from wretchedness!

105. क्लेशरहितमेव मनो मे कुरुष्व रामकृष्ण  
Make my mind free from worries.

106. सत्यपूतवचो मेऽस्तु मुखे सदा रामकृष्ण  
May there always be words purified by truth, in my mouth.

107. अहिंसा च रक्तगता भवतु हे रामकृष्ण  
O Hari! May non-violence permeate my very being!

108. पुण्यपाप-विवेकोऽपि भवेदेव रामकृष्ण  
Let [me] verily have discrimination between righteousness and unrighteousness.

109. ब्रह्मचर्यशक्तिरस्तु मे ही मनसि रामकृष्ण  
May there verily be the power of continence in my mind.

110. गृध्रवृत्तिरपि मदीय-हृदि च माऽस्तु रामकृष्ण  
May greed never enter into my heart.

111. मतिं देहि बलं देहि पदे स्थलं रामकृष्ण  
Give me wisdom! Give me strength! Give me a place at [your] feet!

112. शुद्धभक्तिरपि तवास्तु पदांबुजे रामकृष्ण  
May I ever cherish pure devotion to your lotus feet!

113. राम एव कृष्ण एव भवानुभय रामकृष्ण  
You are Rāma! You are Kṛṣṇa! You are both (in one)!

114. ब्रह्मरूप शक्तिरूप परमहंस रामकृष्ण  
O Paramahansa! You are Brahman! You are Śakti!

प्रणामः  
Obeisance

ब्रह्मानन्दं शिवं शान्तं प्रेमरूपं निरंजनम् ।  
योगीशमद्भुतं नित्यमखंडाद्वैतलक्षणम् ॥  
विज्ञानं त्रिगुणातीतं तुरीयाभेदसंज्ञितम् ।  
सुबोधं सारदं चैव विवेकशशिभूषणम् ॥  
समन्वयमहाचार्यं युगधर्मस्वरूपिणम् ।  
सर्वदेवस्वरूपं श्रीरामकृष्णं नमाम्यहम् ॥

I bow down to Sri Ramakṛṣṇa (who is) the great teacher of harmony, the personification of the Religion of the Age, the embodiment of all deities, the bliss of Brahman, the auspicious, of the form of love, the stainless, the Lord of Yogins, the wonderful, the eternal, of the nature of continuous Unity, the wisdom (itself), beyond the three guṇas, christened as the 'Fourth' and 'the Undifferentiated', the excellent knowledge, the giver of essence, and who is adorned with the moon of discrimination.

*Note:* This composition by Svāmī Acalānanda Sarasvati is unique in the sense that the names of all the sixteen direct disciples of Śrī Rāmakṛṣṇa have been used as adjectives to him! □

Śrī Rāma-Nāma-Saṅkīrtanam

Swami Brahmananda first heard the singing of the names of Śrī Rāma in Southern India. He enjoyed it very much and introduced it here at the Belur Monastery... In no time this singing of the names of Śrī Rāma has spread all over the country, bringing peace and joy to so many! It was the earnest desire of Swamiji to see the worship of Hanumān Mahāvīra established in every Indian home. Mahāvīra was a perfect example of absolute continence. With his worship the sleeping energies of the nation will wake up!

—SWAMI SHIVANANDA  
[from *For Seekers of God*, p. 38]