

Bhīṣma Stuti

Canto 1, Chapter 9

Laying on the bed of arrows whilst forgetting the pain of the weapons that had struck him, Grandfather Bhīṣma performs a prayer (*stuti*) with great devotion of Handsome Lord Krishna who is standing in front of him.

Śrī Bhīṣma uvāca

Shri Bhīṣma says:

Iti matirupakalpītā vitṛṣṇa
bhagavati sātvatā puṅgave vibhūmni ।
Sva sukham upagate kvacid vihartuṁ
prakṛtīmupeyuṣi yadbhavapravāhaḥ ॥ 32 ॥

I devote my intellect at this final time of my life at the feet of the infinite, Supreme Lord, Shri Krishna, which has been purified extensively through various spiritual endeavours and is free from all desires; The supreme being who continually remains situated in his glorious nature and also accepts nature with the desire of doing pleasures, from which the tradition of creation remains.

Tribhuvana kamaṇāṁ tamālarṇaṁ
ravikaragauravarāmbaṛaṁ dadhāne ।
Vapuralakakulā vṛtānāṅbjaṁ
vijaya sakhe ratirastu me anavadyā ॥ 33 ॥

May I develop guileless love for Arjun's friend, Lord Krishna, whose body is as beautiful as the three worlds and hue is dark like a *tamal* tree; He, who wears yellow garments that shine like the rays of the sun and has beautiful curly hair on a lotus-like face.

Yudhi turagarajovidhūmraviṣvak
kacalulitaśramavāryalaṅkṛtāsye ।
Mama niśitaśarairavibhidyamāna
Tvacivilastakvace astu Kṛṣṇa ātmā ॥ 34 ॥

In the battlefield I remember that scene when:

My sharp arrows were piercing your skin when your lotus face suited the drops of sweat and your curly hair had become dirty from the blowing dust of the horses' blinkers; may my body, conscience and soul surrender to such a handsome and armored Lord Krishna.

Sapadi sakhi vaco niśamya madhye
nija parayor balayo ratham niveśayam |
Sthitavati parasaini kāyurakṣṇā
hr̥tavati Pārthasakhe ratirmamāstu || 35 ||

May I develop supreme love in Arjun's friend, Lord Krishna, who immediately rode His chariot between the two armies on being commanded by his close friend Arjun and reduced the life-span of the army in the enemy merely by glancing at them.

Vyavahita pṛtanāmukhaṁ nirīkṣya
svajanavadhādvimukhasya doṣabuddhayā |
Kumatimaharadātmavidyayā ya -
ścaraṇa ratiḥ paramasya tasya me astu || 36 ||

May my love remain strong at the divine feet of the Supreme Being, Lord Krishna, who destroyed the attachment of Arjun by enlightening him by preaching the Gita when Arjun had turned away from the battle due to the fear of committing a sin of killing his kinsfolk, on seeing us on the opposite side of the army.

Sva nigama mapahāya mat pratigñā
Mṛtamadhikartumavapluto rathasthaḥ |
Dhṛtarathacaraṇo abhyayāccaladgur
haririva hantumibhaṁ gatottarīyaḥ || 37 ||

I had taken an oath that I will ensure that Lord Krishna lifts a weapon; To fulfil my promise and prove it to be better, Lord Krishna broke his oath of not lifting a weapon during the Mahabharat war. At that time, He jumped off the chariot and ran towards me with the wheel of a chariot like a lion charges towards an elephant to kill the elephant. He ran so fast that the cloth on His shoulder fell and the earth began to tremble.

Śitaviśikhahato viśīrṇadamśaḥ
kṣatajaparipluta ātatāyino me ।
Prasabhamabhisasāra madvaddhārtha m
sa bhavatu me bhagavān gatiṁ Mukundaḥ ॥ 38 ॥

Blood was flowing from his body as I, the gangster, has broken his shield with my sharp arrows and He forcefully continued to charge towards me despite Arjun trying to stop Him. Despite being so ruthless, you were still affectionate towards me, your devotee. May my shelter be you, Lord Krishna.

Vijaya ratha kuṭumba āttatotre
dhṛtahayaraśmini tacchriyekṣaṇīye ।
Bhagavati ratirastu me mumūrṣor
yamiha nirīkṣya hatā gatāḥ sarūpam ॥ 39 ॥

May I at my deathbed develop supreme Love for the charioteer of Arjun, Lord Krishna, who not only looked beautiful protecting the chariot of Arjun with the horses's reins in one hand and a whip in the other, but also, provided salvation to those brave soldiers who saw this image of yours whilst dying.

Lalitagativilāsavalguhāsa
praṇayanirīkṣaṇakalpitorumānāḥ ।
Kṛtamanukṛtavatya unmadāndhāḥ
Prakṛtimagan kila yasya gopavadhvaḥ ॥ 40 ॥

The Gopis who were respected by Lord Krishna with a loving glance, sweet smile, loving gestures and beautiful walk, became engrossed in you whilst discussing your *leelas* (pastimes) with utmost devotion, when you disappeared during the Raas Leela; may my love develop in that Lord Krishna.

Munigaṇaṇṛpavaryasaṅkule antaḥ
Sadasi Yudhiṣṭhirarājasūya eṣām ।
Arhaṇamupapeda īkṣaṇīyo
mama dṛśigocara eṣa āvirātmā ॥ 41 ॥

During Yudhishtira's *Rajasuya* Yagya you were given utmost respects and worshipped in front of my eyes in a senate filled with great Rishis and kings. You, Supreme Lord Krishna, everyone's soul, is standing in front of me today during my time of death.

Tamimamahamajam śarīrabhājām
Hṛdi hṛdi dhiṣṭhitamātmakalpitānām ।
Pratidaśamiva naikadhārkamekaṁ
samadhigato asmi vidhūta bhedamohaḥ ॥ 42 ॥

As the sun is known for its many forms from many views, similarly unborn Lord Krishna in many forms in the hearts of humans created by Himself; In reality, he resides in the conscience of every being. I have attained that Lord Krishna having been liberated from all illusions and having known the Supreme Truth.