From the recording EAST INDIAN CHANTS AND DEVOTIONAL SONGS

vesper chants

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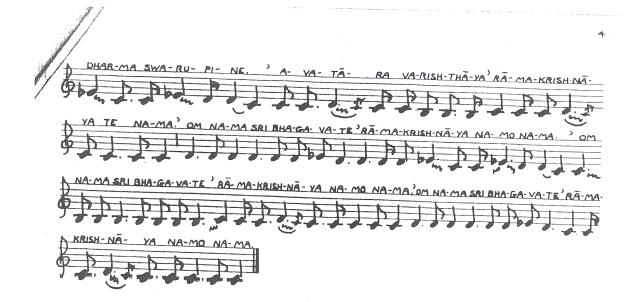


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SARVA MANGALA MANGALYE (Sanskrit)





HYMN TO SRI RAMAKRISHNA

(Translation of "Om Hring Ritang")

You are to be adored, You are Truth unchanging, You are Lord of the Gunas. In my weakness I have failed, O Taker-Away of delusion, to worship Your blessed lotus-feet, earnestly and unceasingly. Therefore I claim sanctuary in You, O Friend of the lowly.

This evil dream called Life can be dispelled by Love, Adoration, and Understanding;
These three can bring us quickly to our goal: the Truth of Brahman.
But, alas, though I speak these words with my lips, they find no answer In my heart.
Therefore I claim sanctuary in You, O Friend of the lowly.

O Ramakrishna, You are the path that leads to Truth.
If a man offers You his heart, he soon overcomes the world
and finds fullness of Eternal Life;
For Your feet still the waves of death and bring immortality
into the world of mortals.
Therefore I take sanctuary in You, O Friend of the lowly.

Lord, Your name, the name Ramakrishna, is goodness and purity itself; graciously it awakens us from our delusion.

He who chants Your name will become a saint, though he be a sinner. You are the refuge of us all. I have no other refuge but You. Therefore I take sanctuary in You, O Friend of the lowly.



BREAKER OF THIS WORLD'S CHAIN (Translation of "Khandana Bhaba Bandana")

Breaker of this world's chain, we adore Thee, whom all men love.

Spotless, taking man's form, O Purifier, Thou art above the gunas three,
Knowledge divine, not flesh; Thou whom the cosmos wears,
a diamond at its heart.

Let us look deep in Thine eyes; they are bright with the wisdom of God, that can wake us from maya's spell.

Let us hold fast to Thy feet, treading the waves of the world to safety.

Oh, drunk with love, God-drunken Lover,
In Thee all paths of all yogas meet.

Lord of the worlds, Thou are ours, who wert born a child of our time; easy of access to us.O Merciful, if we take any hold upon God in our prayer, It is by Thy grace alone,Since all Thine austerities were practiced for our sake.

How great was Thy sacrifice, freely choosing Thy birth in this prison, our Iron Age,
To unchain us and set us free.
Perfect, whom lust could not taint, nor passion nor gold draw near,
O Master of all who renounce, fill our hearts full of love for Thee.

Thou hast finished with fear and with doubt, Standing firm in the vision of God; Refuge to all who have cast fame, fortune, and friends away. Without question Thou shelterest us, And the world's great sea in its wrath Seems shrunk to the puddle that fills the hoofprint in the clay.

Speech cannot hold Thee, nor mind, Yet without Thee we think not nor speak. Love, who art partial to none, we are equal before Thy sight. Taker-away of our pain, we salute Thee, though we are blind. Come to the heart's black cave, And illumine, Thou light of the light.

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HYMN TO THE DIVINE MOTHER

(Translation of "Sarva Mangala Mangalye")

O Thou the Giver of all blessings,
O Thou the Doer of all good,
O Thou the Fulfiller of all desires,
O Thou the Giver of refuge-Our salutations to Thee, O Mother Divine.

O Thou Eternal Mother,
Thou hast the power to create,
to preserve, and to dissolve,
Thou the dwelling-place and embodiment
of the three gunas-Our salutations to Thee, O Mother Divine.

O Thou the Savior of all who take refuge in Thee, The lowly and the distressed— O Mother Divine, we salute Thee, Who takest away the sufferings of all.