

### 3. A HYMN TO THE DIVINE MOTHER

om sarva-maṅgala-māṅgalye śive sarvārtha-sādhike |  
śaraṇye tryambake gauri nārāyaṇi namo'stu te ||  
sṛṣṭi-sthiti-vināśānām śakti-bhūte sanātani |  
guṇāśraye guṇa-maye nārāyaṇi namo'stu te ||  
śaraṇāgata-dīnārta-paritrāṇa-parāyaṇe |  
sarvasyārti-hare devi nārāyaṇi namo'stu te ||  
jaya nārāyaṇi namo'stu te jaya nārāyaṇi namo'stu te |  
jaya nārāyaṇi namo'stu te jaya nārāyaṇi namo'stu te ||  
jay śrī guru-maharāj-ji ki jay ||  
jay mahā-māyi ki jay ||

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,  
Who takest away the sufferings of all,  
Our salutations to Thee, O Mother Divine. (From the *Chandi*)  
Glory be to Guru Maharaj Sri Ramakrishna!  
Glory be to the Divine Mother!

*Vedanta Society of Southern California · Hollywood Temple*

## EVENING VESPERS (ARATI)

### 1. BREAKER OF THIS WORLD'S CHAIN

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.  
O drunk with love, God-drunken Lover,  
In Thee all paths of all yogas meet.  
Lord of the worlds, Thou art 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! (Swami Vivekananda)

## 2. A HYMN TO SRI RAMAKRISHNA

om hrīm̐ ṛtaṁ tvam acalo guṇajid-guṇeḍyaḥ  
 naktam̐ divam̐ sakaruṇam̐ tava pāda-padmam̐ |  
 mohaṅ-kaṣaṁ bahu-kṛtam̐ na bhaje yato'ham̐  
 tasmāt tvam eva śaraṇam̐ mama dīna-bandho || 1 ||  
 bhaktir-bhagaś-ca bhajanam̐ bhava-bheda-kāri  
 gacchanty-alam̐ suvipulam̐ gamanāya tattvam̐ |  
 vaktrod-dhṛtopi hṛdi me na ca bhāti kiñcit  
 tasmāt tvam eva śaraṇam̐ mama dīna-bandho || 2 ||  
 tejas taranti tvaritam̐ tvayi tṛpta-tṛṣṇāḥ  
 rāgam̐ kṛte ṛtapathe tvayi rāmakṛṣṇe |  
 martyāmṛtam̐ tava padaṁ maraṇormi-nāśam̐  
 tasmāt tvam eva śaraṇam̐ mama dīna-bandho || 3 ||  
 kṛtyam̐ karoti kaluṣam̐ kuhakānta-kāri  
 ṣṇāntam̐ śivam̐ suvimalam̐ tava nāma nātha |  
 yasmād aham̐ aśaraṇo jagad-eka-gamya  
 tasmāt tvam eva śaraṇam̐ mama dīna-bandho || 4 ||

om sthāpakāya ca dharmasya sarva-dharma-svarūpiṇe |  
 avatāra variṣṭhāya rāmakṛṣṇāya te namaḥ ||  
 om namaḥ śrī bhagavate rāmakṛṣṇāya namo namaḥ ||  
 om namaḥ śrī bhagavate rāmakṛṣṇāya namo namaḥ ||  
 om namaḥ śrī bhagavate rāmakṛṣṇāya namo namaḥ ||

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, you are my  
 only refuge, O Friend of the lowly.

This evil dream called life can be dispelled by Love,  
 Adoration, and Understanding. These three can bring us  
 back to our goal: the Truth of Brahman. But, alas, though  
 I speak these words with my lips, they find no echo in my  
 heart. Therefore, you are my only refuge, O Friend of the  
 lowly.

O Ramakrishna, you are the path that leads to Truth. If  
 one offers you his heart, one 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, you are my only refuge, 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. O Goal of all the worlds, I have no  
 refuge in this world; therefore, you are my only refuge, O  
 Friend of the lowly.

To the establisher of dharma, to the embodiment of all  
 dharmas, to the paragon of avatars, to Ramakrishna do we  
 bow down in worship. Om, salutations to Bhagavan Sri  
 Ramakrishna, salutations again and again.

(Swami Vivekananda)