

ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry



DEITY WORSHIP IN THE TEMPLE

Mūla Mantras & Upacāra Names



ISKCON®

DEITY WORSHIP
MINISTRY

Mūla Mantras

The standard *mūla-mantras* for the deities worshiped in ISKCON are given below. They should be chanted only by devotees duly initiated by a bona fide spiritual master into the chanting of *pāñcarātrika* Gāyatrī *mantras*. See Chapter 3, Volume 1 for a further explanation of *mantras* used in deity worship.

Guru:

The second of the seven *guru*-given *mantras*

Śrīla Prabhupāda:

om ISKCON saṁsthāpakācāryāya namaḥ

Previous guru:

om parama-gurave namaḥ

Previous guru:

om paratpara-gurave namaḥ

Previous guru:

om parameṣṭhi-gurave namaḥ

Vaiṣṇavas:

om sarva-vaiṣṇavebhyo namaḥ

Lord Caitanya:

the fourth of the seven *guru*-given *mantras*

Lord Nityānanda:

klīm nityānandāya namaḥ or *klīm devī-jāhnavā-vallabhāya namaḥ*

Advaita Ācārya:

klīm advaitāya namaḥ

Śrī Gadādhara:

śrīm gadādharāya namaḥ

Śrī Śrīvāsa:

śrīm śrīvāsāya namaḥ

Lord Kṛṣṇa, Lord Jagannātha, and śālagrāma-śilā:

the *gopāla-mantra*; i.e., the sixth of the seven guru-given *mantras*, or *klīm kṛṣṇāya namaḥ*

Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī:

śrīm rām rādhikāyai svāhā or *śrīm rādhāyai namaḥ*

Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa:

śrīm klīm rādhā-kṛṣṇābhyām namaḥ

Lalitā-Viśākhā:

śrīm śrīm lalitā-viśākhābhyām namaḥ

All the gopīs:

om sarva-sakhībhyo namaḥ

Śrīmatī Tulasī-devī:

om tulasyai namaḥ

Lord Balarāma:

klīm balarāmāya namaḥ

Śrīmatī Subhadrā:

śrīm subhadrāyai namaḥ

Śrī Sudarśana:

om sudarśanāya namaḥ

Lord Rāmacandra:

klīm rāmāya namaḥ or *rām rāmāya namaḥ*

Śrīmatī Sītā:

śrīm sītāyai svāhā or *śrīm sītāyai namaḥ*

Sītā-Rāma:

śrīm rām sītā-rāmābhyām namaḥ

Śrī Lakṣmaṇa:

klīm saṅkarṣaṇāya namaḥ or *laṁ lakṣmaṇāya namaḥ*

Śrī Hanumān:

hum hanumate namaḥ

Lord Nṛsimha:

klīm nṛsimhāya namaḥ or *kṣraum nṛsimhāya namaḥ*

Lakṣmī-Nṛsimha:

śrīm klīm lakṣmī-nṛsimhābhyām namaḥ or *śrīm kṣraum lakṣmī-nṛsimhābhyām namaḥ*

Prahlāda:

praṁ prahlādāya namaḥ

Prahlāda-Nṛsiṃha:

praṁ klīm prahlāda-nṛsiṁhābhyām namaḥ or *praṁ kṣraum prahlāda-nṛsiṁhābhyām namaḥ*

All the *mūla-mantras* for *viṣṇu-tattva* deities may use the *bīja* syllable *klīm*, since these deities are expansions of Kṛṣṇa. If you are worshiping a deity who is not a *viṣṇu-mūrti* and who has no specific *mūla-mantra*, simply chant *om*, the name of the deity in the dative case, and then *namaḥ*. For example, the *mūla-mantra* for the cowherd boy Subala would be *om subalāya namaḥ*. Alternatively, take the first syllable of the personality's name and add *anusvāra* to form the *bīja*. Example: *praṁ prahlādāya namaḥ*.

Note: If you have been worshiping a particular deity with a *mūla-mantra* other than the one listed here for that deity, you may continue using that *mantra*.

Upacāra Names

When offering articles of worship or performing services, say the name of the article or service and then the *mūla-mantra* of the deity you are worshipping. This shows respect and draws the Lord's attention to the article being offered or the service being rendered.

In the Bengali Gauḍīya system of worship, the name of the *upacāra* in singular number is preceded by the Sanskrit word meaning “this,” which changes form according to the gender of the *upacāra* word: *etat* or *idam* for neuter words (*etat pādyam*, *idam ācamanīyam*); *eṣa* for masculine words (*eṣa gandha*, *eṣa dīpaḥ*); and *eṣā* for feminine words (*eṣā gaṅgā-mṛttikā*). If the article is plural in number, it is preceded by *etāni* for neuter items (*etāni puṣpāni*), *ete* for masculine items, and *etā* for feminine items. If the article is dual in number, it is preceded by *ete* if the articles are neuter or feminine (*ete gandha-puṣpe*), and by *etau* if the articles are masculine. The names of the main *upacāras* are as follows:

- **Arghya water:** *idam arghyam*
- **Bath:** *idam snānīyam*
- **Betel nuts:** *idam tāmbūlam*
- **Cāmara:** *eṣā cāmara-sevā*
- **Cloth for drying:** *idam aṅga-vastram*
- **Clothes:** *idam vastram*
- **Fan:** *eṣā vyajana-sevā*
- **Flowers:** *idam puṣpam* (single); *etāni puṣpāni* (plural)

- **Flowers (fragrant):** *idaṁ sagandha-puṣpam* (single); *etāni sagandha-puṣpāni* (plural)
- **Flower garland:** *idaṁ malyam* (single); *imāni mālyāni* (plural); *ime mālye* (dual) for offering a garland each to two personalities (particularly Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa).
- **Flower petals:** *eṣa puṣpāñjaliḥ*
- **Flowers with sandalwood paste:** *ete gandha-puṣpe*
- **Food:** *idaṁ naivedyam*
- **Foot wash:** *etat pādyam*
- **Incense:** *eṣa dhūpaḥ*
- **Kumkumā:** *idaṁ kuṅkumam*
- **Lamp:** *eṣa dīpaḥ*
- **Madhuparkaḥ drink:** *eṣa madhuparkaḥ*
- **Mahā prasāda remnants:** *idaṁ mahā-prasādam nirmālyādikam*
- **Oil (scented):** *idaṁ sugandha-tailam*
- **Ornaments:** *idaṁ ābharaṇam* (single); or *imāni ābharaṇāni* (plural)
- **Sacred thread:** *idaṁ upavītam*
- **Sandalwood paste with scents:** *eṣa gandhaḥ*
- **Shoes:** *ime pāduke*
- **Sitting place (āsana):** *idaṁ āsanam*
- **Spices for chewing:** *idaṁ mukha-vāsam*
- **Tilaka:** *idaṁ tilakam*

- **Tongue scraper:** *idam jihvollekhanam*
- **Tulasī leaves:** *etat tulasī-patram* (single); *etāni tulasī-patrāni* (plural)
- **Twig for brushing teeth:** *eṣa danta-kāṣṭhaḥ*
- **Water:** *idam pānīyam*
- **Water for cleaning hands and face:** *idam hasta-mukha-prakṣālanam*
- **Water for sipping:** *idam ācamanīyam*
 - o Second water for sipping: *idam punar-ācamanīyam*
- **Welcome:** *svāgataṁ su-svāgataṁ*
 - o For any additional items that might be pleasing: *idam sarvam*