

TRACKS:

1. Shyam!
2. Narasimha
3. Sri Nanda-Nandanastakam
4. Aham Prema
5. Mangalam
6. Om Dhara
7. Nandana Gopala
8. Mere Gurudev

1. SHYAM!

shyama naye
darshana dina
naye, darshana dina
shyama naye
bela bho prabhu

arpana garchu
pauma parchu
mero shyam
mero shyam
he prabhu, he prabhu
prabhu

manama mero shyam

*Why haven't you come?
Why haven't you let me gaze upon your beauty?
Isn't it the time?*

*My heart is yours, beloved.
I lay my head at your feet
My Shyam, my Shyam
O my Lord, O my Lord*

I finally behold you - the Lord of my innermost realm.

We often look beyond ourselves for the answer.
We usually imagine the goal is in some far off place, when in fact,
it is inside us all the time.
Ever present.
All we have to do, is to turn our gaze inwards.



2. NARASIMHA

narasimha ta va da so hum

A powerful mantra for protection from negative influences
of those on the path to the light.

Our dear friend Praful (the composer of Om Namoh Bhagavate, Om Tare and many more) was inspired to put this mantra to a very gentle melody. For me the serene quality of the composition is a reminder that protection need not, necessarily, be hard or tough. It can be “the strength of a rose” - as Miten says. Thank you, Praful, for the beautiful music you have shared with us all over the years!



3. SRI NANDA-NANDANASTAKAM

- 1) sucharu vaktra mandalam sukarna ratna kundalam sucharchitanga
chandanam namami nanda-nandanam
- 2) sudirgha netra pankajam sikhi sikhanda murdhajam ananga koti
mohanam namami nanda-nandanam
- 3) sunasikagra mauktikam svacchanda danta panktikam navambudanga
chikkanam namami nanda-nandanam
- 4) karena venu ranjitam gati karindra ganjitam dukula pita shobhanam
namami nanda-nandanam
- 5) tribhanga deha sundaram nakha dyuti sudhakaram amulya ratna
bhusanam namami nanda-nandanam
- 6) sugandha anga saurabham uroviraji kaustubham sphuracchri
vatsalanchanam namami nanda-nandanam
- 7) vrindavana sunagaram vilasanuga vasasam surendra garva mochanam
namami nanda-nandanam
- 8) vrajangana sunayakam sada sukha pradayakam jagan manah
pralobhanam namami nanda-nandanam
- 9) sri nanda-nandanastakam pathed ya sraddhayanvitah tared bhavabdhim
dustaram labhet tadanghri-yugmakam

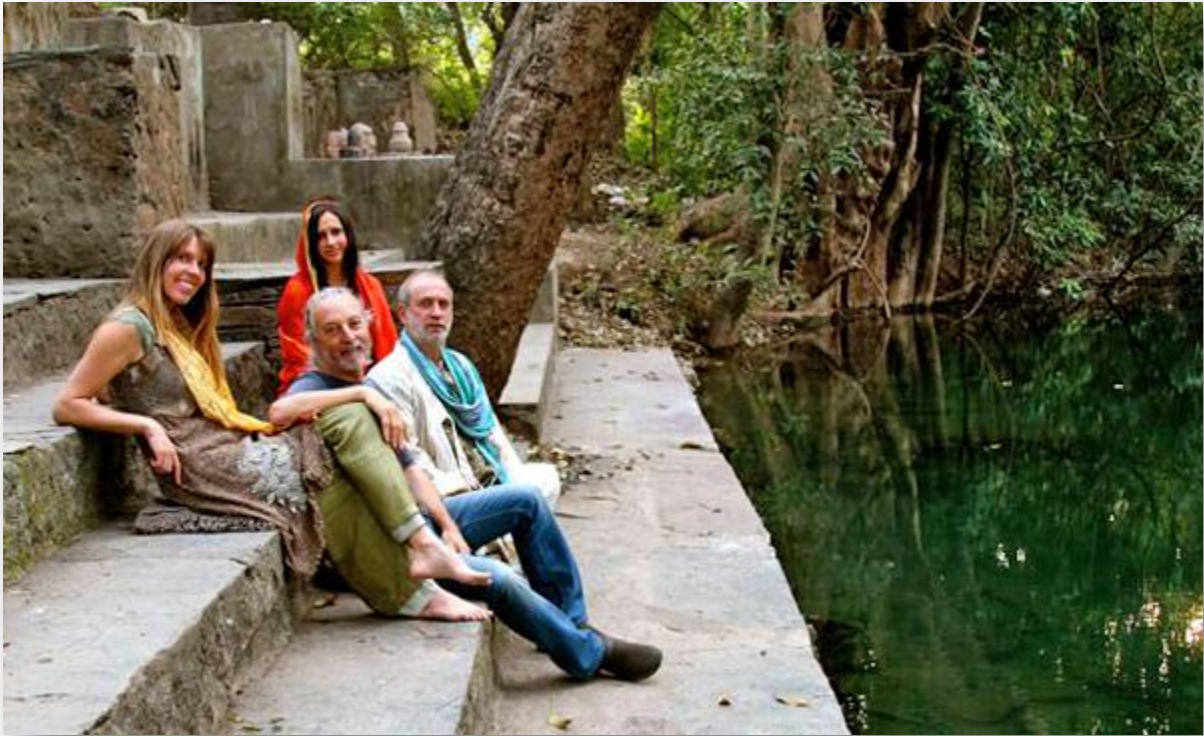


- 1) I offer salutations to Nandanandana, whose face is extremely delightful, in whose beautiful ears hang jeweled earrings and whose entire body is anointed with fragrant Candana.*
- 2) I offer salutations to Nandanandana, whose eyes are more beautiful than the fully bloomed lotus, whose head is beautifully adorned with an arrangement of peacock feathers and who enchants millions of Cupids.*
- 3) I offer salutations to Nandanandana, from whose beautiful nose hangs an elephant-pearl, whose teeth are immensely effulgent, whose bodily complexion is more beautiful and lustrous than a fresh rain cloud.*
- 4) I offer salutations to Nandanandana, whose lotus hands hold the flute, whose lingering gait defeats even that of an impassioned elephant and whose dark limbs are beautified by a yellow shawl.*
- 5) I offer salutations to Nandanandana, whose threefold-bending posture is exquisitely elegant, the effulgence of whose toe-nails puts to shame even the moon, and who wears invaluable jewels and ornaments.*
- 6) I offer salutations to Nandanandana, whose body exudes an especially beautiful fragrance, and whose broad chest is adorned with the Kaustubha jewel and the mark of Srivatsa.*
- 7) I offer salutations to Nandanandana, the expert lover of Vrindavan who performs immaculate pastimes and who is attired in clothes which are suitable for those pastimes and who pulverized the pride of Indra.*
- 8) I offer salutations to Nandanandana, who as the lover of the Vraja gopis perpetually delights them and who enchants the minds of all living entities.*
- 9) Whoever recites this regularly will easily cross the insurmountable ocean of material existence and attain to the lotus feet of Shri Krishna.*

A hymn to Lord Krishna. The name used for him here is Nanda-Nandana which means “the son (nandana) of Nanda.”

Since the word “nanda” also means joy and comes from “ananda” which means bliss, I sing this as a hymn that celebrates those qualities. When you look at the description of Krishna in this strotra (hymn of praise), it is truly a perfect picture of what bliss would look like.

This is a good moment to thank our beloved friend Shyamdas, who has led Miten and I deeply into the world of Krishna devotion during our journey to Vrindavan, which was right in the middle of making this album. He has also helped me with many of the translations on this album.



4. AHAM PREMA

Aham Prema

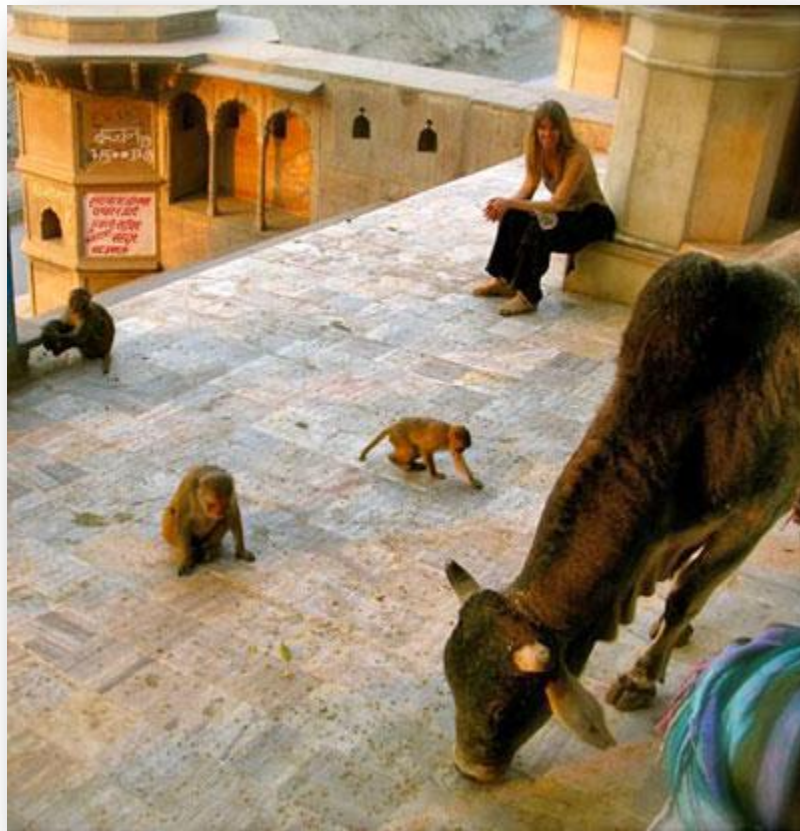
I am love.

The Beatles sang “All you need is love.”

This mantra goes one step further -

I AM love!

I included this mantra as an offering to be chanted 108 times,
together with the musicians.





5. MANGALAM

mangalam bhagavan vishnum
mangalam garudadhvajah
mangalam pundareekaksham
mangalaya tano hari

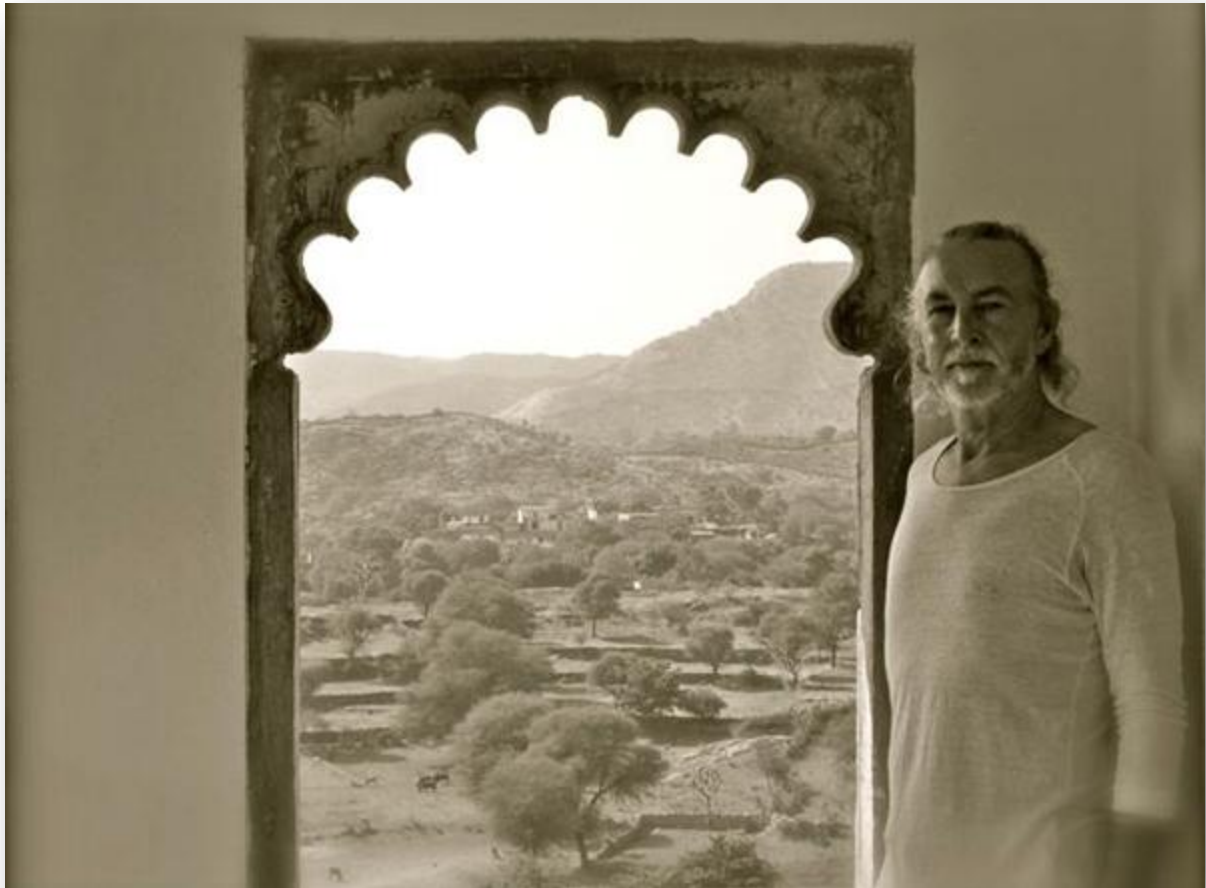
*Beloved Lord Vishnu is auspicious.
Auspicious is His vehicle Garuda, the image on His flag.
Auspicious are His lotus-like eyes-
So auspicious, His manifestation.*

I love the word “auspicious.” It reminds me of the divinity and the mystery that is behind the obvious, something that’s just in the air and can be experienced as a pointer to the bigger picture.

With this mantra we celebrate Vishnu, the energy of sustaining, of preserving, of protecting, of mercy and goodness.







6. OM DHARA

om dhara dharayei namaha
om dharayei namaha
om bhu devyei namaha

*Om and salutations to Divine Mother who is the support of the earth.
Om and salutations to Divine Mother who is the Earth.
Honouring Mother Earth as the goddess she is.*

These three mantras celebrate the Divine Mother that is the earth,
the power/the shakti that supports her and helps us be attuned to her.

Mother Earth herself is seen as an evolving being
and as we chant these mantras we support her in her own journey - and also go
some way to balance the challenges we put her through by our presence.

Apart from “going lightly on this fragile earth” (another one of Miten’s songs),
by making sure we live consciously on all levels, we can carry this mantra within
us, make it part of our daily practice, and through the chant remember the divine
presence of the earth under our feet. A gift that is there every second of the day!



7. NANDANA GOPALA

nandana gopala
ananda svarupa

tejasvi moha haro
karuna sagara prema bharo

gali gali hi nay tere dhwara
karuna rasa prema bahara

*O Nanda Gopal!
Brilliant blissful One
Ocean of compassion
Fill me with love*

*Dispel all my confusion
Every path has your door
Compassionate nectar One
You are a pure spring of love*

Gopala, the name of Krishna as a baby, is the joyful presence of pure love.

Blissful, compassionate, dispeller of confusion.

This song celebrates the sweet delight of being in 'his' presence.



8. MERE GURUDEV

mere gurudev, charanon par sumana shraddha ke arpita hai.
tere hee dena hai jo hai wahi tujha ko samarapita hai.
na priti hai pratiti hai, na hi puja ki shakti hai.
meraa yaha man, meraa yaha tan, meraa kan kan samarapita hai.
tuma hee ho bhaava men mere, vicharon mein, pukaron mein.
banaale yantra ab mujhko mere saravatra samarapita hai

*My Gurudev I offer these flowers of my faith at your feet
Whatever you have given to me I dedicate to you.
I lack devotion nor do I recognize you.
I have no strength to worship you -
But my heart, body and absolutely everything I have is dedicated to you.
Your love fills my heart, my thoughts and my song.
Now make me your instrument...
All I have I offer to you.*

In the west, the Guru-disciple relationship is something very unfamiliar –
and even often mistaken for a master/slave relationship.
The truth is this unique and mysterious relationship is the doorway to
transformation and central to the Eastern path to liberation.
To be surrendered in love to one's guru is indeed a dangerous love –
it leads us beyond what we know – beyond our comfort zone.
Pure devotion itself is enough to enlighten our path.
With gratitude to Krishna Das, who gave me
his blessings to record this beautiful song.



MUSICIANS

Deva Premal – vocals, tanpura, keyboard (Aham Prema)

Miten – vocals, guitar

Manose – bansuri, vocals

Boe Larsen – keyboards, piano

Lars Danielsson (SE) - acoustic and electric bass, grand piano, cello

Morten Lund - drums, percussion

Rishi – drum programming, keyboards

Manish Vyas – tabla, santoor

Jørgen Lauritsen - string arrangements and string recordings

Prem Joshua – sitar (Mangalam)

Gustaf Ljunggren - acoustic guitars, slide guitar (Mangalam)

Lars Danielsson (DK) - bass (Mangalam)

Peter Düring - drums (Mangalam)

Rainer Scheurenbrand – acoustic guitar, poim poim

(Om Dhara, Sri Nanda-Nandanastakam)

Søren Reiff Jr. - electric guitar (Shyam, Mere Gurudev)

Maneesh de Moor – harmonium, (Mere Gurudev)

Bindu – acoustic guitar (Sri Nanda-Nandanastakam)

Jalalo – backing vocals (Sri Nanda-Nandanastakam)

Yasmin – backing vocals (Sri Nanda-Nandanastakam)

Kamal – piano (Aham Prema)

Eliel Lazo - congas, bata (Shyam)



Shyam! (Manose/Miten)
Narasimha (Praful)
Sri Nanda-Nandanastakam (traditional, arranged by Miten/Manose)
Aham Prema (Miten/Manose)
Mangalam (Manose/Miten)
Om Dhara (Manose/Miten)
Nandana Gopal (Manose/Miten)
Mere Gurudev (Krishna Das)



Produced by Rajrishi
a prabhu production

Recorded by Rishi, Boe Larsen at the Millfactory Copenhagen Denmark
Additional recordings:
Kamal at ArtofAudio, Byron Bay, Australia,
Sakha at Nuernberg, Germany

Mixed by Rishi, Boe Larsen (Millfactory - DK)
Mastered by Jan Eliasson (Audioplanet - DK)

c 2011
All rights reserved.