

## The Narayana-kavaca Shield

*oṃ harir vidadhyān mama sarva-rakṣāṃ*

*nyastāñghri-padmaḥ patagendra-prṣṭhe*

*darāri-carmāsi-gadeṣu-cāpa-*

*pāśān dadhāno 'ṣṭa-guṇo 'ṣṭa-bāhuḥ*

The Supreme Lord, who sits on the back of the bird Garuḍa, touching him with His lotus feet, holds eight weapons — the conchshell, disc, shield, sword, club, arrows, bow and ropes. May that Supreme Personality of Godhead protect me at all times with His eight arms. He is all-powerful because He fully possesses the eight mystic powers [aṇimā, laghimā, etc.].

*jaleṣu māṃ rakṣatu matsya-mūrtir*

*yādo-gaṇebhyo varuṇasya pāśāt*

*sthaleṣu māyāvaṭu-vāmano 'vyāt*

*trivikramaḥ khe 'vatu viśvarūpaḥ*

May the Lord, who assumes the body of a great fish, protect me in the water from the fierce animals that are associates of the demigod Varuṇa. By expanding His illusory energy, the Lord assumed the form of the dwarf Vāmana. May Vāmana protect me on the land. Since the gigantic form of the Lord, Viśvarūpa, conquers the three worlds, may He protect me in the sky.

*durgeṣv aṭavy-āji-mukhādiṣu prabhuh*

*pāyān nṛsimho 'sura-yūthapāriḥ*

*vimuñcato yasya mahāṭṭa-hāsaṁ*

*diśo vinedur nyapataṁś ca garbhāḥ*

May Lord Nṛsimhadeva, who appeared as the enemy of Hiraṇyakaśipu, protect me in all directions. His loud laughing vibrated in all directions and caused the pregnant wives of the asuras to have miscarriages. May that Lord be kind enough to protect me in difficult places like the forest and battlefield.

*rakṣatv asau mādhvani yajña-kalpah*

*sva-daṁṣṭrayonnīta-dharo varāhaḥ*

*rāmo 'dri-kūṭeṣv atha vipravāse*

*salakṣmaṇo 'vyād bharatāgrajo 'smān*

The Supreme indestructible Lord is ascertained through the performance of ritualistic sacrifices and is therefore known as Yajñeśvara. In His incarnation as Lord Boar, He raised the planet earth from the water at the bottom of the universe and kept it on His pointed tusks. May that Lord protect me from rogues on the street. May Paraśurāma protect me on the tops of mountains, and may the elder brother of Bharata, Lord Rāmacandra, along with His brother Lakṣmaṇa, protect me in foreign countries.

*mām ugra-dharmād akhilāt pramādān*

*nārāyaṇaḥ pātu naraś ca hāsāt*

*dattas tv ayogād atha yoga-nāthaḥ*

*pāyād guṇeśaḥ kapilaḥ karma-bandhāt*

May Lord Nārāyaṇa protect me from unnecessarily following false religious systems and falling from my duties due to madness. May the Lord in His appearance as Nara protect me from unnecessary pride. May Lord Dattātreyā, the master of all mystic power, protect me from falling while performing bhakti-yoga, and may Lord Kapila, the master of all good qualities, protect me from the material bondage of fruitive activities.

*sanat-kumāro ‘vatu kāmadevād*

*dhayaśr̥ṣā mām pathi deva-helanāt*

*devar̥ṣi-varyaḥ puruṣārcanāntarāt*

*kūrmo harir mām nirayād aśeṣāt*

May Sanat-kumāra protect me from lusty desires. As I begin some auspicious activity, may Lord Hayagrīva protect me from being an offender by neglecting to offer respectful obeisances to the Supreme Lord. May Devar̥ṣi Nārada protect me from committing offenses in worshiping the Deity, and may Lord Kūrma, the tortoise, protect me from falling to the unlimited hellish planets.

*dhanvantarir bhagavān pātv apathyād*

*dvandvād bhayād ṛṣabho nirjitātmā*

*yajñas ca lokād avatāj janāntād*

*balo gaṇāt krodha-vaśād ahīndraḥ*

May the Supreme Personality of Godhead in His incarnation as Dhanvantari relieve me from undesirable eatables and protect me from physical illness. May Lord Ṛṣabhadeva, who conquered His inner and outer senses, protect me from fear produced by the duality of heat and cold. May Yajña protect me from defamation and harm from the populace, and may Lord Balarāma as Śeṣa protect me from envious serpents.

*dvaipāyano bhagavān aprabodhād*

*buddhas tu pāṣaṇḍa-gaṇa-pramādāt*

*kalkiḥ kaleḥ kāla-malāt prapātu*

*dharmāvanāyору-kṛtāvatārah*

May the Personality of Godhead in His incarnation as Vyāsadeva protect me from all kinds of ignorance resulting from the absence of Vedic knowledge. May Lord Buddhadeva protect me from activities opposed to Vedic principles and from laziness that causes one to madly forget the Vedic principles of knowledge and ritualistic action. May Kalkideva, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who appeared as an incarnation to protect religious principles, protect me from the dirt of the age of Kali.

*mām keśavo gadayā prātar avyād*

*govinda āsaṅgavam ātta-veṇuḥ*

*nārāyaṇaḥ prāhṇa udātta-śaktir*

*madhyan-dine viṣṇur arīndra-pāṇiḥ*

May Lord Keśava protect me with His club in the first portion of the day, and may Govinda, who is always engaged in playing His flute, protect me in the second portion of the day. May Lord Nārāyaṇa, who is equipped with all potencies, protect me in the third part of the day, and may Lord Viṣṇu, who carries a disc to kill His enemies, protect me in the fourth part of the day.

*devo 'parāhṇe madhu-hogradhanvā*

*sāyaṁ tri-dhāmāvatu mādhave mām*

*doṣe hr̥ṣīkeśa utārdha-rātre*

*niśītha eko 'vatu padmanābhaḥ*

May Lord Madhusūdana, who carries a bow very fearful for the demons, protect me during the fifth part of the day. In the evening, may Lord Mādhave, appearing as Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Maheśvara, protect me, and in the beginning of night may Lord Hṛṣīkeśa protect me. At the dead of night [in the second and third parts of night] may Lord Padmanābha alone protect me.

*śrīvatsa-dhāmāpara-rātra īśaḥ*

*pratyūṣa īśo 'si-dharo janārdanaḥ*

*dāmodaro 'vyād anusandhyaṁ prabhāte*

*viśveśvaro bhagavān kāla-mūrtiḥ*

May the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who bears the Śrīvatsa on His chest, protect me after midnight until the sky becomes pinkish. May Lord Janārdana, who carries a sword in His hand, protect me at the end of night [during the last four ghaṭikās of night]. May Lord Dāmodara protect me in the early morning, and may Lord Viśveśvara protect me during the junctions of day and night.

*cakraṁ yugāntānala-tigma-nemi*

*bhramat samantād bhagavat-prayuktam*

*dandagdhi dandagdhy ari-sainyam āśu*

*kakṣaṁ yathā vāta-sakho hutāśaḥ*

Set into motion by the Supreme Personality of Godhead and wandering in all the four directions, the disc of the Supreme Lord has sharp edges as destructive as the fire of devastation at the end of the millennium. As a blazing fire burns dry grass to ashes with the assistance of the breeze, may that Sudarśana cakra burn our enemies to ashes.

*gade 'śani-sparśana-visphuliṅge*

*niṣpiṅḍhi niṣpiṅḍhy ajita-priyāsi*

*kuṣmāṇḍa-vaināyaka-yakṣa-rakṣo-*

*bhūta-grahāṁś cūrṇaya cūrṇayārīn*

O club in the hand of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, you produce sparks of fire as powerful as thunderbolts, and you are extremely dear to the Lord. I am also His servant. Therefore kindly help me pound to pieces the evil living beings known as Kuṣmāṇḍas, Vaināyakas, Yakṣas, Rākṣasas, Bhūtas and Grahas. Please pulverize them.

*tvaṁ yātudhāna-pramatha-preta-mātr-*

*piśāca-vipragraha-ghora-dṛṣṭīn*

*darendra vidrāvaya kṛṣṇa-pūrito*

*bhīma-svano 'rer hṛdayāni kampayan*

O best of conchshells, O Pāñcajanya in the hands of the Lord, you are always filled with the breath of Lord Kṛṣṇa. Therefore you create a fearful sound vibration that causes trembling in the hearts of enemies like the Rākṣasas, pramatha ghosts, Pretas, Mātās, Piśācas and brāhmaṇa ghosts with fearful eyes.

tvaṁ tigma-dhārāsi-varāri-sainyam

īśa-prayukto mama chindhi chindhi

cakṣūṁṣi carmañ chata-candra chādaya

dviṣām aghonām hara pāpa-cakṣuṣām

O king of sharp-edged swords, you are engaged by the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Please cut the soldiers of my enemies to pieces. Please cut them to pieces! O shield marked with a hundred brilliant moonlike circles, please cover the eyes of the sinful enemies. Pluck out their sinful eyes.

yan no bhayaṁ grahebhyo 'bhūt

ketubhyo ṛbhya eva ca

sarīṣṛpebhyo daṁṣṭribhyo

bhūtebhyo 'm̐hobhya eva ca

sarvāṅy etāni bhagavan-

nāma-rūpānukīrtanāt

prayāntu saṅkṣayaṁ sadyo

ye naḥ śreyah-pratīpakāḥ

May the glorification of the transcendental name, form, qualities and paraphernalia of the Supreme Personality of Godhead protect us from the influence of bad planets, meteors, envious human beings, serpents, scorpions, and animals like tigers and wolves. May it protect us from ghosts and the material elements like earth, water, fire and air, and may it also protect us from lightning and our past sins. We are always afraid of these hindrances to our auspicious life. Therefore, may they all be completely destroyed by the chanting of the Hare Kṛṣṇa mahā-mantra.

garuḍo bhagavān stotra-

stobhaś chandomayaḥ prabhuḥ

rakṣatv aśeṣa-kṛcchrebhyo

viṣvaksenaḥ sva-nāmabhiḥ

Lord Garuḍa, the carrier of Lord Viṣṇu, is the most worshipable lord, for he is as powerful as the Supreme Lord Himself. He is the personified Vedas and is worshiped by selected verses. May he protect us from all dangerous conditions, and may Lord Viṣvaksena, the Personality of Godhead, also protect us from all dangers by His holy names.

sarvāpadbhyo harer nāma-

rūpa-yānāyudhāni naḥ

buddhīndriya-manaḥ-prāṇān

pāntu pārśada-bhūṣaṇāḥ

May the Supreme Personality of Godhead's holy names, His transcendental forms, His carriers and all the weapons decorating Him as personal associates protect our intelligence, senses, mind and life air from all dangers.

yathā hi bhagavān eva

vastutaḥ sad asac ca yat

satyenānena naḥ sarve

yāntu nāśam upadravāḥ

The subtle and gross cosmic manifestation is material, but nevertheless it is nondifferent from the Supreme Personality of Godhead because He is ultimately the cause of all causes. Cause and effect are factually one because the cause is present in the effect. Therefore the Absolute Truth, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, can destroy all our dangers by any of His potent parts.

yathaikātmyānubhāvānām

vikalpa-rahitaḥ svayam

bhūṣaṇāyudha-liṅgākhyā

dhatte śaktiḥ sva-māyayā

tenaiva satya-mānena

sarva-jñō bhagavān hariḥ

pātu sarvaiḥ svarūpair naḥ

sadā sarvatra sarva-gaḥ

The Supreme Personality of Godhead, the living entities, the material energy, the spiritual energy and the entire creation are all individual substances. In the ultimate analysis, however, together they constitute the supreme one, the Personality of Godhead. Therefore those who are advanced in spiritual knowledge see unity in diversity. For such advanced persons, the Lord's bodily decorations, His name, His fame, His attributes and forms and the weapons in His hand are manifestations of the strength of His potency. According to their elevated spiritual understanding, the omniscient Lord, who manifests various forms, is present everywhere. May He always protect us everywhere from all calamities.

vidikṣu dikṣūrdhvam adhaḥ samantād

antar bahir bhagavān nārasimhaḥ

prahāpayan loka-bhayaṁ svanena

sva-tejasā grasta-samasta-tejāḥ

Prahlāda Mahārāja loudly chanted the holy name of Lord Nṛsimhadeva. May Lord Nṛsimhadeva, roaring for His devotee Prahlāda Mahārāja, protect us from all fear of dangers created by stalwart leaders in all directions through poison, weapons, water, fire, air and so on. May the Lord cover their influence by His own transcendental influence. May Nṛsimhadeva protect us in all directions and in all corners, above, below, within and with