

The Essence of Worship

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In this brief note, the author provides a Sanskrit commentary upon verse 5 of the compendium “Ocean of Divine Bliss,” of works of Paramahansa Hariharananda Giri.

पञ्चमः श्लोकः

Pañchamaha ślokaḥ

Fifth Shloka

यद्यपि हिन्दू-जनाः नानाविध-पूजानि करिष्यन्ति, तथापि तानि पूजानि सर्वानि ब्रह्म-प्रति सन्ति।
Yadyapi hindū-janāḥ nānāvidha-pūjāni kariṣyanti, tathāpi tāni pūjāni sarvāṇi brahm-prati santi.

Although the Hindus worship in many different ways, their prayer is all directed to one God.

ब्रह्मैव एको देवो। नानाविध-पूजानि सर्वानि ब्रह्माराधानाः सन्ति। यथा बहवः नद्याः एकमात्र सिन्धु
मध्ये गमिष्यन्ति। एषाः नद्याः जायन्ति सिन्धुरत् एवं मृयन्ति तत्रापि। सर्वानि पूजानि ब्रह्मोत्पन्न-
नराः करिष्यन्ति एवं ब्रह्मप्रति गच्छन्ति। अतः पूजानि दिव्य-तत्त्वम् सन्ति एवं साधूनाम् संजीवनी
सन्ति।

Brahmaiva eko devo.

Nānāvidha-pūjāni sarvāṇi brahmārādhanaḥ santi.

Yathā bahavaḥ nadyāḥ ekamātra sindhu-madhye gamiṣyanti.

Eṣāḥ nadyaḥ jāyanti sindhurāt, evaṁ mriyanti tatrāpi.

Sarvāṇi pūjāni brahmotpanna-narāḥ kariṣyanti, evaṁ brahmaprati gacchanti.

Ataḥ pūjāni divya-tattvaṁ santi, evaṁ sādḥūnām saṁjīvanī santi.

Brahman alone is the one deity.

All the various forms of worship are, in fact, worship of Brahman.

Just as many rivers flow into the one ocean,

these rivers are born from the ocean and likewise dissolve into it.

All acts of worship are performed by beings born of Brahman, and they proceed toward Brahman. Therefore, acts of worship are of divine essence and are a life-giving elixir for the sadhus.