विष्णुसहस्रनाम — श्लोक १

Viṣṇu Sahasranāma · verse 1 — the first nine names

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Recite the śloka · walk through the words · close with the heart of it.

1 · The śloka — with the reading split

देवनागरी

हरिः ॐ ।

विश्वं विष्णुर्वषट्कारो भूतभव्यभवत्प्रभुः ।

भूतकृद्भूतभृद्भावो भूतात्मा भूतभावनः ॥ १ ॥

हरिः ॐ ।

विश्वम् विष्णुः-वषट्-कारः भूत-भव्य-भवत्-प्रभुः ।

भूत-कृत्-भूत-भृत्-भावः भूत-आत्मा भूत-भावनः ॥ १ ॥

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IAST

hariḥ oṃ |

viśvaṁ viṣṇurvaṣaṭkāro bhūtabhavyabhavatprabhuḥ |

bhūtakṛdbhūtabhṛdbhāvo bhūtātmā bhūtabhāvanaḥ || 1 ||

hariḥ oṃ |

viśvam viṣṇuḥ-vaṣaṭ-kāraḥ bhūta-bhavya-bhavat-prabhuḥ |

bhūta-kṛt-bhūta-bhṛt-bhāvaḥ bhūta-ātmā bhūta-bhāvanaḥ || 1 ||

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ITRANS

hariH oM |

vishvaM viShNurvaShaTkAro bhUtabhavyabhavatprabhuH |

bhUtakRRidbhUtabhRRidbhAvo bhUtAtmA bhUtabhAvanaH || 1 ||

hariH oM |

vishvam viShNuH-vaShaT-kAraH bhUta-bhavya-bhavat-prabhuH |

bhUta-kRRit-bhUta-bhRRit-bhAvaH bhUta-AtmA bhUta-bhAvanaH || 1 ||

§2 §3 §4

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2 · Every word — with its meaning

#	शब्दः	IAST	ITRANS	English
—	हरिः ॐ	hariḥ oṃ	hariH oM	the auspicious opening — “Hari, the sacred syllable Oṃ”
1	विश्वं विश्वम्	viśvaṁ viśvam	vishvaM vishvam	**the universe** — the all; everything there is
2	विष्णुर्वषट्कारो विष्णुः-वषट्-कारः	viṣṇurvaṣaṭkāro viṣṇuḥ-vaṣaṭ-kāraḥ	viShNurvaShaTkAro viShNuH-vaShaT-kAraH	**the all-pervader, the voice of the offering** — विष्णुः: he who pervades everything · वषट्कारः: the call “Vaṣaṭ!” — वषट्: the utterance · कारः: the making

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Viṣṇu Sahasranāma · verse 1 — the first nine names

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#	शब्दः	IAST	ITRANS	English
3	भूतभव्यभवत्प्रभुः भूत-भव्य-भवत्-प्रभुः	bhūtabhavyab havatprabhuḥ bhūta-bhavya- bhavat- prabhuḥ	bhUtabhavyab havatprabhuH bhUta-bhavya- bhavat- prabhuH	**the Lord of all time** — भूत: the past · भव्य: the future · भवत्: the present · प्रभुः: the Lord
4	भूतकृद्भूतभृद्भावो भूत-कृत्-भूत-भृत्-भावः	bhūtakṛdbhūta bhṛdbhāvo bhūta-kṛt- bhūta-bhṛt- bhāvaḥ	bhUtakRRidbh UtabhRRidbhA vo bhUta-kRRit- bhUta-bhRRit- bhAvaH	**the maker, the sustainer, and existence itself** — भूतकृत्: the maker of beings · भूतभृत्: their sustainer · भावः: pure existence

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Viṣṇu Sahasranāma · verse 1 — the first nine names

#	शब्दः	IAST	ITRANS	English
5	भूतात्मा भूत-आत्मा	bhūtātmā bhūta-ātmā	bhUtAtmA bhUta-AtmA	**the Self of all beings** — भूत: the beings · आत्मा: the Self
6	भूतभावनः भूत-भावनः	bhūtabhāvanaḥ bhūta-bhāvanaḥ	bhUtabhAvanaH bhUta-bhAvanaH	**the one who brings all beings forth** — भूत: the beings · भावनः: he who causes to be, and fosters

(In a name-garland verse, every name describes the one Lord — "he is all of these".)

§1 §3 §4

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3 · The heart of the śloka (tātparyam)

These nine names open the whole hymn — and they are already a complete vision of who Viṣṇu is:

- **विश्वम् — the universe.** Not a place he visits: everything there is, is held in him.
- **विष्णुः — the all-pervader.** The name itself says it: he enters into all, and nothing stays outside him.
- **वषट्कारः — the "Vaṣaṭ!" of the offering.** In every sacrifice, at the moment the gift is placed in the fire, the call goes up — and he is that call itself.

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- **भूतभव्यभवत्प्रभुः — the Lord of time.** Past, future and present: three words, one master.
- **भूतकृत् — the maker of all beings.** Every creature that ever came to be, came from him.
- **भूतभृत् — the bearer of all beings.** He does not only make them: he carries them, feeds them, keeps them.
- **भावः — existence itself.** Whatever exists, exists in him; he is the very "is".
- **भूतात्मा — the Self of every being.** The nearest name of all: not far above the world, but within every heart.

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- **भूतभावनः — the one who brings beings forth and grows them.** He causes them to be — and cherishes what he made.

In one line: *the whole universe, all of time, every living being — and their own innermost Self: that is Viṣṇu.*

§1 §2 §4

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◆ 4 · The padaccheda — the complete word list

The badge shows the §2 unit each word belongs to.

#	शब्दः	IAST	ITRANS	English	
—	हरिः ॐ	hariḥ oṃ	hariH oM	the auspicious opening — “Hari, the sacred syllable Oṃ”	
1	विश्वम्	viśvam	vishvam	the universe; the all	1
2	विष्णुः	viṣṇuḥ	viShNuH	the all-pervader	2
3	वषट्	vaṣaṭ	vaShaT	the utterance “Vaṣaṭ!” — the offering-call	
4	कारः	kāraḥ	kAraH	the making	
5	भूत	bhūta	bhUta	the past	3

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#	शब्दः	IAST	ITRANS	English	
6	भव्य	bhavya	bhavya	the future	3
7	भवत्	bhavat	bhavat	the present	
8	प्रभुः	prabhuḥ	prabhuH	the Lord	
9	भूत	bhūta	bhUta	the beings	4
10	कृत्	kṛt	kRRit	the maker	
11	भूत	bhūta	bhUta	the beings	
12	भृत्	bhṛt	bhRRit	the sustainer	
13	भावः	bhāvaḥ	bhAvaH	pure existence	
14	भूत	bhūta	bhUta	the beings	5

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#	शब्दः	IAST	ITRANS	English
15	आत्मा	ātmā	AtmA	the Self
16	भूत	bhūta	bhUta	the beings
17	भावनः	bhāvanaḥ	bhAvanaH	he who causes to be, and fosters

§1 §2 §3

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