

One of the reasons for conducting a recitation competition is to introduce original Saṁskritam texts to children (and their parents). Bhartruhari is a Saṁskritam scholar, who composed vākyapadīya on Saṁskritam grammar and Śatakatrāyam, comprising three collections of 100 verses each. Of these śatakams, Nīti Śatakam is a popular text that deals with moral conduct and we chose this text to provide all of us including our children an opportunity to learn and recite them. During this year's recitation competition, participants in atīśīṣuḡaṇa category (children above 3 years and in KG) will memorize five selected verses. For detailed meaning and commentary, please refer to Raashtriya Samskrita Samsthanam book on this topic.

अथ नीतिशतकम् ।

atha nītiśatakam |

दिक्कालाद्यनविच्छिन्नानन्तचिन्मात्रमूर्तये ।

स्वानुभूत्येकमानाय नमः शान्ताय तेजसे ॥ १ ॥ अनु॥

dikkālādyanavicchinnānantacinmātramūrtaye |
svānubhūtyekamānāya namaḥ śāntāya tejase || 1 || anu. ||

I bow down to the Supreme Lord whose form is infinite and spiritual unrestricted by time and space, who is only measure by subjective perception, who is both peaceful and all powerful.

बोद्धारो मत्सरग्रस्ताः प्रभवः स्मयदूषिताः ।

अबोधोपहताश्चान्ये जीर्णमङ्गे सुभाषितम् ॥ २ ॥ अनु॥

boddhāro matsaragrastāḥ prabhavaḥ smayadūṣitāḥ |
abodhopahatāścānye jīrṇamaṅge subhāṣitam || 2 || anu. ||

The learned are envious the powerful are too proud; while others are just foolish—so my wise sayings have remained yet unspoken.

वरं पर्वतदुर्गेषु भ्रान्तं वनचरैः सह

न मूर्खजनसम्पर्कः सुरेन्द्रभवनेष्वपि ॥ १४ ॥ अनु॥

varam parvatadurgeṣu bhrāntaṃ vanacaraiḥ saha
na mūrkhajanasamparkaḥ surendrabhavaneṣvapi || 14 || anu. ||

*I would rather wander, lost in the mountains and surrounded by wild animals than
have the association of fools in the mansions of heaven.*

स्वायत्तमेकान्तगुणं विधात्रा

विनिर्मितं छादनमज्ञतायाः ।

विशेषतः सर्वविदां समाजे

विभूषणं मौनमपण्डितानाम् ॥ ७ ॥ उप. ॥

svāyattamekāntaguṇaṃ vidhātrā
vinirmitaṃ chādanamajñatāyāḥ |
viśeṣataḥ sarvavidāṃ samāje
vibhūṣaṇaṃ maunamapaṇḍitānām || 7 || upa. ||

*The creator has given a unique quality by which one can hide his ignorance,
especially when in the company of the learned: silence is the ornament of the
uneducated.*

साहित्यसङ्गीतकलाविहीनः

साक्षात्पशुः पुच्छविषाणहीनः ।

तृणं न खादन्नपि जीवमानः

तद्भागधेयं परमं पशूनाम् ॥ १२ ॥ उप. ॥

sāhityasaṅgītakalāvihīnaḥ
sākṣātpaśuḥ pucchaviṣāṇahīnaḥ |
tṛṇaṃ na khādannapi jīvamānaḥ
tadbhāgadheyam paramaṃ paśūnām || 12 || upa. ||

ॐ

जयतु संस्कृतम् ।

संस्कृतभारती

जयतु मनुकुलम् ।

A human being with no culture, without learning in literature, music or the arts, is nothing more than an animal without a tail or horns. Though he may live by eating other things than grass, his destiny is exactly that of the beasts.

इति श्री भर्तृहरेः नीतिशतकोद्धृतश्लोकाः ।

iti śrī bhartṛhareḥ nītiśatakoddhṛtaślokāḥ