

Indu Yenage Shri Govinda
Lyrics By GurusarvaBhouma Guru Raghavendra
English Translation By Hunsur SriPrasad

This is an attempt to provide a quick translation of a classic song by Sri Raghavendra Teertha. Incidentally, there are many variations in the lyrics and there is no one popular version followed by all song books. The one found in most books has been used.

The methodology followed is to list each verse in Kannada and English, followed by the meaning for difficult words, and a simple translation for the entire verse. Aspects which need additional explanation have been suitably annotated.

Verse 1:

ಇಂದು ಎನಗೆ ಶ್ರೀ ಗೋವಿಂದ ನಿನ್ನ ಪಾದಾರ
ವಿಂದವ ತೋರೋ ಮುಕುಂದ ಇಂದಿರೆ ರಮಣ
imdu enage shrI gOvimda ninna pAdAra
vimdava tOrO mukumda imdire ramaNa

Difficult words:

PAdAravimda = Pada (Feet) + aravimda (Lotus) = Lotus feet; imdire = Lakshmi Devi (and not Indra the head of the gods); ramaNa = husband or Lord; mukunda = one of the names of Lord Krishna (see notes).

Simple translation:

O Lord Govinda, Mukunda, Lord of Indira (Lakshmi) please show me your Lotus feet today.

Verse 2:

ಸುಂದರ ವದನನೆ ನಂದಗೋಪನ ಕಂದ
ಮಂದರೋದ್ಧಾರ ಆನಂದ ಇಂದಿರೆ ರಮಣ
sumdara vadanane namdagOpana kamda
mamdarOddhaara aanamda imdire ramaNa

Difficult words:

Vadana = face; namda = Nanda (husband of Yashoda); gopa = cowherd; kamda = child or kid; mamdarOddhara = mamdara (the Mandara mountain) + uth (upwards) + dhaara = holder = one

who held the Mandara mountain up (on His little finger) = Lord Krishna; aanamda = happiness or bliss.

Simple translation:

O one with a beautiful face, the son of the cowherd Nanda, one who is the personification of bliss, the one who lifted the Mandhara mountain Lord of Indira (please show me your Lotus feet today).

Verse 3:

ನೊಂದೆನಯ್ಯ ನಾ ಭವಬಂಧನದೊಳು ಸಿಲುಕಿ
ಮುಂದೆ ದಾರಿ ಕಾಣದೆ ಕುಂದಿದೆ ಜಗದೊಳು
ಕಂದನಂತೆಂದೆನ್ನ ಕುಂದುಗಳೆಣಿಸದೆ
ತಂದೆ ಕಾಯೋ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಕಂದರ್ಪ ಜನಕನೆ
nomdenayya naa bhavabamadhanadoLu siluki
mumde daari kaaNade kumdide jagadoLu
kamdanamtemdenna kumdugaLeNisade
tamde kaayO kRuShNa kamdarpa janakane

Difficult words:

Bhava bamdhana = samsaara bamdhana = worldly bondage; siluki = to be entangled; kumdide = to be crestfallen (to despair); kamdanamtemdenna = kamdantha (as a child) + amdu (consider) + yenna (me) = considering me as your child; kumdugaLeNisade = kumdugaLa (shortcomings or drawbacks) + eNisade (without counting) = not counting my shortcomings and drawbacks.; kamdarpa = manmatha = Cupid; janaka = father; kamdarpapanaka = Lord Vishnu.

Simple translation:

I got entangled in worldly bondage and suffered a lot. I did not see the way ahead (out of the bondage) and despaired in the world. O father of kandarpa (Manmatha or Cupid), Krishna, the Divine Father, please consider me your child and do not count my shortcomings and drawbacks.

Verse 4:

ಮೂಢತನದಿ ಬಲು ಹೇಡಿಜೀವನನಾಗಿ
ದೃಢಭಕುತಿಯನು ಮಾಡಲಿಲ್ಲವೋ ಹರಿಯೇ
ನೋಡಲಿಲ್ಲವೋ ನಿನ್ನ ಪಾಡಲಿಲ್ಲವೋ ಮಹಿಮೆ
ಗಾಡಿಕಾರ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೇಡಿಕೊಂಬೆನೊ ನಿನ್ನ
mUDhatanadi balu hEDijIvananaagi
dRuDhabhakutiyanu maaDalillavO hariyE
nODalillavO ninna paaDalillavO mahime

gaaDikaara kRuShNa bEDikombeno ninna

Difficult words:

mUDhatana = ignorance or foolishness; hEDijIvananaagi = hEDi (coward) + jIva (being) + nanaagi (having become) = led the life of a coward; dRuDha = firm, steady; gaaDikaara = driver (this is a reference to the fact that Lord Krishna drove Arjuna's chariot during the Kurukshetra war).

Simple translation:

O Hari, out of sheer ignorance, I led the life of a coward and did not show deep, strong devotion (in you). I did not see you. I did not sing your glory. O, charioteer Krishna, I beseech you.

Verse 5:

ಧಾರಣಿಯೊಳು ಭೂಭಾರ ಜೀವನನಾಗಿ
ದಾರಿ ತಪ್ಪಿ ನಡೆದೆ ಸೇರಿದೆ ಕುಜನರ
ಆರು ಕಾಯುವವರಿಲ್ಲ ಸೇರಿದೆ ನಿನಗಯ್ಯ
ಧೀರ ವೇಣುಗೋಪಾಲ ಪಾರುಗಾಣಿಸೊ ಎನ್ನ
dhaaruNiyolu bhUbhaara jIvananaagi
daari tappi naDede sEride kujanara
aaru kaayuvavarilla sEride ninagayya
dhIra vENugOpAla paarugaaNiso enna

Difficult words:

DhaaruNiyolu = dharaNiyolu = on the world; this usually means "during my lifetime on Earth).; BhUbhaara = bhU (earth) + bhaara (weight or burden) = mere burden on earth; jIvananaagi = jIva (being)+ naanaagi (becoming); kujana = wicked or vile people; aaru = yaaru = who; kaayuvavarilla = kayuvavaru (somebody to protect or take care) + illa (not there)

Simple translation:

During my lifetime, I was a mere burden on the world. I lost my way and reached wicked people. There is nobody to protect me. It all depends on you. O, brave Venugopal, please help me cross (the ocean of samsara).