

HAIDAKHAN BHAJANS

Haidakhan Bhajans is a collection of devotional songs, sung at Haidakhan Vishwa Mahadham, Sri Babaji's main ashram and place of reappearance in 1970. The collection consists of Kirtans and Bhajans. *Kirtans* are devotional songs containing the name, or aspect of the deity worshipped: Lord Shiva, the Divine Mother Amba, Hari-Lord Vishnu, Hanuman, etc. These are to be repeated as many times as one wants to. *Bhajans* are religious hymns, telling a brief story. The Lord is given praise in all His glory, in His many forms and manifestations. The underlying theme is one of joy, gratitude and love.

The supreme Guru, honored here, is Bhagwan Haidakhan as Shiva, manifest creator and destroyer of the universe, who is also invoked by 108 names, given at the end of this collection. The repetition of these names, or mantras, has been described by Shri Babaji as *tarak mantra* -- supreme mantra, to be recited daily.

The *pahari songs* have been included because they have become an integral part of the kirtan singing at Haidakhan. All songs, apart from well-known devotional songs like the "Sri Hanuman Chalisa," have been composed, both words and music, by devotees of Baba Haidakhan.

Shri Babaji has commented on kirtan singing, saying: "Kirtan should come to you naturally, through your soul... You should sing devotional music in a way, that stirs the heart, in harmony and with a slow rhythm. Whenever you make music, singing or playing, it should leave a memory on the mind."

The mantra OM NAMA SHIVAYA is the main mantra used in the chanting, and Shri Babaji has enjoined his devotees to : "Always repeat God's name. Whatever you do, wherever you are, repeat the name of the Lord... OM NAMA SHIVAYA is the original mantra. It is like nectar, feed everyone with this nectar... When Mahashakti, the Primordial Energy, first manifested, the words she uttered was the mantra OM NAMA SHIVAYA." Repeating, or chanting this mantra will lead to total union with God. This is Babaji's promise.

JAI MAHA MAYA KI JAI!!!

-- Haidakhandi Samaj, Preface to the Haidakhan Bhajans Book