

॥ नटराज स्तोत्र ॥

charaNashR^iN^garahita naTaraajastotram.h¹

This hymn is by Sage Patanjali, the author and compiler of the famous

yogasuutra. Once upon a time, as the story of the origin of the hymn goes, Nandi,

Shiva's carrier would not allow Patanjali Muni to have

Darshan of the Lord Shiva (Nataraja of Chidambaram). In order to reach Lord

Shiva, Patanjali, with his mastery over grammatical forms,

spontaneously composed this prayer in praise of the

Lord without using any extended ('diirgham') syllable,

(without 'charaNa' and 'shR^iN^ga' i.e. leg and horn) to tease Nandi.

Shiva was quickly pleased, gave Darshan to the devotee, and danced to lilting tune of this song. The place where this incidence is said to have happened is

Chidambaram (also known as Thillai), located about a hundred miles

from Madras, Tamilnadu, India. It is considered to be one of the holiest places in India. In this temple, which has a gold covered roof,

Lord Nataraja is present in a cosmic-dancing form. Many books have been written on the greatness of the temple and its deity and can also be inferred

from various hymns composed in praise of the Lord by the Shaiva Siddhanta Saints.²

¹ Send corrections to P. P. Narayanaswami at swami@math.mun.ca

² Please refer to

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/2583>

The translation of the hymn is based on Smt. Usha Bhise's and is taken from the book

'caranasrngarahitam natarajastotram.' This book also contains a Sanskrit

commentary on this stotra by Chandrakala. The book was published by Bharati

Samskrta Vidya Niketanam in 1992.

.. অথ চরণশৃঙ্গরহিত নটরাজস্তোত্রম্..

सदङ्कित मुदङ्कित निकुङ्कित पदं बालबालङ्कलित मङ्गु कटकम्
पतङ्गलि दृगङ्गन मनङ्गन मचङ्गलपदं जनन भङ्गन करम् ।
कदम्बरुचिमम्बरुबसं परमम्बुद कदम्ब कबिडम्बक कगलम्
चिदम्बुधि मणिं बुध हृदम्बुज रविं पर चिदम्बर नटं हृदि भज ॥ १॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer Shiva, residing in the holy place, Chidambaram. He is called Hara (the destroyer) who smashed the three (of demon tripura). He is worshipped by good people. While dancing he has

lifted one foot which is bent. His lovely bracelets are set in motion of

dance movements and hence are making a jingling sound. He is like ointment to the eyes of Patanjali by whose application the vision gets

clear for receiving knowledge. However, he is free from contamination of

any kind. He destroys the cycle of birth (and death). He possesses the

loveliness of Kadamba tree; wears the sky as garment . His throat is dark like the multitude of rainy clouds. He is the jewel in the ocean of

for more information and detailed description of Shaiva Siddhanta.

consciousness. He is the the Sun blossoming the lotus- heart
of wise persons.

হরং ত্রিপুর ভঞ্জনং অনন্তকৃতকঙ্কণং অখণ্ডমন্ত্রমুদিতং
বিরিঞ্চিসুরসংহতিপুরন্ধর বিচিন্তিতপদং তরুণচন্দ্রমকুটম্ ।
পরং পদ বিখণ্ডিতযমং ভসিত মণ্ডিততনুং মদনবঞ্চন পরং
চিরন্তনমমুং প্রণবসঞ্চিতনিধিঃ পর চিদম্বর নটং হৃদি ভজ ॥ ২॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer, Shiva, residing in the holy
place, Chidambaram. He is the destroyer of the world, who de-
stroys sin and

grants emancipation. He has destroyed the three cities of de-
mon tripura,

representing the three types of sorrows. He is wearing the great ser-
pent,

ananta, like a bracelet. He is incessantly showering compas-
sion and is

endless. "God Brahma, Indra and the other devatas meditate upon his feet
The crescent moon adorns his crown."

The great one has crushed yama by his feet. His body is deco-
rated with ash.

He is inclined to brush aside cupid. His preciousness is satu-
rated in

the syllable - AUM.

অবন্তমখিলং জগদভঙ্গ গুণতুঙ্গমমতং ধৃতবিধুং সুরসরিৎ-
তরঙ্গ নিকুরমব ধৃতি লমপট জটং শমনদন্তসুহরং ভবহরম্ ।
শিবং দর্শদিগন্তুর বিজ্জ্বলিতকরং করলসন্মুগশিশুং পশুপতিং
হরং শশিধনঞ্জয়পতঙ্গনয়নং পরচিদম্বর নটং হৃদি ভজ ॥ ৩॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer, Lord Shiva, residing in the holy
place, Chidambaram, who protects all the world. His lofty place is due

to the indestructible good qualities. It is difficult to grasp his nature.

He has held crescent moon in his forehead. His matted hair is covetous

of holding the multitude of waves of the divine river, Ganga. He has dispelled

the vanity of Yama and is capable of delivering men from the pangs of worldly life. The Lord of creatures, the auspicious God, in whose hand a young deer is dancing, has spread his hands in all ten quarters.

The great destroyer has moon, fire and sun as his eyes.

অনন্তনবরত্নবিলসত্ৰকটকিঙ্কিণিবালং ঝলঝলং ঝলঝলং
মুকুন্দবিধি হস্তগতমদল লযধবনিধিমিদ্ধিমিত নরতন পদম্ ।
শকুনুরথ বরিহরথ নন্দিমুখ শৃঙ্গিরিটিভৃঙ্গিগণসঙ্ঘনিকটম্
সনন্দসনক প্রমুখ বন্দিত পদং পরচিদম্বর নটং হৃদি ভজ ॥ ৪॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer, Shiva residing in the holy place, Chidambaram. The tiny bells attached to his bracelets which are shining

with innumerable gems of nine kinds are making a sweet jingling sound.

The dancing movements of his feet are accompanied by the drum in the hands of Mukunda (vishnu) and vidhi (brahma). He is closely surrounded

by Vishnu, riding a chariot to which a bird (Garuda) is yoked, by kartikeya,

riding a charior to which a peacock is yoked, by a troupe of Ganas

consisting of Srngi, Riti, Bhrngi etc headed by Nandi. Prominent sages

like Sananda and Sanaka are saluting his feet.

অনন্তমহসং ত্রিংশবন্দ্য চরণং মুনি হৃদন্তর বসন্তমমলম্
কবন্ধ বিয়দিন্দববনি গন্ধবহ বহিনমখ বন্ধুরবিমঞ্জু বপুষম্ ।
অনন্তবিভবং ত্রিজগন্তর মণিং ত্রিনয়নং ত্রিপুর খণ্ডন পরম্
সনন্দ মুনি বন্দিত পদং সক্রুণং পর চিদম্বর নটং হৃদি ভজ ॥ ৫॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer, Lord Shiva, residing in the holy place called Chidambaram. His lustre is beginningless and endless. His feet

are revered by the gods. The pure one who is free from all blemishes

resides in the interior of sages hearts. He wields a lovely body made up of the following components - water, sky, moon, earth, wind, fire, sacrificer (atman) and Sun. His riches are infinite; he is the jewel of the three worlds having three eyes, he is incline to smash the three cities of Tripura. The god who takes pity (on the distressed) is saluted by Sage Sananda.

অচিন্ত্যমলিষন্দ রুচি বন্ধুরগলং কুরিত কুন্দ নিকুরম্ব ধবলম্
মুকুন্দ সুর বন্দ বল হন্ত কৃত বন্দন লসন্তমহিকুণ্ডল ধরম্ ।
অকম্পমনুকম্পিত রতিং সুজন মঙ্গলনিধিঃ গজহরং পশুপতিম্
ধনঞ্জয় নুতং প্রণত রঞ্জনপরং পর চিদম্বর নটং হৃদি ভজ ॥ ৬॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer, Shiva, residing in the holy place, Chidambaram. He is not capable of being understood by the faculty of thinking.

His dark colored throat is attractive with its resemblance to the colour of a multitude of bees. His complexion is white like a bunch of blooming

Kunda flowers. He wears a glittering appearance when saluted by Vishnu, gods, and Indra, the killer of balasyre. His ear ornament consists of

serpent. He is free from fear and hence unmoved. However, he took pity on Rati. He is a reservoir of all auspicious things for good persons.

The destroyer of Gajasure is the Lord of creatures, praised by Arjuna.

He is inclined to be delightful to persons who bow down to Him.

পরং সুরবরং পুরহরং পশুপতিং জনিত দন্তিমুখ ষণ্মুখমমুং
মৃডং কনক পিঙ্গল জটং সনকপঙ্কজ রবিং সুমনসং হিমরুচিৎ ।
অসঙ্ঘমনসং জলধি জন্মকরলং কবলযন্ত মতুলং গুণনিধিৎ
সনন্দ বরদং শমিতমিন্দু বদনং পর চিদম্বর নটং হৃদি ভজ ॥ ৭॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer Shiva residing in the holy place Chidambaram. He is the best among gods, destroyer of the th cities for the benefit of the world. That Lord of creatures has given birth to elephant-headed Ganesha for warding off obstacles and to six-faced Kartikeya for leading divine army. The benevolent god has hair that is brownish like gold. He is like Sun who causes the bloom-
ing

of the lotus in the form of sage Sanaka. Having a mind kind to all, he weilds the lustre of snow. His mind is not attached to anything, even to Parvati. He has swallowed poison arising out of ocean in order to save

the world from its adverse effects. He is a store-house of quailities, not comparable to anyone else. He has given boons to sage, Sananda. Having a face which is delightful like the moon, he has at-
tained

the blissful state.

অজং ক্ষিতিরথং ভুজগপুঙ্কবগুণং কনক শৃঙ্গি ধনুষং করলসং
কুরঙ্গ পৃথ টঙ্ক পরশুং রুচির কুঙ্কুম রুচিং ডমরুকং চ দধতমং ।
মুকুন্দ বিশিখং নমদবন্ধ ফলদং নিগম বৃন্দ তুরগং নিরুপমং

सचञ्चिकममूः ऱाटिडि संहृतपुरं परडिदमवर नटं हृदि डड ॥ ॡ॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer, Lord Shiva, who resides in the holy place, Chidambaram, and He is without birth. The earth itself

is his chariot. The great serpent, Vasuki is his bowstring.

The golden peaked Meru is His bow. In His hands shines a deer, a big sword and an aze. He weilds a damaru (drum) which has the color of lovely kumkuma. Mukunda himself is his arrow. He effectively grants the desire to those who salute him. The multitude of Vedic texts are his horses (or mind). The incomparable God accompanied by Chandika quickly destroyed the cities of demon tripura.

अनङ्गपरिपनिथनमङ्गः श्चिडि धुरङ्गरमलं करुणयन्तुमथिलं
डडलन्तुमनलं दधतमन्तुकरिपुः सततमिन्द्रमुखरन्दिडतडदम् ।
डदङ्गदरबिन्दकुल वङ्कुशत विमवरुडि संहृति सुगङ्गि वपुषः
डतङ्गलिनुतः ड्रणवपङ्गर शुङ्कं डर डिदमवर नटं हृदि डड ॥ ॡ॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer, Lord Shiva, who resides in the holy place, Chidambaram. Birthless, he is an enemy of Cupid. He bears the burden of the earth, He is intensely compassionate to all. The killer of demon Andhaka is capable of holding burning fire. Gods headed by Indra are constantly falling at His feet. He is having a body which has got the lustre of a group of hundred rising suns and is fragrant.

He is praised by Patanjali and is like a parrot in the cage of the syllable

Omkara.

इति श्चरममूः डुङ्गडुङ्गडुङ्ग कृतं डुरतिदिनं डरुठति डः कृतमुखः
सदः डुरडुडद दिवतडदरशनडदं सुललितं डरण शृङ्ग ररहितम् ।
सरः डुरडडर सङ्ग हरिङ्गडति हरिडुरमुख दिवडनुत शङ्करडदं
स गङ्गुति डरं न तु डनुडरङ्गलनिधिः डरमदुःखङ्गनकं दुरितदम् ॥ ॡ०॥

Here ends the praise song composed by Patanjali who is an incarnation of

the great serpent Shesha. One who learns it by heart and recites it will

find a seat in the assembly of Gods. The praise song is charming. The

words in it lead to the perception of the the Lord's pair of feet.

It flows on, being beginningless and endless (composed of the meter

charaNashri.ngarahita). It contains the description of Shankara praised by the divine beings headed by Brahmadeva, Lords of the Quarters and Vishnu.

One who recites this hymn, quickly reaches the highest goal and does not fall into the ocean of worldly existence which causes great sorrow and sinfulness.

॥ इति श्रीपतञ्जलिमुनिप्रणीतं चरणशृङ्गरहितं नटराजस्तोत्रं संपूर्णम् ॥
