

॥ शिव पञ्चाक्षर स्तोत्र ॥

shiva panchAkshara stotra by ShankarAchArya

by Anand Hudli¹

The term Shiva means “auspicious.” The God Shiva is all-auspiciousness. The mantra namaH ShivAya, used to offer salutations to Shiva, is an effective prayer to propitiate Shiva. This mantra appears in many places in Vedic and Puranic literature.

For example, the famous shrI Rudram hymn from the Yajur Veda, commonly employed to perform the worship of the Shiva linga, says: नमः शिवाय ङ .

The dAridrya dahana stotra of VasishhTha says:

दारिद्र्यादुहख-दहनाय नमः शिवाय .

Salutations to Shiva who burns up the grief caused by poverty! Here poverty does not necessarily mean material poverty; it also means spiritual poverty.

This pa.nchAkshara (five syllabled) mantra namaH ShivAya is sometimes called the mUla mantra or basic mantra of Shiva. Each of the five syllables, na, ma, shi, vA, and ya, is held to be so sacred that it represents Shiva even by itself.

The following is the ShivapanchAkshara stotra composed by Adi SankarAchArya. One may worship the Shiva linga by

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reciting this stotra and offering bilva leaves.

শিবপঞ্চাম্বরস্তোত্র

নাগেন্দ্রহারায ত্রিলোচনায ভস্মাঙ্গরাগায মহেশ্বরায় ।

নিত্যায় শুদ্ধায় দিগম্বরায় তস্মৈ নকরায় নমঃ শিবায ॥ ১॥

Salutations to Shiva, who wears the King of snakes as a garland, the Three-eyed God, whose body is smeared with ashes, the great Lord, the eternal and pure One, who wears the directions as His garment, and who is represented by the “na” kAra (term).

মন্দাকিনি-সলিলচন্দন-চরিচতায়

নন্দীশ্বর-প্রমথনাথ- মহেশ্বরায় ।

মন্দারপুষ্প-বহুপুষ্প-সুপুজিতায়

তস্মৈ মকরায় নমঃ শিবায ॥ ২॥

I bow to Shiva, who has been worshipped with water from the gangA (mandAkini) and annointed with sandalwood paste, the Lord of nandI, the Lord of the host of goblins and ghosts, the great Lord, who is worshiped with mandAra and many other kinds of flowers, and who is represented by the syllable “ma.”

শিবায গোঁরীবদনাঙ্জ-বৃন্দ-

সুর্যায় দক্ষাধবরনাশকায় ।

শ্রীনীলকণ্ঠায় বৃষধবজায়

তস্মৈ শিকরায় নমঃ শিবায ॥ ৩॥

Salutations to Shiva, who is all-auspiciousness, Who is the

sun that causes the lotus face of GaurI (PARvatI) to blossom,

Who is the destroyer of the Yajna of daksha, whose throat is blue (nIlakaNTha), whose flag bears the emblem of the bull, and who is represented by the syllable “shi.”

বসিষ্ঠ-কুঞ্জেন্দ্র-গোতমারমুনীন্দ্র-দেবারিচতশেখরায় ।

চন্দ্রারক-বৈশ্বানরলোচনায় তস্মৈ বকারায় নমঃ শিবায ॥ ৪॥

VasishhTha, agastya, Gautama, and other venerable sages, and Indra and other Gods have worshipped the head of (Shiva’s linga). I bow to that Shiva whose three eyes are the moon, sun and fire, and who is represented by the syllable “va.”

যক্ষস্বরূপায় জটাধরায় পিনাকহস্তায় সনাতনায় ।

দিব্যায় দেবায় দিগম্বরায় তস্মৈ যকারায় নমঃ শিবায ॥ ৫॥

Salutations to Shiva, who bears the form of a Yaksha, who has matted hair on His head, Who bears the pinAka bow in His hand, the Primeval Lord, the brilliant God, who is digambara (naked), and who is represented by the syllable “ya.”

পঞ্চাক্ষরমিদং পুণ্যং যঃ পঠেচ্ছিবসন্নিধৌ ।

শিবলোকমবাপ্নোতি শিবেন সহ মোদতে ॥

Anyone who recites this sacred five-syllabled mantra, (namaH shivAya) near the Shiva (linga), attains the abode of Shiva and rejoices there with Shiva.

.. ইতি শ্রীমচ্ছংকরাচার্যবিরচিত শিবপঞ্চাক্ষর স্তোত্রং সমাপ্তং..