

दुर्गास्तोत्रं श्रीशिवकृतम्


shrIshivakRita durgAstotram


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रक्ष रक्ष मडादेवि दुर्गे दुर्गतिनाशिनि ।  
मां भक्तमनुरक्तं य शत्रुग्रस्तं कृपामधि ॥ १ ॥

विष्णुमाये मडाभागे नारायणि सनातनि ।  
ब्रह्मस्वरूपे परमे नित्यानन्दस्वरूपिणी ॥ २ ॥

त्वं य ब्रह्मादित्देवानामम्बिके जगदम्बिके ।  
त्वं साकारे य गुणतो निराकारे य निर्गुणात् ॥ ३ ॥

मायया पुरुषस्त्वं य मायया प्रकृतिः स्वयम् ।  
तयोः परं ब्रह्म परं त्वं बिभर्षि सनातनि ॥ ४ ॥

वेदानां जननी त्वं य सावित्री य परात्परा ।  
वैकुण्ठे य मडालक्ष्मीः सर्वसम्पत्स्वरूपिणी ॥ ५ ॥

मर्त्यलक्ष्मीश्च क्षीरोद्रे कामिनी शेषशायिनः ।  
स्वर्गेषु स्वर्गलक्ष्मीस्त्वं राजलक्ष्मीश्च भूतले ॥ ६ ॥

नागादिलक्ष्मीः पाताले गृहेषु गृहदेवता ।  
सर्वसस्यस्वरूपा त्वं सर्वैश्वर्यविधायिनी ॥ ७ ॥

रागाधिष्ठातृदेवी त्वं ब्रह्मराज्ञश्च सरस्वती ।  
प्राणानामधिदेवी त्वं कृष्णस्य परमात्मनः ॥ ८ ॥

गोलोके य स्वयं राधा श्रीकृष्णस्यैव वक्षसि ।  
गोलोकाधिष्ठाता देवी वृन्दावनवने वने ॥ ९ ॥

श्रीरासमण्डले रम्या वृन्दावनविनोदिनी ।  
शतशृङ्गाधिदेवी त्वं नाम्ना चित्रावलीति य ॥ १० ॥

दक्षकन्या कुत्र कल्पे कुत्रकल्पे य शैलजा ।  
देवमाता दितिस्त्वं य सर्वाधारा वसुन्धरा ॥ ११ ॥

त्वमेव गङ्गा तुलसी त्वं य स्वाहा स्वधा सती ।  
 त्वदंशांशांशकलया सर्वदेवादियोषितः ॥ १२ ॥  
 स्त्रीरूपं यापि पुरुषं देवि त्वं य नपुंसकम् ।  
 वृक्षाणां वृक्षरूपा त्वं सृष्टौ याङ्कुररूपिणी ॥ १३ ॥  
 वल्लौ य दालिका शक्तिर्जले शैत्यस्वरूपिणी ।  
 सूर्ये तेजस्वरूपा य प्रभावरूपा य सन्ततम् ॥ १४ ॥  
 गन्धरूपा य भूमौ य आकाशे शब्दरूपिणी ।  
 शोभास्वरूपा यन्त्रे य पद्मसङ्घे य निश्चितम् ॥ १५ ॥  
 सृष्टौ सृष्टिस्वरूपा य पालने परिपालिका ।  
 मलामारी य संडारे जले य जलरूपिणी ॥ १६ ॥  
 क्षुत् त्वं दया त्वं निद्रा त्वं तृष्णा त्वं बुद्धिरूपिणी ।  
 तुष्टिस्त्वं यपि पुष्टिस्त्वं श्रद्धा त्वं य क्षमा स्वयम् ॥ १७ ॥  
 शान्तिस्त्वं य स्वयं भ्रान्तिः कान्तिस्त्वं कीर्तिरेव य ।  
 लज्जा त्वं य तथा माया भुक्तिमुक्तिस्वरूपिणी ॥ १८ ॥  
 सर्वशक्तिस्वरूपा त्वं सर्वसम्पत्प्रदायिनी ।  
 वेदेऽनिर्वचनीया त्वं त्वां न जानाति कश्चन ॥ १९ ॥  
 सलस्रवङ्गस्त्वां स्तोतुं न शक्तः सुरेश्वरि ।  
 वेदाः न शक्ताः को विद्वान् न य शक्ता सरस्वती ॥ २० ॥  
 स्वयं विधाता शक्तो न न य विष्णुः सनातनः ।  
 किं स्तौमि पञ्चवङ्ग्रेण रणत्रस्तो मलेश्वरि ।  
 कृपां कुरु मलामाये मम शत्रुक्षयं कुरु ॥ २१ ॥  
 ॥ इति दुर्गास्तोत्रं सम्पूर्णम् ॥

COMMENTS -

Some comments about Durga are provided here.

The following abbreviations are used in the comments that follow.

LS - Lalitha Sahasranamam.

BG - Sri Bhagavat Gita

DK - Durga Chandrakala stuti by Sri Appayya Dikshita

DS - Durga Saptasati

The literal meaning of the word 'Durga' is unapproachable, unattainable, impossible to enter, un-understandable, and so on. It also implies, dense and narrow forest; the passage to cross the river; fort; obstacle; and the like. When these meanings are worked out, the term 'Durga' is taken to mean quintessentially the one who, like a fortress, protects men of virtue and dispels the darkness of ignorance of her devotees. Durga is known by numerous names. The Sanskrit lexicon Amarakosa gives these names.

उमा कात्यायनी गौरी काली उमवतीश्वरी ।  
 शिवा भवानी रुद्राणी शर्वाणी सर्वमङ्गला ।  
 अपर्णा पार्वती दुर्गा मृडानी यष्टिकाम्बिका ।  
 आर्या दक्षायणी यैव गिरिजा मेनकात्मजा ।  
 सती च कालरात्री च भैरवी गणनायिका ॥

In addition, we have (नामावलि) strings of Her names, both short and long. All are suitable for recitation and confer numerous benefits.

One of the names given above requires our special attention - that is (शिवा) Shiva (long). The scriptures say that Devi's is another form of the Lord or Supreme Being. The following verses from Sri Rudram say that clearly.

या ते रुद्र शिवा तनूद्घोरापापकाशिनी ।  
 तथा नस्तनुवा शन्तमया गिरिशन्ताभियाकशीलि ॥

One of the forms of the Lord is that of Shiva with which we are familiar - the one with matted locks, bearing weapons etc. The other form is described here. It is very auspicious, has no weapons in hand and so does not cause any fear in the minds of the devotees, confers both worldly pleasures and also liberation. अघोरा = does not cause fear in the minds of devotees as It does not bear weapons. अपापकाशिनी = confers bliss or moksha by blessing the devotee with spiritual wisdom (ज्ञानम् ।). गिरिशन्त = One who being the purport of the vedas blesses all with all that will give happiness. Again we see later on

in the hymn:-

या ते रुद्र शिवा तनूः शिवा विश्वाऽभेषञ्च ।

शिवा रुद्रस्य भेषञ्च तथा नो मृड ज्वसे ॥

This says - Oh Lord Rudra! By that form of Yours which is peaceful and auspicious, since it is a panacea for human ills like sickness poverty etc., for all days, more auspicious since by the grant of knowledge and illumination, it utterly uproots ignorance and the entire misery of samsara, by that gracious form of Yours make us lead a full and happy life. Here the word विश्वाऽभेषञ्च means the form is auspicious because it cures, like a potent medicine, all sickness, poverty etc. The other aspect of the form is रुद्रस्य भेषञ्च - it confers spiritual wisdom or jnanam which is the only cure for the misery of cyclic birth and death or samsara. Sri Krishna says that to those devotees who worship Him with love, He gives that devotion of right knowledge (buddhi yoga) by which they reach Him. Out of compassion for them, He abides in their self and destroys the darkness born of ignorance by blessing them with right knowledge. BG(10-10,11)

तेषां सतत-युक्तानां भजतां प्रीति-पूर्वकम् ।

ददामि बुद्धियोगं तं येन मामुपयन्ति ते ॥ (१०)

तेषामेवानुक्तमर्थं अहमज्ञानजं तमः ।

नाशयाम्यात्म-भावस्थो ज्ञान-दीपेन भास्वत ॥ (११)

Accordingly, one who worships Durga with devotion is blessed with right knowledge or jnanam by which one attains liberation.

We saw in the beginning that Uma is one of the names of Durga. The name Uma is made of the same three letters A,U and M that make up the OM the holy syllable Pranavam, but in a different order. Thus Uma (or Durga) represents the Supreme brahman represented by Pranavam. The Kena Upanishad (Part 3) mentions Uma (the daughter of Himavan) to be the personification of Supreme Knowledge (Brahma VIdya). She appeared before the devas and their chief Indra and taught Indra the Supreme Knowledge.

स तस्मिन्नेवाकाशे स्त्रियमाजगाम अडुशोभमानामुमां उैमवतीम् ...

Thus, one should pray to Durga not only for freedom from domestic worries but also for freedom from samsara. Especially, one should pray to Her when in dire straits. The following verses says this.

कान्तार-मध्य-दृढवज्रतया-ऽवसत्रा  
मग्राश्च वारिधि-जले रिपुभिष्य रुद्राः ।  
यस्याः प्रपद्य चरणौ विपदस्तरन्ति  
सा मे सदा-ऽस्तु हृदि सर्व-जगत्सवित्री ॥ DK(12).

The above verse says that those who have lost their way in the thick forests and so are distressed, those who are caught in the deep seas and are struggling to get out, those who are troubled by enemies get their problems removed by surrendering to the feet of Durga. She should reside in my mind all the time.

अन्धे वधे मडति मृत्युभये प्रसज्ते  
वित्तक्षये च विविधे च मलोपतापे ।  
यत्पाद-पूजनमिह प्रतिकारमाहु-  
स्सा मे समस्त-जननी शरणं भवानी ॥ DK(13).

This verse says that great men have said that worshipping Goddess Durga will bring relief from all kinds of fears, such as, that of imprisonment, death, being killed, looss of wealth, thieves, snakes, other wild animals etc. I surrender to such Durga, the mother of all. Durga is one of the popular deities in the Hindu pantheon like Ganesha. She is worshipped regularly and especially on Fridays and certain special occasions. She is worshipped in the first three days of the Navaratri festival. She is sought by people who are afflicted by problems in the family or work place or beset by the adverse effects of malefic planetary aspects. She had been worshipped by people to get their wishes fulfilled. The Durgasaptasati states this clearly .

दुर्गे स्मृता हरसि भीतिमशेषजन्तोः  
स्वस्थैः स्मृता मतिमतीव शुभं ददासि ।

दारिद्य्यदुःखमयडारिणि का त्वदन्या  
सर्वोपकारकरणाय सदाऽऽर्द्रचित्ता ॥

The Durga Suktam also says this  
तामग्निवर्णां तपसा ज्वलन्तीं वैरोयनीं कर्मकृतेषुजुष्टाम् ।  
दुर्गां देवीं शरणमलं प्रपद्ये सुतरसि तरसे नमः ।

The mantra says that I surrender to Durga Devi who is glorious since She is well known in the scriptures. She is shining like fire, burns up Her enemies by Her radiance, is self-effulgent, is worshipped by those who seek fulfilment of the rites performed by them and Who is capable of helping people to get across the cyclic birth.

We see in Mahabharata that Yudhishtira was advised by sages to pray to Durga for the successful completion of the absence from the kingdom for fourteen years without being recognised, (ie) incognito and later on to gain victory in the ensuing KurukShetra war. He praised Durga with Durga NakShatramalika Stuti consisting of 27 verses that was taught to him by the sages. Pleased with the Stuti recited by Yudhishtira with great devotion Durga Devi appeared before him and blessed him with success in his endeavours and the war he will be waging against the Kauravas. Mahabharata also says that Arjuna - on being advised by Sri Krishna-prayed to Durga before the start of the war for success.

Srimad Bhagavatam mentions (BH-10-22-4) that the maidens of Gokula desirous of having Sri Krishna for their husband worshipped Her. They observed a month long ritual, woke up early in the morning, took bath in the Yamuna river and had only frugal meals consisting of oblations

उभन्ते प्रथमे मासि नन्दप्रज-कुमारिकाः ।  
येरु-र्द्धविष्यं भुञ्जानाः कात्यायन्यर्चन-व्रतम् ॥

आप्लुत्याभमसि कालिन्धा जलान्ते थोदितेऽरुणे ।  
कृत्वा प्रतिकृतिं देवीमानर्थुर्नृप सैकतीम् ॥

गन्धै-माल्यैः सुरभिमि-र्वलिभि-र्धूपदीपकैः ।  
उभ्यावयैश्चोपहारैः प्रवालकृलताण्डुलैः ॥



They chanted the following prayer.

कान्यायनि मडामाये मडयोगिन्यधीश्वरि ।  
नन्दगोपसुतं देवि पतिं मे कुरु ते नमः ॥

It is said that Shri Krishna came and accepted them. This shows that one who prays to Durga with devotion will get their wishes fulfilled without any delay. The following verse emphasises this and points out that many sages had to practise severe austerities like fasting to get a brief vision of the Lord. But the gopis got to see Him after worshipping Durga for just one month. This again proves that worshipping Durga gives quick results.

यद्दधानञ्च सुभमवाप्यमनन्तपुण्यैः  
साक्षात्तमय्युतपरिग्रहमाश्रावापुः ।  
गोपाङ्गनाः किल यदर्थनपुण्यमात्रा-  
त्सा मे सदा भगवती भवतु प्रसन्ना ॥ DK(16).

Similarly, Srimad Bhagavatam says (BH-10-44, 45, 46, 47) in the story of Sri Rukmini's marriage that she prayed to Devi to get Sri Krishna as husband.

आसाद्य देवीसदनं धौतपादकराम्बुजा ।  
उपस्पृश्य शुचिः शान्ता प्रविवेशाम्बिकान्तिकम् ॥

तां वै प्रवयसो भालां विधिज्ञा विप्रयोषितः ।  
भवानीं वन्दयाञ्चकुः भवपत्नीं भवान्विताम् ॥

नमस्ते त्वाम्बिकेऽभीक्ष्णं स्वसन्तानयुतां शिवाम् ।  
भूयात् पतिर्मे भगवान् कृष्णस्तदनुभोदताम् ॥

अद्भिर्गान्धाक्षतैर्धूपैर्वासःस्रज्ज्वाल्यभूषणैः ।  
नानोपहारबलिभिः प्रदीपावलिभिः पुथक् ॥

The verses in the Stotra show that Durga is indeed the Supreme Being (Brahma), Its power of Maya also. She alone appears as Sarasvati, Laxmi and Parvati. Thus, by worshipping Durga one may get all the benefits of worshipping the three devis. We may see the names of all the three Devis in the Lalitha Sahasranama and in their namavalis also. So it is

clear that the names may be different, but the power behind the names is one and the same.

The verses also reveal the fact that Durga is every object in the creation and as the result any power or glory we notice in everything in the creation really a reflection of Durga's glory only. This recalls to what Sri Krishna said in the Gita.(CH 10-41).

यद्यद्विभूतिमत् सत्त्वं श्रीम-दूर्जितमेव वा ।  
तत्तदेवावगच्छ त्वं तेजोऽश-सम्भवम् ॥

Thus the verse 14 says that Durga is the heat in the fire, chillness in the water, brightness in the sun . This is an echo of what Krishna said in BG(7-8).

रसोऽढमप्यु कौन्तेय प्रभास्मि शशि-सूर्ययोः ।  
प्रणवः सर्ववेदेषु शब्दः षो षौरुषं नृषु ॥

We may find many similar statements in the verses that may be found in the Bhagavad Gita and upanishads. The conclusion to be drawn is that what is called here by the name Durga is none other than the Supreme Being or Brahman. One may choose to worship It by any name or form and get one's desires fulfilled. The Lord said this in Gita. (7-21).

यो यो यां यां तनुं भक्तः श्रद्धयार्चितुमिच्छति ।  
तस्य तस्यायत्नां श्रद्धां तामेव विदधाम्यहम् ॥

This shows that one who may be worshipping God in any other form can worship Durga also without any hesitation since names and forms cover one and the only supreme Being only.

One fact that may intrigue the readers is the name of this stotram. It says that it is in praise of Durga by none other than Siva, who according to our Puranas is Her husband! How can this be? The answer is simple. As said above, Durga is not different from Siva. She is just another form of Siva only and both are forms and names of the Supreme Being. These names and forms are there for us to worship. The Supreme Being is without name or form or any other attributes cannot be worshipped directly. So

the many forms with names are provided in the scriptures for us to chose one that appeals to us (called Ista Devata) and worship. As pointed out earlier, these forms being those of the Supreme Being only, their worship amounts to the worship of the Supreme Being and as a result confers all benefits. These benefits flow from the Supreme Being only. BG (7-21, 22).

यो यो यां यां तनुं भक्तः श्रद्धयार्चितुमिच्छति ।

तस्य तस्यायत्नां श्रद्धां तामेव विदधाभ्युदम् ॥

स तथा श्रद्धया युक्तस्तस्याराधनमीडते ।


लभते च ततः कामान् भयैव विडितान् डि तान् ॥

We also hear that Devi KamakShi ( Durga only) worshipped Siva in Kanchipuram and in Chennai in the Kapaleeswara temple. We may come across stories of Siva praising Vishnu and the other way also. Thus there is nothing wrong in the seemingly contradictory stories. Each one is meant to highlight thge glory of a particular form in a deity. The idea is that one who feels attracted to a particular form may use the hymn to sing the praise of the deity. Ultimately he will go up in the spiritual ladder and realise taht names and forms are superficial only and really make no difference. All the glories narrated in all the hymans refer to the one Supreme Being that masquerades as so many deities.


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