
Prayer to Goddess ShAradA

श्रीशारदाप्राथना अथवा सरस्वतीस्तुतिः

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ಶ್ರೀಶಾರದಾಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನಾ ಅಥವಾ ಸರಸ್ವತೀಸ್ತುತಿಃ



ನಮಸ್ತೇ ಶಾರದೇ ದೇವಿ ಕಾಶ್ಮೀರಪುರವಾಸಿನಿ .
ತ್ವಾಮಹಂ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥಯೇ ನಿತ್ಯಂ ವಿದ್ಯಾದಾನಂ ಚ ದೇಹಿ ಮೇ .. 1..
ಯಾ ಶ್ರದ್ಧಾ ಧಾರಣಾ ಮೇಧಾ ವಾಗ್ದೇವೀ ವಿಧಿವಲ್ಲಭಾ .
ಭಕ್ತಜಿಹ್ವಾಗ್ರಸದನಾ ಶಮಾದಿಗುಣದಾಯಿನೀ .. 2..
ನಮಾಮಿ ಯಾಮಿನೀನಾಥಲೇಖಾಲಂಕೃತಕುಂತಲಾಂ .
ಭವಾನೀಂ ಭವಸಂತಾಪನಿರ್ವಾಪಣಸುಧಾನದೀಂ .. 3..
ಭದ್ರಕಾಲ್ಯೈ ನಮೋ ನಿತ್ಯಂ ಸರಸ್ವತೈ ನಮೋ ನಮಃ .
ವೇದವೇದಾಂಗವೇದಾಂತವಿದ್ಯಾಸ್ಥಾನೇಭ್ಯಃ ಏವ ಚ .. 4..
ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಸ್ವರೂಪಾ ಪರಮಾ ಜ್ಯೋತಿರೂಪಾ ಸನಾತನೀ .
ಸರ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಧಿದೇವೀ ಯಾ ತಸ್ಯೈ ವಾಣೈ ನಮೋ ನಮಃ .. 5..
ಯಯಾ ವಿನಾ ಜಗತ್ಸರ್ವಂ ಶಶ್ವಜ್ಜೀವನ್ಮೃತಂ ಭವೇತ್ .
ಜ್ಞಾನಾಧಿದೇವೀ ಯಾ ತಸ್ಯೈ ಸರಸ್ವತೈ ನಮೋ ನಮಃ .. 6..
ಯಯಾ ವಿನಾ ಜಗತ್ಸರ್ವಂ ಮೂಕಮುನ್ಮತ್ತವತ್ಸದಾ .
ಯಾ ದೇವೀ ವಾಗಧಿಷ್ಠಾತ್ರೀ ತಸ್ಯೈ ವಾಣೈ ನಮೋ ನಮಃ .. 7..
.. ಇತಿ ಶ್ರೀಶಾರದಾಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನಾ ಸಮಾಪ್ತಾ ..

Some of these verses are from Yajnyavalkya's
shrIIsarasvatIstotram or vANISTavanam from
Brahmavaivarta Purana.

So this appears to be a compiled stotra.

Prayer to Goddess ShAradA

ನಮಸ್ತೇ ಶಾರದೇ ದೇವಿ ಕಾಶ್ಮೀರಪುರವಾಸಿನಿ .
ತ್ವಾಮಹಂ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥಯೇ ನಿತ್ಯಂ ವಿದ್ಯಾದಾನಂ ಚ ದೇಹಿ ಮೇ .. 1..
ಹೇ ಶಾರದೇ . ಹೇ ದೇವಿ . ನಮಃ ತೇ .
ಕಾಶ್ಮೀರಪುರವಾಸಿನಿ .
ಹೇ ಕಾಶ್ಮೀರ ಪುರ್ಯಾಂ ವಾಸಿನೀ one who lives ;
ತ್ವಾಂ ಭವತೀಂ ಅಹಂ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥಯೇ ಪ್ರ very much ;

ಅರ್ಥ 10 A to request ಅರ್ಥಯೇ ಉತ್ತಮ ಪುರುಷ ಏಕ ವಚನೇ;
ನಿತ್ಯಂ ಪ್ರತಿದಿನಂ . ವಿದ್ಯಾದಾನಂ ವಿದ್ಯಾಯಾಃ ದಾನಂ
ಮೇ ಮಹ್ಯಂ ದೇಹಿ ದದಾತು ..

Namaste Saraswati! O effulgent Sarada, worshipped in the city of
Kashmir (substitute your city's name here - worshipped in the city
of North Brunswick). I pray to you everyday. Please give the pure
knowledge. 1

ಯಾ ಶ್ರದ್ಧಾ ಧಾರಣಾ ಮೇಧಾ ವಾಗ್ಧೇವೀ ವಿಧಿವಲ್ಲಭಾ .
ಭಕ್ತಜಿಹ್ವಾಗ್ರಸದನಾ ಶಮಾದಿಗುಣದಾಯಿನೀ .. 2..

ಯಾ ಶ್ರದ್ಧಾ faith ;

ಧಾರಣಾ one who holds, memory ;

ಮೇಧಾ intelligence ವಾಗ್ಧೇವೀ ವಾಚಃ ದೇವೀ
ವಿಧಿವಲ್ಲಭಾ ವಿಧೇಃ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಣಃ ವಲ್ಲಭಾ ಪತ್ನೀ .

ಭಕ್ತಜಿಹ್ವಾಗ್ರಸದನಾ ಭಕ್ತಾನಾಂ;

ಜಿಹ್ವಾಯಾಃ of tongue ಅಗ್ರೇ ;

ಸದನಾ one who is, lives ;

ಭಕ್ತಜಿಹ್ವಾಗ್ರಸದನಾ one who graces devotees' speech ;

ಶಮಾದಿ ಶಮ ದಮ ತಿತಿಕ್ಷ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಗುಣಾನ್

ದಾಯಿನಿ ದಾತ್ರೀ ..

You are faith, memory, intelligence, the divinity of speech, the
spouse of Creator BrahmA. You grace the devotees' speech, you are
the bestower of inner peace, and all other excellences. 2.

ನಮಾಮಿ ಯಾಮಿನೀಂ ನಾಥಲೇಖಾಲಂಕೃತಕುಂತಲಾಂ .

ಭವಾನೀಂ ಭವಸಂತಾಪನಿರ್ವಾಪಣಸುಧಾನದೀಂ .. 3..

ಯಾಮಿನೀ ಯಾಮಾ ಅಸ್ಯಾಂ ಸಂತೀತಿ ಯಾಮಿನೀ ಇತಿ ಅಮರಂ .

ಯಾಮಃ restraint, forbearance ;

ಯಾಮಿನಿ she is restraint, forbearance ;

ನಾಥ protector ಲೇಖಾ streaks ;

ನಾಥಲೇಖಾ streaks of lightning standing for sparkling knowledge ;

ಅಲಂಕೃತ decorated ;

ಕುಂತಲಾ one with ear-ornaments ;

Her ear ornaments are decorated with streaks of sparkling knowledge ;

ಭವಾನೀ ಭವಸ್ಯ ಪತ್ನೀ ಭವಾನೀ ಇತಿ ಅಮರಂ .

ಭವ ಲೋಕಸ್ಯ ಸಂತಾಪ ದುಖಾನಾಂ

ನಿರ್ವಾಪಣ killing, extinguishing ;

ಸುಧಾ ಅಮೃತಂ ನದೀ river ;.

I prostrate Yamini, one who is forbearance herself, who has her ears decorated with streaks of sparkling knowledge; who is BhavAni, who is a river of nectar that extinguishes the torments of worldly life. 3.

ಭದ್ರಕಾಲ್ಯೈ ನಮೋ ನಿತ್ಯಂ ಸರಸ್ವತ್ಯೈ ನಮೋ ನಮಃ .

ವೇದವೇದಾಂಗವೇದಾಂತವಿದ್ಯಾಸ್ಥಾನೇಭ್ಯಃ ಏವ ಚ .. 4..

ಭಂದತೇ ಭದ್ರಂ . auspicious ;

ಭದ್ರಕಲ್ಯಾಣೀ One who bestows auspiciousness ;

ನಿತ್ಯಂ ಪ್ರತಿ ದಿನಂ

ಸರಃ ಪ್ರಸರಣಂ ಸರ್ವತ್ರ ಅಸ್ತೀತಿ ಸರಸ್ವತೀ .

She exists everywhere as a flow (of knowledge) and hence she is Saraswati.

From where? Answer:

ವೇದ ವೇದಾಂಗ ವೇದಾಂತ ವಿದ್ಯಾ ಸ್ಥಾನೇಭ್ಯಃ ..

Constant salutations to you, O Mother Beneficent!

You are the one who exists everywhere as a flow of knowledge

originating from the Veda, the auxiliary branches of Veda, Upanishads, and all other forms of Learning. Salutations to you again. 4.

ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಸ್ವರೂಪಾ ಪರಮಾ ಜ್ಯೋತಿರೂಪಾ ಸನಾತನೀ .

ಸರ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಧಿದೇವೀ ಯಾ ತಸ್ಯೈ ವಾಣೈ ನಮೋ ನಮಃ .. 5..

ಯಾ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಸ್ವರೂಪಾ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಣಃ ಸ್ವರೂಪಾ

ಯಾ ಜ್ಯೋತಿರೂಪಾ Divine light ;

ಯಾ ಸನಾತನೀ ಆದ್ಯಂತರಹಿತಾ

ಯಾ ಸರ್ವ ವಿದ್ಯಾನಾಂ ಅಧಿ ದೇವೀ

ತಸ್ಯೈ ವಾಣೈ ಸರಸ್ವತ್ಯೈ ನಮಃ ನಮಃ .

ವಣ್ಯತೇ ಶಬ್ದ್ಯತ ಇತಿ ವಾಣೀ . That which was said, speech ;.

Prostrations to that Vani

who is the supreme spirit,

who is the divine light,

who is The Eternal Being, and

who is the presiding deity of all learning. 5.

ಯಯಾ ವಿನಾ ಜಗತ್ಸರ್ವಂ ಶಶ್ವಜ್ಜೀವನ್ಮೃತಂ ಭವೇತ್ .

ಜ್ಞಾನಾದಿದೇವೀ ಯಾ ತಸ್ಯೈ ಸರಸ್ವತೈ ನಮೋ ನಮಃ .. 6..

ಯಯಾ ವಿನಾ without who

ಜಗತ್ಸರ್ವಂ the whole world

ಶಶ್ವತ್ ಅವ್ಯಯಂ perpetual, eternal, for ever

ಜೀವತ್ living

ಮೃತಂ dead

ಯಾ ಜ್ಞಾನಸ್ಯ ಅಧಿ ದೇವೀ

ತಸ್ಯೈ ಸರಸ್ವತೈ ನಮಃ ನಮಃ ..

Prostrations to Sarasvati,

Without who, the whole world would appear dead (even though living).

And who is the presiding deity of knowledge.

A person is as good as dead without the learning, Sarasvati.

That is the import. 6.

ಯಯಾ ವಿನಾ ಜಗತ್ಸರ್ವಂ ಮೂಕಮುನ್ಮತ್ತವತ್ಸದಾ .

ಯಾ ದೇವೀ ವಾಗಧಿಷ್ಠಾತ್ರೀ ತಸ್ಯೈ ವಾಣ್ಯೈ ನಮೋ ನಮಃ .. 7..

ಮೂಕ dumb

ಉನ್ಮತ್ತವತ್ possessed of madness

ಅಧಿಷ್ಠಾತ್ರೀ She is the instrument through which presiding

over is done. Or simply presiding.

Prostrations to VAni

Without whom the whole world would appear dumb and demented;

who is the presiding deity of speech. 7.

.. ಇತಿ ಶ್ರೀಶಾರದಾಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನಾ ಸಮಾಪ್ತಾ ..

Appendix philosophical interest

BhavAni

Why is Saraswati described as BhavAni? I will

briefly quote Sankara on the topic in Rudra

bhAshyaM.

BhavAni, Uma are adjectives of the Rudra. Rudra

means - One who melts the miseries of worldly

life. Since the destruction of ignorance or misery of worldly is only possible with knowledge, it is appropriately said that Rudra-Uma sahita is capable of melting that misery.

See RudrabhAsyam for detailed explanation: namaH somAya cha.

Rudra is sheer power. BhavAni is all knowledge, self-restraint, control. And, you see, Power is all about Control.

SArada


SArada means effulgence as was translated in the first sloka of shankara rachita shArada prArthanA.

Namaste Saraswati! O effulgent Sarada, Right now, that is, the two months (Oct. 2nd, 1997 - Nov. 29, 1997) where in SarasvatI pUjA (or DasarA festival) falls (AsvIyuja, kArtIka) are called sharad Ritu. During the Sarad Ritu, what do you notice when you drive to work? It is a good day – neither cold nor hot, but the turnpike is jammed; but no accident! And after turning to the radio, you find out that traffic is crawling due to the radiant splendour (glare) of bhagavAn (or one who has a welath – of radiance) Aditya. That effulgence is called SARADA.


What does it represent?

Have you ever been in the presence of a learned man - be the subject matter is programming languages, neural networks, analog computers or financial mergers or Veda/GeetAs? In his

presence, that subject suddenly seems to be very simple, questions seem to be answered with ease and the whole subject matter appears like simple common sense and you feel an unexplainable power and joy. What is it and Where do you think that brilliance flows? That brilliance is ShAradA, That flow is SarasvatI, Those sounds are VAnI.

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