

Atmanathastutih Rudrakrita

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आत्मनाथस्तुतिः रुद्रकृता

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यतुर्वेदपुरीशाय शाश्वतायादिमूर्तये ।
आत्मनाथाय जगतां गुरवे ब्रह्मणो नमः ॥ १ ॥

सद्भनानन्दकन्दाय सिदानन्दस्वरूपिणे ।
कुन्दभूरुडवासाय गुरवे ब्रह्मणो नमः ॥ २ ॥

विधातृदरिमुष्यानां विश्वेषां जगतामपि ।
ज्ञानदात्रे सुमडते गुरवे ब्रह्मणो नमः ॥ ३ ॥

अणोरणीयसे तस्मै मडतश्च मडीयसे ।
तुर्यातीताय शुद्धाय गुरवे ब्रह्मणो नमः ॥ ४ ॥

स्रष्टुं विधातृरूपाय रक्षितुं विष्णुरूपिणे ।
संडर्तुं कालरूपाय गुरवे ब्रह्मणो नमः ॥ ५ ॥

विधिविश्वम्भराभीष्टप्रदाब्जचरण्याय ते ।
विश्वातीताय विश्वस्मै गुरवे ब्रह्मणो नमः ॥ ६ ॥

सडस्रशिरसे तुभ्यं सडस्राक्षिभुजाङ्घ्रये ।
सडस्रागमवेधाय गुरवे ब्रह्मणो नमः ॥ ७ ॥

पञ्चाननाय देवाय पञ्चब्रह्मस्वरूपिणे ।
पञ्चाक्षरस्वरूपाय गुरवे ब्रह्मणो नमः ॥ ८ ॥

मद्भर्त्रे जगतां पित्रे कारणत्रयडेतवे ।
नमस्तुभ्यं नमस्तुभ्यं नमस्तुभ्यं नमो नमः ॥ ९ ॥

अपराधायुतोपेतं मडाकल्मषमानसम् ।
पाडि मां पाडि मां नित्यं पाडि मामात्मनायक ॥ १० ॥

रुद्रेशकथितं स्तोत्रं दशकं यः पठेत् पुमान् ।
कालमृत्युमतिक्रम्य स चिरायुः सुधी भवेत् ॥ ११ ॥


इति श्रीरुद्रकृता आत्मनाथस्तुतिः समाप्ता ।

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Tirupperunthurai (also called the Athmanathaswamy temple) is located in Avudaiyarkoil village, near Aranthangi in the Pudukkottai district of Tamil Nadu. It was built to honor Lord Shiva. The presiding deity is formless (Atmanatar); there is no Śivalingam but only a pedestal (AvudayAr) located in the sanctum, hence the name Avudayar Koil. The God faces South in this temple- in Dakshinamurthy or Guru form. His consort is worshipped as SivayoganAyaki (YogAmbAl) in iconless form. There is no Nandi bull icon as is conventional in almost all Shiva temples.

There is deep spiritual significance in this. Hinduism allows deity worship for the novice. As one's devotion matures, one begins to contemplate the truth of formlessness of the Brahman. The temple has been designed to illustrate this theology. This one of the rarest Saivite shrines in whole of India to portray the supreme truth symbolically. Since the soul (athma) has no form, the deity is called Athmanathar.

Legend has it that Manickavasagar, one of the four Saivite savants, constructed the temple at Avudaiyarkoil.

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