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Natarajastotram, charaNa shRingarahita (Patanjali)

నటరాజస్తోత్రమ్ , చరణ శృంగ రహిత (పతంజలి)

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చిదమ్బరనటననం చ

This hymn is by Sage Patanjali, the author and compiler of the famous yogasUtra. 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 ('dIrgham') syllable, (without 'charaNa' and 'shRi Nga' i.e. leg and horn) to tease Nandi. Shiva was quickly pleased, gave Darshan to the devotee, and danced to the 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.

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-

॥ అథ-చరణశృంగరహిత-నటరాజస్తోత్రమ్ ॥

సదఞ్చిత ముదఞ్చిత నికుఞ్చిత పదం ఝలఝలఞ్చలిత మఞ్చు కటకమ్  
పతంజలి దృగఞ్చాన మనఞ్చాన మచఞ్చలపదం జనన భఞ్చాన కరమ్ ।  
కదమ్బరుచిమమ్బరవసం పరమమమ్బుద కదమ్బ కవిడమ్బకగలమ్ (కవిడమ్బనకరమ్)  
చిదమ్బుధి మణిం బుధ హృదమ్బుజ రవిం పర చిదమ్బర నటం హృది భజ ॥ ౧॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer Shiva, residing in the holy place, Chidambaram. He is called Hara (the destroyer) who smashed the three cities (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 consciousness. He is the the Sun blossoming the lotus- heart of wise persons.

హారం త్రిపుర భజ్జానం అనన్తకృతకఙ్కణం అఖణ్డదయ మన్తరహితం  
విరిశ్చోసురసంహతిపురన్దర విచిన్తితపదం తరుణచన్ద్రమకుటమ్ |  
పరం పద విఖణ్డతయమం భసిత మణ్డతతనుం మదనవశ్చాన పరం  
చిరన్తనమముం ప్రణవనశ్చోతనిధిం పర చిదమ్బర నటం హృదీ భజ || ౨ ||

Heartily resort to the great dancer, Shiva, residing in the holy place, Chidambaram. He is the destroyer of the world, who destroys sin and grants emancipation. He has destroyed the three cities of demon tripura, representing the three types of sorrows. He is wearing the great serpent, ananta, like a bracelet. He is incessantly showering compassion 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 decorated with ash. He is inclined to brush aside cupid. His preciousness is saturated in the syllable - OM.

అవన్తమఖిలం జగదభక్త గుణతుక్తమమతం ధృతవిధుం సురసరిత్-  
తరక్త నికురమ్ప ధృతి లమ్పట జటం శమనదమ్భనుహారం భవహారమ్ |  
శివం దశదిగన్తర విజ్ఞప్తితకరం కరలసన్మృగశిశుం పశుపతిం  
హారం శశిధనజ్ఞాయపతక్తనయనం పరచిదమ్బర నటం హృదీ భజ || ౩ ||

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.

అనన్తనవరత్న విలసత్కటకకీర్తిణిరులం ఝలఝలం ఝలఝలం  
ముకున్దవిధి హస్తగతమద్దల లయధ్వనిధిమిద్ధిమిత నర్తన పదమ్ |  
శకున్తరథ బర్హిరథ నన్దిముఖ శృంగ్గిరిటిభృంగ్గిగణసజ్జనికటమ్  
సనన్దసనక ప్రముఖ వన్దిత పదం పరచిదమ్పర నటం హృది భజ || ౪ ||

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 Gana-s consisting of Srngi, Riti, Bhrgi etc headed by Nandi. Prominent sages like Sananda and Sanaka are saluting his feet.

అనన్తమహాసం త్రిదశవన్ద్య చరణం ముని హృదన్తర వసన్తమమలమ్  
కబన్ద వియద్దిన్ద్యవని గన్ధవహా వహ్నిమఖ బన్ధరవిమజ్జుల వపుషమ్ |  
అనన్తవిభవం త్రిజగన్తర మణిం త్రినయనం త్రిపుర ఖణ్ణన పరమ్  
సనన్ద ముని వన్దిత పదం సకరుణం పర చిదమ్పర నటం హృది భజ || ౫ ||

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.

అచిన్త్యమలివృన్ద రుచి బన్ధరగలం కురిత కున్ద నికురమ్భ ధవలమ్  
ముకున్ద సుర వృన్ద బల హస్తృ కృత వన్దన లసన్తమహికుణ్ణల ధరమ్ |  
ఆకమ్పమనుకమ్పిత రతిం సుజన మజ్గలనిధిం గజహారం పశుపతిమ్  
ధనజ్ఞాయ నుతం ప్రణత రజ్ఞానపరం పర చిదమ్పర నటం హృది భజ || ౬ ||

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 Balasura. 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 Gajasura is the Lord of creatures, praised by Arjuna. He is inclined to be delightful to persons who bow down to Him.

పరం సురవరం పురహారం పశుపతిం జనిత దన్తిముఖ షణ్ముఖమముం  
మృడం కనక పింగళ జటం సనకపఙ్కజ రవిం సుమనసం హిమరుచిమ్ |  
అనఙ్గమనసం జలధి జన్మకరలం కవలయన్త మతులం గుణనిధిమ్  
సనన్త వరదం శమితమ్బు వదనం పర చిదమ్బర నటం హృది భజ || ౭ ||

Heartily resort to the great dancer Shiva residing in the holy place Chidambaram. He is the best among gods, destroyer of the three 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 blooming 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 qualities, not comparable to anyone else. He has given boons to sage, Sananda. Having a face which is delightful like the moon, he has attained the blissful state.

అజం ఊతిరథం భుజగపుఙ్గవగుణం కనక శ్లోకీ ధనుషం కరలసత్  
కురఙ్గ పృథు టఙ్కా పరశుం రుచిర కుఙ్కామ రుచిం డమరుకం చ దధతమ్ |  
ముకున్త విశిఖం నమదవన్ద్య ఫలదం నిగమ వృన్త తురగం నిరుపమం (ప్రణతవృన్తఫలదం  
నిగమతుఙ్కతరఙ్గం)  
సచణ్ణికమముం ఝటితి సంహృతపురం పరచిదమ్బర నటం హృది భజ || ౮ ||

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 axe. 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 has quickly destroyed the cities of demon tripura.

అనఙ్గపరిపన్థినమజం ఊతి ధురన్ధరమలం కరుణయన్తమఖిలం

జ్వలన్తమనలం దధతమన్తకరిపుం సతతమిన్ద్రముఖవన్దితపదమ్ ।  
ఉదఞ్చదరవిన్దకుల బన్ధుశత బిమ్బురుచి సంహతి సుగన్ధి వపుషం  
పతంజాలినుతం ప్రణవపఞ్చర శుకంపర చిదమ్బర నటం హృది భజ ॥ ౯ ॥

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.

ఇతి స్తవముం భుజగపుష్కవ కృతం ప్రతిదినం పఠతి యః కృతముఖః  
సదః ప్రభుపద ద్వితయదర్శనపదం సులలితం చరణ శ్లోక రహితమ్ ।  
సరఃప్రభవ సమ్భవ హరిత్వతి హరిప్రముఖ దివ్యనుత శ్కరపదం  
స గచ్ఛతి పరం న తు జనుర్జలనిధిం పరమదుఃఖజనకం దురితదమ్ ॥ ౧౦ ॥

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 steep into the ocean of worldly existence which causes great sorrow and sinfulness.

॥ ఇతి శ్రీపతంజాలిమునిప్రణీతం చరణశ్లోకరహిత నటరాజస్తోత్రం సమూర్ణమ్ ॥

Encoded by P. P. Narayanaswami

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