
sudarshanAShTakam

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ಸುದರ್ಶನಾಷ್ಟಕಮ್

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ಸುದರ್ಶನಾಷ್ಟಕಮ್



by shrI V. Sadagopan

October 2, 1995

This year on Swami Desikan's birthday, I have translated the sudarshana Ashtakam at the request of a devotee of shrI Ranganatha Swami Sannadhi at Pomona, NY. This poem in melodious and lilting Sanskrit is a pleasure to recite and listen to.

Traditionally, this stotram is recited in homes, when some one has fever or illness of other kinds. Swami Desikan is said to have composed it to help the residents of Tirupputkuzhi, when they suffered from the grip of a epidemic fever. Alternatively, It is said that he composed it at Tiruvahindrapuram prior to a major debate with a leader of another sampradaya. Swami Desikan won that debate and thereby established the supremacy of shrIman Narayana and Visishtadvaita.

Swami Desikan chose the 'dhrithas' chandas as a meter for the eight verses praising sudarshana. He chose the 'aupachandasikam' meter for the phala-Sruti sloka. Both these meters hint at the Vedic origin of sudarshana as indicated by Swami Desikan in one or more verses of this Stotram.

ಶ್ರೀಮತೇ ನಿಗಮಾಂತ ಮಹಾದೇಶಿಕಾಯ ನಮಃ

ಶ್ರೀಮಾನ್ ವೇಂಕಟನಾಥಾರ್ಯಃ ಕವಿತಾರ್ಕಿಕ ಕೇಸರೀ |

ವೇದಂತಾಚಾರ್ಯ ವರ್ಯೋ ಮೇ ಸನ್ನಿಧತ್ತಾಮ್ ಸದಾ ಹೃದಿ ||

Verse 1:

ಪ್ರತಿಭಟಶ್ರೇಣಿ ಭೀಷಣ ವರಗುಣಸ್ತೋಮ ಭೂಷಣ
ಜನಿಭಯಸ್ಥಾನ ತಾರಣ ಜಗದವಸ್ಥಾನ ಕಾರಣ |

ನಿಖಿಲದುಷ್ಟರ್ಮ ಕರ್ಶನ ನಿಗಮಸದ್ಧರ್ಮ ದರ್ಶನ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ||

O shrI sudarshana! All the enemies of your Lord's devotees run away fearing your prowess. All auspicious attributes find their home in you. Those , Who worship you cross the 'shoreless' ocean of Samsara and free themselves from their cycles of births and deaths. The entire Universe is stabilized by your mighty power. You cut asunder all the sins of those who approach you as their refuge. You bless all of your devotees with the knowledge about the righteous conduct prescribed by the Vedas. O Lord sudarshana of these auspicious attributes! Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 2:

ಶುಭಜಗದ್ರೂಪ ಮಂಡನ ಸುರಗಣತ್ರಾಸ ಖಂಡನ
ಶತಮಖಬ್ರಹ್ಮ ವಂದಿತ ಶತಪಥಬ್ರಹ್ಮ ನಂದಿತ |
ಪ್ರಥಿತವಿದ್ವತ್ ಸಪಕ್ಷಿತ ಭಜದಹಿರ್ಬುದ್ಧ್ಯಃ ಲಕ್ಷಿತ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ||

O shrI sudarshana! You are resplendent as a precious decoration on the hand of shrIman Narayana, who has the universes as His body. Through your grace, Devas are freed from the fear caused by the Asuras. Indra and Brahma always worship you. The Satapatha Brahmana belonging to Sukla Yajur Veda hails your glories and pays its tributes to you. The scholars of this universe seek your help to overcome their contestants. Ahirbudhnya Samhita states that Ahirbudhnya (Siva) worships you and sought the boon to see your beautiful form with His own eyes. O Lord sudarshana of illustrious attributes! Hail To Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 3:

ಸ್ವುಟತಟಿಜ್ವಾಲ ಪಿಂಜರ ವೈಧುತರಜ್ವಾಲ ಪಂಜರ
ಪರಿಗತ ಪ್ರತ್ನವಿಗ್ರಹ ಪತುತರಪ್ರಜ್ವಲ ದುರ್ಗಹ |
ಪ್ರಹರಣ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಮಂಡಿತ ಪರಿಜನ ತ್ರಾಣ ಪಂಡಿತ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ||

O Lord sudarshana! You shine like the resplendent assembly of

lightnings. The bright tongues of flames surrounding you appear like a cage (home) for you. The forms of Vasudeva, Sankarshana and other vyuha murti-s find their positions around your geometric form (yantra). Even the scholars with sharp intellects stumble, when they try to understand the full extent of your glory. It is a beautiful sight to see the sixteen weapons of yours resting on your hands to serve you. You are dedicated to come to the rescue of those ,who seek your protection . O shrI sudarshana of such auspicious attributes! Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 4:

ನಿಜಪದಪ್ರೀತ ಸದ್ಗುಣ ನಿರುಪಧಿಸ್ಥಿತ ಷಡ್ಗುಣ
ನಿಗಮ ನಿವ್ಯೂಥ ವೈಭವ ನಿಜಪರ ವ್ಯೂಹ ವೈಭವ |
ಹರಿ ಹಯ ದ್ವೇಷಿ ದಾರಣ ಹರ ಪುರ ಪೋಷಕಾರಣ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ||

O Lord sudarshana! The Righteous people have firm attachment to your holy feet. The Six Kalyana GunAs — Knowledge, Power, Strength, Wealth, Heroism, and effulgence– find their natural home in You. The Vedas have firmly established Your glory in their many chapters. Like your Lord, You have the forms of para and vyuha. You cut asunder the fear caused by the foes of Indra, the foremost among your devotees. You were responsible for the burning down Kashi, the city of Siva to ashes. You stood at the tip of Siva's arrow, when He was engaged in the campaign to destroy TripurAsura. O shrI sudarshana Of such Kalyana Gunas! Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 5:

ದನುಜ ವಿಸ್ತಾರ ಕರ್ತನ ಜನಿ ತಮಿಸ್ರಾ ವಿಕರ್ತನ
ದನುಜವಿದ್ಯಾ ನಿಕರ್ತನ ಭಜದವಿದ್ಯಾ ನಿವರ್ತನ |
ಅಮರ ದೃಷ್ಟ ಸ್ವ ವಿಕ್ರಮ ಸಮರ ಜುಷ್ಟ ಭ್ರಮಿಕ್ರಮ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ||

O Lord sudarshana! You arrest the growth of the evil-minded Asuras and destroy them down to their roots. You are like the resplendent Sun

banishing the dark night of Samsara, which bedevil your devotees. You Overcome any and every act of deception practised by the Asuras. You remove every shred of false knowledge that invade the minds of those ,who seek refuge in you. The Devas celebrate Your heroic deeds and experience joy in witnessing Your powerful actions. You revolve and rotate in many ways in your battles against the enemies of Your devotees. May Thou with such auspicious attributes prosper further! Hail to Thee! Hail To Thee!

Verse 6:

ಪ್ರಥಮಖಾಲೀಡ್ ಬಂಧುರ ಪೃಥುಮಹಾಹೇತಿ ದಂತುರ
ವಿಕಟಮಾಯ ಬಹಿಷ್ಕೃತ ವಿವಿಧಮಾಲಾ ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ |
ಸ್ಥಿರಮಹಾಯಂತ್ರ ತಂತ್ರಿತ ದೃಢ ದಯಾ ತಂತ್ರ ಯಂತ್ರಿತ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ||

O Lord sudarshana! You give darsana to us with Your dynamic gait of One foot placed forward in movement and the other rapidly following it. Your position in that gait is beautiful to behold. You are surrounded by Your magnificent and fearsome weapons. You are the conqueror of Powerful illusions (mAyA) caused by Asuras. You are not therefore affected by their acts of MayA. You are decorated with many beautiful flower garlands that add to your natural beauty. You are firmly bound in the warp of your great compassion for your devotees and bless them , when they worship You through Your Yantra and Mantra. O shrI sudarshana of such auspicious qualities! Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 7:

ಮಹಿತ ಸಂಪತ್ ಸದಕ್ಷರ ವಿಹಿತಸಂಪತ್ ಷಡಕ್ಷರ
ಷಡರಚಕ್ರ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಸಕಲ ತತ್ತ್ವ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ |
ವಿವಿಧ ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಕಲ್ಪಕ ವಿಬುಧಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಕಲ್ಪಕ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ||

O Lord sudarshana of many prime qualities! The wealth of the righteous is their true knowledge about Your Lord. You Bless them with the unperishable wealth of MokSham, When they seek refuge at Your holy feet. Those who recite Your mantra made up

of the six letters (akSharas) gain incomparable wealth. Your devotees (upAsakas) invoke You in Your yantra of six corners formed by two intersecting triangles and worship You at its epicenter. You pervade and reside in all the creations of Your Lord. You have the power to complete all deeds that you decide to undertake. You are thus a satya sankalpa and serve as the divine Kalpaka tree granting all the boons that your devotees request. O shrI sudarshana! Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 8:

ಭುವನ ನೇತ್ರ ತ್ರಯೀಮಯ ಸವನ ತೇಜಸ್ವಯೀಮಯ
ನಿರವಧಿ ಸ್ವಾದು ಚಿನ್ಮಯ ನಿಖಿಲ ಶಕ್ತೇ ಜಗನ್ಮಯ |
ಅಮಿತ ವಿಶ್ವಕ್ರಿಯಾಮಯ ಶಮಿತ ವಿಶ್ವಗ್ನಿಯಾಮಯ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ||

O Lord sudarshana, the eye of the Universe! You are of the form of the three Vedas. You are of the form of the three fires – gArhapatyam, Ahvaneeyam and dakShinAgni – of the YagAs. You are of the delectable form of true knowledge! You have the power to accomplish every deed. You have taken the form of the Universe and its contents. You are worshipped thru the sacrificial rituals of your devotees. In return, You destroy the fears and diseases of those, who worship You from all directions. O Lord sudarshana of auspicious qualities! Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 9:

ಫಲ ಶ್ರುತಿ

ದ್ವಿಚತುಷ್ಟಮಿದಂ ಪ್ರಭೂತಸಾರಂ ಪಠತಾಂ ವೇಂಕಟನಾಯಕ ಪ್ರಣೀತಮ್ |
ವಿಷಮೇಽಪಿ ಮನೋರಥಃ ಪ್ರಧಾವನ್ ನ ವಿಹನ್ಯೇತ ರಥಾಂಗ ಧುರ್ಯ ಗುಪ್ತಃ ||

Those, who recite this Stotram consisting of eight verses in praise of sudarshana composed by Venkatanatha known as Vedanta Desikan comprehend the deep references to the glory of Lord sudarshana will have the fulfilment of all their wishes. The Boon-granting powers of Lord sudarshana will make them realize all their wishes by overcoming all

obstacles that stand in the way.

॥ ಇತಿ ಶ್ರೀವೇದಾಂತದೇಶಿಕರಚಿತಂ ಸುದರ್ಶನಾಷ್ಟಕಂ ಸಮಾಪ್ತಮ್ ॥

ಕವಿತಾರ್ಕಿಕಸಿಂಹಾಯ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಗುಣಶಾಲಿನೇ ।

ಶ್ರೀಮತೇ ವೇಂಕಟೇಷಾಯ ವೇದಾಂತಗುರವೇ ನಮಃ ॥

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