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## Shiva Panchakshara Mantra Stotra

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शिवपञ्चाक्षरमन्त्रस्तोत्रम्

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ஸ்ரீவபஞ்சாக்ஷரமந்த்ரஸ்தோத்ரம்

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A Shivastotra by ShankarAchArya

The term Shiva means “auspicious.” The God Shiva is all-auspiciousness. The mantra namaH ShivAya, used to offer salutations to Shiva, is an effective prayer to propitiate Shiva. This mantra appears in many places in Vedic and Puranic literature. For example, the famous shrI Rudram hymn from the Yajur Veda, commonly employed to perform the worship of the Shiva linga, says: நம: ஸ்ரீவாய ச ।

The dAridrya dahana stotra of VasiShTha says: தா<sup>3</sup>ரித்<sup>3</sup>ரயது: <sup>3</sup>க<sup>2</sup>-த<sup>3</sup>ஹநாய நம: ஸ்ரீவாய । Salutations to Shiva who burns up the grief caused by poverty!

Here poverty does not necessarily mean material poverty; it also means spiritual poverty. This pa.nchAkShara (five syllabled) mantra namaH ShivAya is sometimes called the mUla mantra or basic mantra of Shiva. Each of the five syllables, na, ma, shi, vA, and ya, is held to be so sacred that it represents Shiva even by itself.

The following is the ShivapanchAkShara stotra composed by Adi SankarAchArya. One may worship the Shiva linga by reciting this stotra and offering bilva leaves.

ஸ்ரீவபஞ்சாக்ஷரஸ்தோத்ரம்

நாகே<sup>3</sup>ந்த<sup>3</sup>ரஹாராய த்ரிலோசநாய ப<sup>4</sup>ஸ்மாங்க்<sup>3</sup>ராகா<sup>3</sup>ய மஹேஸ்வராய ।  
நித்யாய ஸுத்<sup>3</sup>தா<sup>4</sup>ய தி<sup>3</sup>க<sup>3</sup>ம்ப<sup>3</sup>ராய தஸ்மை நகாராய நம: ஸ்ரீவாய ॥ 1 ॥

Salutations to Shiva, who wears the King of snakes as a garland, the Three-eyed God, whose body is smeared with ashes, the great Lord, the eternal and pure One, who wears the directions as His garment, and who is represented by the “na” kAra (term).

மந்தா<sup>3</sup>கிநி-ஸலிசந்த<sup>3</sup>ந-சர்சிதாய நந்த<sup>3</sup>ஸ்வர-ப்ரமத<sup>2</sup>நாத<sup>2</sup>- மஹேஸ்வராய ।  
மந்தா<sup>3</sup>ரபுஷ்ப-ப<sup>3</sup>ஹுபுஷ்ப-ஸூஜிதாய தஸ்மை மகாராய நம: ஸ்ரீவாய ॥ 2 ॥ variation  
மகாரமஹிதாய

I bow to Shiva, who has been worshipped with water from the gangA (mandAkini) and annointed with sandalwood paste, the Lord of nandI, the Lord of the host of goblins and



मन्त्रा<sup>३</sup>रपुष्य-प<sup>३</sup>हृपुष्य-सुपु<sup>३</sup>जिताय तस्मै मकाराय नमः शिवाय ॥ २ ॥ variation  
मकारमन्त्रिताय

शिवाय केल<sup>३</sup>रवत्<sup>३</sup>नाप<sup>३</sup>ज-वृ<sup>३</sup>न्त<sup>३</sup>- सु<sup>३</sup>र्याय त<sup>३</sup>क्ष्मात्<sup>३</sup>वरनाशकाय ।  
श्री<sup>३</sup>लकण्ड<sup>२</sup>य वृ<sup>३</sup>क्षत्<sup>३</sup>वजाय तस्मै शिकाराय नमः शिवाय ॥ ३ ॥

वसिष्ठ<sup>२</sup>-कुम्भो<sup>३</sup>त्<sup>३</sup>प<sup>३</sup>व-केल<sup>३</sup>तमार्यमुन्त<sup>३</sup>र-ते<sup>३</sup>वार<sup>३</sup>सितशेक<sup>२</sup>राय ।  
सन्त<sup>३</sup>रार्क-वैश्वानरलोकनाय तस्मै वकाराय नमः शिवाय ॥ ४ ॥

यक्षस्वरुपाय जडात्<sup>३</sup>राय पिनाकहस्ताय सनातनाय ।  
ती<sup>३</sup>व्याय ते<sup>३</sup>वाय ती<sup>३</sup>क<sup>३</sup>म्प<sup>३</sup>राय तस्मै यकाराय नमः शिवाय ॥ ५ ॥

पञ्चाक्षरमि<sup>३</sup>त्<sup>३</sup>म् पुण्यम् यः पदे<sup>२</sup>स<sup>३</sup>सि<sup>२</sup>वसन्ति<sup>३</sup>तेन<sup>३</sup> ।  
शिवलोकमवाप्नोति शिवेन सहा मोत्<sup>३</sup>ते ॥

॥ इति श्रीमत्सङ्कराचार्यविरचितं श्रीवृषाक्षरस्तोत्रम् समाप्तम् ॥

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