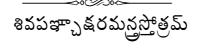
Shiva Panchakshara Mantra Stotra



Document Information

Text title : paJNchAkSharamantra stotra File name : panch.itx Category : panchaka, shiva, shankarAchArya Location : doc_shiva Author : shankarAchArya Transliterated by : Anand Hudli ahudli at silver.ucs.indiana.edu Proofread by : Anand Hudli ahudli at silver.ucs.indiana.edu Latest update : September 15, 2020 Send corrections to : sanskrit at cheerful dot c om

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March 8, 2024

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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: నమ: శివాయ చ I

The dAridrya dahana stotra of VasiShTha says: దారిద్ర్యదుఃఖ-దహనాయ నమః శివాయ I 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.

శివపంచాకరస్తోత్రమ్ నాగేన్సహారాయ త్రిలోచనాయ భస్మా జ్గరాగాయ మహేశ్వరాయ । నిత్యాయ శుద్ధాయ దిగమృరాయ తస్మై నకారాయ నమః శివాయ ॥ ೧॥ 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).

మన్దాకిని-సలిలచన్దన-చర్చితాయ నస్దీశ్వర-ప్రమథనాథ- మహేశ్వరాయ । మన్దారపుష్ప-బహుపుష్ప-సుపూజితాయ తస్మై మకారాయ నమః శివాయ ॥ _೨॥ variation మకారమహితాయ

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 ghosts, the great Lord, who is worshiped with mandAra and many other kinds of flowers, and who is represented by the syllable "ma."

శివాయ గౌరీవదనాబ్జ-వృన్ద-సూర్యాయ దష్ఠాధ్వరనాశకాయ । శ్రీనీలకణ్ణాయ వృషధ్వజాయ తస్పై శికారాయ నమః శివాయ ॥ 3॥

Salutations to Shiva, who is all-auspiciousness, Who is the sun that causes the lotus face of GaurI (PArvatI) to blossom, Who is the destroyer of the Yajna of dakSha, whose throat is blue (nIlakaNTha), whose flag bears the emblem of the bull, and who is represented by the syllable "shi."

వసిష్ఠ-కుమ్భాద్భవ-గౌతమార్యమునీన్ద్ర-దేవార్చితశేఖరాయ । చన్ద్రార్క-వైశ్వానరలోచనాయ తస్తై వకారాయ నమః శివాయ ॥ ४॥

VasiShTha, agastya, Gautama, and other venerable sages, and Indra and other Gods have worshipped the head of (Shiva's linga). I bow to that Shiva whose three eyes are the moon, sun and fire, and who is represented by the syllable "va."

యక్షస్వరూపాయ జటాధరాయ పినాకహస్తాయ సనాతనాయ । దివ్యాయ దేవాయ దిగమ్బరాయ తస్మై యకారాయ నమః శివాయ ॥ 🛪॥

Salutations to Shiva, who bears the form of a YakSha, who has matted hair on His head, Who bears the pinAka bow in His hand, the Primeval Lord, the brilliant God, who is digambara (naked), and who is represented by the syllable "ya."

పంచా ్రమిదం పుణ్యం యః పఠేచ్ఛివసన్నిధౌ । శివలో కమవాప్నోతి శివేన సహ మోదతే ॥

Anyone who recites this sacred five-syllabled mantra, (namaH shivAya) near the Shiva (linga), attains the abode of Shiva and rejoices there with Shiva.

॥ ఇతి శ్రీమచ్ఛంకరాచార్య విరచితం శివపఞ్చా కరస్తోత్రం సమాప్తమ్ ॥

శివపంచాక్షరస్తోత్రమ్

నాగేన్సోహారాయ త్రిలోచనాయ భస్మాఙ్గరాగాయ మహేశ్వరాయ । నిత్యాయ శుద్ధాయ దిగమ్బరాయ తస్మై నకారాయ నమః శివాయ ॥ ೧॥ మన్దాకిని-సలిలచన్దన-చర్చితాయ నస్దీశ్వర-ప్రమథనాథ- మహేశ్వరాయ । మన్దారపుష్ప-బహుపుష్ప-సుపూజితాయ తస్మై మకారాయ నమః శివాయ ॥ _೨॥ variation మకారమహితాయ

Encoded and proofread, and translated by Anand Hudli ahudli at silver.ucs.indiana.edu

> Shiva Panchakshara Mantra Stotra pdf was typeset on March 8, 2024

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