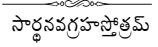
Navagraha Stotram with Meaning and Commentary



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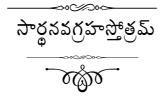
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Navagraha Stotram with Meaning and Commentary



పద్మ కిఇ్హుల్క-సజ్కాశమ్ లోకసాషిం జగద్దురుమ్ 1 సర్వరోగహరం దేవం ఆదిత్యం ప్రణమామ్యహమ్ ॥ ೧॥ క్షీరోదార్జవ-సమ్బూతం అత్రినేత్ర-సముద్బవమ్ । నమామి శశినం దేవం శమ్బార్మకుట భూషణమ్ ॥ এ॥ ధరణీ-గర్భ-సమ్భూతం విద్యుత్పుక్షాం జగత్పతిమ్ ١ కుమారం శక్తి-హస్తం చ మఙ్దలం ప్రణమామ్యహమ్ ॥ ૩॥ ప్రియఙ్ర కనకా-భాసం రూపేణాప్రతిమం శుభమ్ ١ रोक्षा దేవానాం చ ఋషీణాం చ గురుం కనకసన్నిభమ్ । బుద్ధిపూర్ణం త్రిలోకేశం తం గురుం ప్రణమామ్యహమ్ ॥ imes॥ శుద్ద-స్పటిక-సజ్కాశం దైత్యానాం ప్రణతం గురుమ్ ١ సర్వశాస్త్ర-ప్రవక్తారం భార్గవం ప్రణమామ్యహమ్ ॥ ౬॥ నీలాఇ్జున సమాకారం రవిపుత్రం మహాగ్రహమ్ । ဆုထာ-သာတ္ခ္ကမ္မ-ဂုဿာ္မွုမေ မေ ဂုသာည శనైశ္ျပည် ။ ၉။ అర్ధకాయం మహావీర్యం చన్న్ర-భాస్కర-మర్గనమ్ । సింహికా-గర్భ-సమ్బూతం తం రాహుం ప్రణమామ్యహమ్ ॥ ౮॥ పలాల ధూమసజ్కుశం తారక-గ్రహ-మస్తకమ్ 1 రౌద్రం రౌద్రతరం ఘోరం తం కేతుం ప్రణమామ్యహమ్ ॥ 🗲 ॥ కల్యాణాని నభోమణిః సులరితం కీర్తిం కలానాం నిధిః శౌర్యం క్ష్మాతనయః బుధశ్చ బుధతాం జీవశ్-చిరజ్జ్ వితామ్ । సామ్రాజ్యం భృగుజో- ఒర్గజో విజయితాం రాహుః బహూకరతాం కేతుర్యచ్చతు వాఞ్చతం మమ ఫలం సర్వే గ్రహాః సాదరాః ॥ ೧०॥

న్యూ నాతిరిక్తా-న్యపరిస్పుటని కర్మాణి యానీహ మయా కృతాని।

సార్థనవగ్రహస్తోత్రమ్

సర్వాణి వైతాని మమ కమధ్వం ప్రయాతు తుష్టాః పునరాగమాయ ॥ ౧౧॥ అన్యథా శరణం నాస్తి యూయం మే శరణం సదా । తస్మాత్కారుణ్య ఖావేన రక్షధ్వం గృహ-నాయకాః ॥ ౧౨॥

Navagraha Stotram with Meaning and Commentary



We need the blessings of the nine planets known as Navagraha's to have a life that is free from various types of problems that may trouble us from time to time. The following verses are in praise of the planets. The "planets" are not the planets we talk about normally, but the word refers to the presiding deities or devatas. The verses were found in an old palm-leaf manuscript. Rough translations of the verses are given to enable the reader to recite the verses with the knowledge of the meaning. It is said that reciting a stotra with an understanding of the meaning is more beneficial than mere reading of the text. Some explanatory notes are given.

In these notes VS stands for Vishnu Sahasranama Stotram and SS for Siva Sahasranama Stotram (Mahabarata version) and SS (PP) stands for Siva Sahasranama Stotram (Padma Purana version) and SA for Siva 108 Namavali. Those who want to know more about the nine planets may like to go through the songs by the great carnatic composer Muthuswamy DikShitar. He was an expert on our traditions and a veritable store house of knowledge. He gives a wealth of details about the planets in his Navagraha songs. There is another Navagraha Stotram by Vyasa which is popular. This is available with meaning in this web site. Many other stotras are available under the heading Navagraha in this site. All are informative and give details about the planets.

I bow to Aditya, whose complexion resembles the filament of a lotus flower, and who is a witness to all our actions, who is a preceptor to the entire world, and who can remove all diseases.

Note. Aditya is another name of the Sun God. నూర్కి సూర్యకి, అర్యమా, ఆదిత్యకి says the Amara. Krishna says that He is the sun among the bright objects. జ్యోతిషాం రవి-రంశుమాన్ I (Gita. 10-20). There are references to the Sun in Vishnu and Siva Sahasranamas. Some are: విహాయసగతికి- విహాయసం గతిః ఆస్ట్యో అస్యేతి విహాయసగతిః =one who travels in the sky (No.876): రవిః- రసానాదత్త ఇతి రవిః ఆదిత్యాత్మా (No.881) and the one who goes on his path in a chariot drawn by seven horses. (No:829) as సమ్తవాహనః- సమ్త అశ్వా వాహనాన్యస్యేతి సమ్తవాహనః I సూర్యః (He is of the form of Surya or Sun. SS (64).రవిః SS (630). హర్యశ్వః-హర్యః అతివేగవాహినః అశ్వాః యస్య సః హర్యశ్వః సూర్యః తదాత్మా I SS(No.212). One whose horses are very fast.

Sri Rudram in Anuvakam I, Rik 7 and 8 refer to the fact that the Lord manifests Himself as the Sun so as to be visible and easily accessible to the people for worshipping.

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అసౌ యస్తామ్రై అరుణ ఉత బభ్రు: సుమఙ్గల: ।
యే చే మాగం రుద్రా అభితో దిక్షు ।
శ్రితా సహస్రశో 2 వైషాం హేడ ఈమహే ।
అసౌ యో 2 వసర్పతి నీలగ్రీవో విలోహిత: ।
ఉత్తెనం గోపా అదృశన్నదృశన్నుదహార్య: ।
ఉత్తెనం విశ్వాభూతాని స దృష్టో మృడ్యాతి న: ॥
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This says that the Sun, who is copper coloured when he rises, then slightly rosy-red, then golden yellow, this highly auspicious and beneficient one is verily Rudra. The sun is stated to be the visible form of God. The Lord in His true form is ర్టులు I really without any attributes and so is formless. This pure form is extremely difficult to comprehend. In His నగుణ form, as Lord endowed with attributes like form can be understood by only certain devotees who are conversant with the shastras. In His form as the sun He is visible to all. This mantra says that as the sun He is visible to the cowherds and women fetching water. These two stand as examples of people who are generally considered illiterate and naive. Really speaking, the whole world stands ignorant and on par with the cowherds and the women carrying water in the matter of understanding the Lord. But still, the kindly Lord stands easy to be seen by all as the sun. All life depend on him. He announces the dawn of

the day, vivifies all beings so that they may go about their work. So the scriptures say that He is the Self of the world. సూర్య ఆత్మా జగతః తమ్లప్షక్స్ I We cannot imagine a world without the sun, a world plunged into utter darkness. It will be a veritable hell. Perhaps, keeping such a view. the Isavasyopanishad calls hell as "the sunless worlds enveloped in blinding darkness." అనూర్యాః నామ తే లోకాః అన్దేన తమసావృతాః లోకసా& I = Witness to what we do. It is said in Mahabharata (Adi parva) that one may be naive enough to think that no one knows when he perpetrates a foul deed. But the devas and the One within are watching him. Besides there are other witnesses. They are the sun, the moon, the god of wind, the god of fire, the sky, the earth, the water, one's own mind, the god of death, the day and the night, the two junctions of the day and the night, and the god of Dharma.

మన్యతే పాపకం కృత్వా న కశ్చిత్ వేత్తి-మామితి। విదన్తి వైనం దేవాశ్చ యమైచ్చవాన్తరపూరుషః॥

ఆదిత్య-చన్ద్రావనిలానలౌ చ ద్యౌర్భూమి-రాపో హృదయం యమశ్చ । ఆహశ్చ రాత్రిశ్చ ఉభే చ సంధ్యే ధర్మశ్చ జానాతి నరస్య వృత్తమ్ ॥

Manu also says something on these lines.

మన్యన్డే వై పాపకృతో న కశ్చితృశ్యతీతి నః । తాంస్తు దేవాః ప్రపశ్యన్తి స్వస్త్యైవాన్తర పూరుషః ॥

ద్యార్భూమిరాపో హృదయం చన్ద్రార్కాగ్నియమానిలా । రాత్రిః సన్యE చ ధర్మశ్చ వృత్తజ్ఞాః సర్వదేహినామ్ ॥

The Lord witnesses everything. So He is called సాడీ I సాడీ- సాజాత్ అవ్యవధానేన స్వరూప బోధేన ఈకతే పశ్యతి సర్వమితి సాడీ says the (VS15). also:సర్వలోచని one who witnesses everything.SS(820). సర్వ-రోగహరమ్ I (One who removes all diseases. We are told to pray to the Sun God for good health. ఆరోగ్యం భాస్కరాత్ ఇచ్ఛేత్ I so goes the saying. Health is the most precious possession one can have.

In its abscence one cannot be happy even though he has other good things of life like money at his disposal. Not only it makes him unhappy but it affects him in other ways too. "A sick body cannot house a healthy mind." said Swamy Vivekananda. A sick man cannot work efficiently. He cannot even concentrate and say his prayers properly. Keeping all this in mind Kalidasa said in his Kumarasambhavam that the foremost requisite for the

performance of dharma is a sound body: శరీరం ఆద్యం ఖలు ధర్మ-సాధనమ్ I It is said that the sins committed in previous births afflict one in the form of diseases.పూర్వ జన్మ-కృతం పాపం వ్యాధి-రూపేణ బాధతే I The sage Manu gives some details of diseases one gets because of sins committed by him.

ఇహ దుశ్చరితైక కేచిత్కేచిత్ పూర్వకృతైస్తథా । ప్రాప్నవన్తి దురాత్మానో నరా రూపవిపర్యయమ్ ॥ సువర్ణమౌరక కౌనఖ్యం సురాపాక శ్యావదన్తతామ్ । బ్రహ్మహా క్షయరోగిత్వం దౌశ్చర్మ్యం గురుతల్పగికి ॥ పిశునికి పౌతినాసిక్యం సూచకికి పూతివక్ర్తతామ్ । ధాన్యమౌరో క్లాస్టీపానత్వం ఆతిరేక్యం తు మిశ్రకికి ॥ అన్నహర్తా ఆమయావిత్త్వం మౌక్యం వాగపహారకికి । వస్త్రాపహారకికి శ్రైత్ర్యం పఙ్లతాం అశ్వహారకికి ॥ ఏవం కర్మవిశేషణ జాయనే సద్విగర్హితాకి । జడమూకాన్ధబధిరా వికృతాకృతయాస్తథా ॥

Manu classifies the sins into various categories based on their gravity. He terms five as మహిపాతకాని I or great sins. He says that the cure for the diseases can be had by means of expiatory acts. These acts include taking medicines, performing special sacrifices, homas, japa, harity etc.. But in these modern times it may be difficult, if not impossible, to perform these prescribed rites. Our shastras say that in all such cases the remedy lies in chanting Lord's names or thinking of Him.

ప్రాయశ్చిత్తాన్యశేషాని తపఃకర్మాత్మకానివై। యాని తేషాం అశేషాణాం శ్రీకృష్ణనుస్మరణం పరమ్॥

This is a verse we say daily with our prayers and says that repeating Sri Krishna's names is the expiation for all sins. So the Lord has the following names. పాపనాశనః I

కీర్తితః పూజితో ధ్యాతః స్మృతః పాపరాశిం నాశయన్ పాపనాశనః । "పక్షోపవాసాద్ యత్ పాపం పురుషస్య ప్రణశ్యతి । ప్రణాయామ శతేనైవ తత్ పాపం నశ్యతే నృణామ్ ॥ ప్రాణాయామసహస్రేణ యత్ పాపం నశ్యతే నృణాం । క్షణమాత్రేణ తత్ పాపం హరేర్ధ్యానాత్ ప్రణస్యతి ॥" ఇతి వృద్ధాశాతాతపే ॥ VS(992). హరిః - స్మృతిమాత్రేణ పుంసాం పాపం సంసారం వా హరతీతి హరిః I VS(351)

For this reason, Siva has the name Hari. SS (PP) (No.542) and also No.96(SA). పవిత్రక్రావనః- పరమస్తు పుమాన్ ధ్యాతో దృష్టః కీర్తితః జ్రుతః పూజితః స్మృతః ప్రణతః స సర్వాన్ పాపానున్మూలయతీతి I "పుష్కరం పవిత్రమహ" మితి జ్రుతిః II SS (PP)(No 90). తీర్థః- యథా ప్రయగాది స్నానపానాదినా పావయతి ఏవం స్మృతమాత్రేణ సర్వన్పావయతీత్యర్థః I (SS)(PP)(No.224).

సోమగ్రహ స్త్రోత్రమ్ I Hymn in praise of the Moon God.

డీరోదార్ణవ-సంభూతం అత్రినేత్ర-సముద్భవమ్ । నమామి శశినం దేవం శంభోర్మకుట భూషణమ్ ॥ ౨॥

I bow down to the God of Moon who was born from the ocean of milk and once appeared from the eyes of sage Atri and is is an ornament to the head of Lord Siva. The moon is called శశిస్ because we can see a mark like a శశి or hare or rabbit in it. So it is also known as శశధరః I or మృగాజ్ఞు I as some say that the mark resembles a deer. One of the names of the Lord (VS No.285) is శశబిస్టుంచి శశ ఇవ బిస్టుం లాఇంచినమస్యేతి శశబిస్టుంచిన్నం తద్వత్ ప్రజాణం పుష్టాతీతి శశబిస్టుం I and చన్నం I SS (No-63) "పుష్టామి చౌషధీం సర్వాంకి సోమో భూత్వా రసాత్మకం" (గీతా ౧×I ౧3) ఇతి భగవద్వచనాత్ I

The moon said to have come out of the ocean of milk (క్రీ రోదం I) when it was churned by the devas and asuras to get the nectar. అత్రివేత్ర-సముద్భవమ్ I It is said in the Puranas that the sage Atri produced the moon from his eye, while he was practising penance. The poet Kalidasa refers to this in his Raghuvamsa (2-75). While describing Queen SudakShina's conception he says

అథ నయనసముత్తం జ్యోతిరత్రేరివ ద్యాః సురసరిదివ తేజో వహ్నినిష్ఠూతమైశమ్ । నరపతికులభూత్త్యె గర్భమాదత్త రాజ్ఞి గురుభిరభినివిష్టం లోకపాలనుభావైః ॥ ల×॥

The commentator Mallinatha says: అత్రి మహర్షేః నయనయోః సముత్పన్నం నయనసముత్థమ్ I జ్యోతిరివ I చన్పమివేత్యర్థః I చన్పస్య అత్రినేత్రోద్భుతత్వముక్తం హరివంశే- "నేత్రాఖ్యాం వారి సుస్రావ దశధా ద్యోతయద్దిశః I తద్దర్భవిధినా హృష్టా దిశో దేవ్యో దధుస్త్రదా II సమేత్య ధారయామాసుర్న చ తాః సమశక్సువన్ I స తాభ్యః

సహసైవాత దిగ్ $\hat{h}_{\eta \eta}$ గర్భః ప్రభావితః ॥ పపాత భాసయంలోకాన్ శీతాంశుః సర్వభావనః ॥ ఇతి ॥

శంభోర్మకుట భూషణమ్ I The moon looks like an ornament on the matted locks of Siva. So He has the names: శరిశేఖరః I - శశాకారో లాఇ్చనవిశేషః శరః, సో \geq స్యాస్త్రీతి శరీ, స శేకరో యసేతి తతోక్షః I \leq SS(108), SA(5), and సోమవిభూషః I - విశిష్టా భూషా - విభూషా, సోమః విభూషా భూషణం యస్య స సోమవిభూషః చన్నధరః I "చన్నలలాటాయ కృత్తివాససే నమ" ఇతి శ్రుతిః II SS (PP) (26). Krishna says (Gita-10-21) that He is the moon among the stars. నక్షత్రాణామహం శరీ

అజ్గారక స్ట్రోత్రమ్ I Hymn in praise of Angaraka.

ధరణీ-గర్భ-సంభూతం విద్యుత్పుజ్జుం జగత్పతిమ్ । కుమారం శక్తి-హస్తం చ మఙ్గలం ప్రణమామ్యహమ్ ॥ З॥

I salute the God Mangala (Mars) who was born of earth, who shines like a cluster of lightning, who is the Lord of the earth and is the same as the Kartikeya bearing the weapon known as Shakti.

బుధ గ్రహ స్టోత్రమ్ I Hymn in praise of Budha.

ప్రియఙ్గు కనకా-భాసం రూపేణాప్రతిమం శుభమ్ । సౌమ్యం సౌమ్య-గుణోపేతం తం బుధం ప్రణమామ్యహమ్ ॥ ౪ ॥

అత్రికి I SS(70). He is of the form of Budha - descendant of Atri.

I prostrate to Budha - the son of Soma or Moon - who is effulgent like the saffron and gold, who is incomparably handsome, and who has charming qualities.

బృహస్పతి స్ట్రోత్రమ్ I Hymn in praise of Brihaspathi.

దేవానాం చ ఋషీణాం చ గురుం కనకసన్ని భమ్ । బుద్ధిపూర్ణం త్రిలోకేశం తం గురుం ప్రణమామ్యహమ్ ॥ 🛪॥

I bow down to Guru (planet Jupitar) who is the preceptor of gods and sages, who is radiant like gold, who has complete wisdom and is the Lord of the three worlds. Krishna says in Gita (10-24) that He is Brihaspati amongst priests.

పురోధసాం చ ముఖ్యం మాం విద్ధి పార్థ బృహస్పతిమ్ ।

The name Brihaspathi is synonymous for one who is very intelligent and is skilled in oratory. Amara gives his names as follows:

I salute Sukra (the planet Venus), the son of Bhrugu, who is sparkling like a pure crystal, who is the foremost preceptor of the asuras and who is adept in explaining all the shastras. దేవాసురగురుః I SS(937) - He is of the form of preceptor of devas and asuras (i.e.) Brihaspathi and Sukra. Krishna says in Gita (10-37) that amongst those with sharp intellect He is Sukracharya. కవీన-ముశనా కవిః I Sukra was the son of sage Bhrugu. He was an expert in yoga shastra and knew the art of reviving the dead, known as Sanjivini Vidya.

శనైశ్చర స్త్రోత్రమ్ I Hymn in praise of Shani.

I bow down to Shani (Saturn) whose complexion resembles the dark pigment, the son of Sun God who is a prime planet, and who was born of Chaya Devi to Sun God. るい SS(65). He is of the form of Shani.

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రాహు స్త్రోత్రమ్ I Hymn in praise of Rahu.
అర్ధకాయం మహావీర్యం చెన్ద్ర-భాస్కర-మర్దనమ్ I
సింహికా-గర్భ-సంభూతం తం రాహుం ప్రణమామ్యహమ్ II రాII
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I salute Rahu who has half the body, who has great valour, who hides the sun and the moon and who was born of Simhika.

Rahu was a demon, son of Viprachitti and Simhika. At the time the nectar, that was got by churning of the ocean was being served, he disguised himself and tried to get a share of it. But he was detected by Surya and Chandra. They informed Vishnu who as Mohini was serving the nectar. Vishnu severed the head. But since he had tasted a little of the nectar, the head became immortal. It is said to wreck its revenge by seizing them at the time of

their conjunction and opposition which causes the eclipse. This is said in Sri Bhagavata Purana. (8-9-24,25,26).

దేవరిజ్గప్రతిచ్ఛన్ను: స్వర్భానుర్దేవసంసది । ప్రవిష్ట: సోమమపిబత్ చన్ద్రార్కాభ్యాం చ సూచిత: ॥ ౨౪॥ చక్రేణ ఈరధారేణ జహార పిబత: శిర: । హరిస్తస్య కబన్దస్తు సుధయా ప్లావితో≥పతత్ ॥ ౨ҳ॥ శిరస్త్వమరతాం నీతమజో గ్రహచీక్లపత్ । యస్తు పర్వణి చన్ద్రార్కావభిధావతి వైరధీ: ॥

గ్రహం SS(67). He is of the form of Rahu who seizes. కేతు స్టోత్రమ్ I Hymn in praise of Ketu.

పలాల ధూమసజ్కశం తారక-గ్రహ-మస్తకమ్ । రౌద్రం రౌద్రతరం ఘోరం తం కేతుం ప్రణమామ్యహమ్ ॥ ౯॥

I salute Ketu whose complexion is of the colour of smoke emanating from burning of straw, who is the chief of the stars and planets, who is very cruel and of frightful appearance. కేతు: SS(66). He is of the form of Ketu.

సమష్ట్రి స్ట్రాత్రమ్ ప్రార్థనా చ $\,$ I Hymn in praise of all and prayer.

కల్యాణాని నభోమణిః సులరితం కీర్తిం కలానాం నిధిః శౌర్యం జ్మాతనయః బుధశ్చ బుధతాం జీవశ్-చిరం-జీవితామ్ । సామ్రాజ్యం భృగుజో-ఒర్కజో విజయితాం రాహుః బహూకర్షతాం కేతుర్యచ్చతు వాఞ్చితం మమ ఫలం సర్వే గ్రహః సాదరాః ॥ ೧೦॥

Let the Sun give me all prosperity, the Moon excellent fame, Angaraka valour, Budha wisdom, Guru long life, Sukra kingdom, Shani victory, Rahu attractive nature and Ketu all desires.Let all the planets give me support. ఉద్వాసన్ం క్షమాపణం చ l Giving leave and praying for forgiveness.

న్యూనాతిరిక్తా-న్యపరిస్పుటని కర్మాణి యానీహ మయా కృతాని । సర్వాణి చైతాని మమ కమధ్వం ప్రయాతు తుష్టాః పునరాగమాయ ॥ ౧౧॥

There might have been deficiencies or excesses or lack of clarity in the rites I have performed. Kindly bear with them. Please go happily and return.

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ప్రార్థనా । Prayer.
అన్యథా శరణం నా<u>స్తి</u> యూయం మే శరణం సదా ।
తస్మాత్కారుణ్య భావేన రక్షధ్వం గృహ-నాయకాః ॥ ౧౨॥
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I have no other refuge. You are always my protection. Therefore, may you, the lords of the planets kindly protect me.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

The nine planets mentioned here are said to give auspicious or inauspicious results to one as per the individual's karma or past actions. By propitiating them, it is said that one can either get favourable results in enhanced form or malefic effects with reduced severity. So we have the practice of worshipping them in the temples regulary and particularly on certain days dedicated to them, like Saturday is the day specially chosen to worship god Saturn. Let us now look at what is said about such worships in our shastras. The scriptures talk of this subject at two different levels. One is at the ప్యావహ్యాంక్ or transactional level or the level at which we do our work or go about doing business in this world. The other is at the పారమాంక level or at the level of reality or truth. Let us call them as level 1 and 2.

Speaking at level1 first, the scriptures aver that the Lord created the devas and assigned them their duties and conferred on them the capability necessary to perform their duties.

కవిర్మనీషీ పరిభూః స్వయంభూః యథాతథ్యతో
$$\ge$$
 ర్థాత్ వ్యదధాత్ శాశ్వతీభ్యః సమాభ్యః I (Isavasyopanishad.No.8).

The various deities perform their assigned duties deligently as the Lord is keeping a close watch over them. This is also said in the Kathopanishad.

From Its fear; the fire burns, the sun generates heat; again from Its fear Indra, Vayu and Death run around, busy in their respective jobs. The Taittiriyopanishad (Anuvaka 8) says the same thing.

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భీషస్మాద్వాతః పవతే । భీషోదేతి సూర్యః ।
భీషాస్మాదగ్నిశేచ్చన్నశచ్చ । మృత్యుర్ధవతి పఞచ్చమ ఇతి ।
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Thus, the Lord is the creator and also the controller of various devatas. Because of this, He gets the names మహాదేవః and మహేశ్వరః I . The Upanishads to some extent and the

Puranas to a greater extent talk about the deities. They say they have supernatural powers to bless us with health, wealth and such material benefits. Because of this people have developed the habit of worshipping different deities.

People choose to worship a particular deity because they think that deity can fulfil their specific desires. In this way they may worship the planets to ward of evil effects predicted by an astrologer. Similarly, one may worship Goddess Laksmi to get wealth or Sarasvathi to gain knowledge. The puranas and other scriptures give the method of worship also. It is also possible that one is attracted to a particular deity because of past tendencies called vasanas. 窓内である。 これできる。 これできる。

ಮೇ
$$=$$
 ಏಸ್ಯನ್ಯ-ದೆವರ್-ಭಕ್ತ್ ಯಜ್ನೆ ಕ್ರದ್ಧಯಾನ್ಪಿರ್ಕ್ । ರಾಜ್ನು ಮಾಮೆವ ಕ್ರೌಯ ಯಜ್ನ್ಬ್ಬಿಫಿ-ಫುರ್ವುಕರ್ಮ ॥ (Gita-9.23)

The results one gets as the fruit of the worship is, in fact given by Him only, and is channelised through the particular deity. (Gita-Chap-7)

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కామైసైసై-ర్హృతజ్ఞానాః ప్రపద్యస్తే- ఒన్యదేవతాః ।

తం తం నియమ-మాస్తాయ ప్రకృత్యా నియతాః స్వయా ॥ ೨०॥

యో యో యాం యాం తనుం భక్తః శ్రద్ధయార్చితు-మిచ్ఛతి ।

తస్య తస్యాచలాం శ్రద్ధాం తామేవ విదధా-మ్యహమ్ ॥ ೨೧॥

స తయా శ్రద్ధయా యుక్త-స్తస్యారాధన-మీహతే ।

లభతే చ తతః కామాన్ మయెవ విహితాన్ హి తాన్ ॥ ೨೨॥
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Krishna adds that He strengthens their faith in that particular deity. Such devotees, who worship like this, will also progress in course of time and reach higher forms of devotion and worship. The Lord says that He will ensure their progress. The point to be noted here is that these deities are only Lord's manifestations, and not eternal like the Lord. The Lord says in Gita (8-16) that even the positions of the creator Brahma and Indra are not permanent. They will go in time. Krishna says this:

So, the rewards they offer cannot be permanent either. They will necessarily be ephemeral or limited by time.

Krishna terms these people who worship such deities as people endowed with limited intelligence. This is because the effort they put in to perform the worship, in the form of gathering materials, the time and money spent is the same as required to worship the Lord; but the result they get is limited. The reason is that their vision is limited.

The remedy lies in understanding what is said in Gita and other scriptures and get a broader picture. One may worship any deity but with the understanding that the deity worshipped is only the Supreme Being that has no limitations. To facilitate such an understanding the stotras contain names that reveal this fact. For example, one of the 108 names of LakShmi (అప్ట్రైక్ ర్లో కల్లో కల్లో

For example, the Kaivalyopanishad says:

"He is Brahma, He is Shiva, He is Indra, He is the Immutable, the Supreme, the Selfluminous. He alone is Vishnu, He is Prana, He is Time and Fire, He is the Moon." A popular verse, which we recite during our prayers says this.

This verse says that just like the rain water falling in different places ultimately reaches the sea, so do the worship offered to different deities reach the Lord. This is sufficient proof of the fact that a deity worshipped in any form is a manifestation of the One Supreme Being only. So the Lord gets these names (VS 725 and 726) as ఏకి- పరమార్థతికి

సజాతీయ-విజాతీయ-స్వగతభేద-వినిర్ముక్తత్వాత్ ఏకః; "ఏకమేవాద్వితీయమ్"(చాన్ద్.ఉప్. $E I = 0 I \cap 0$) ఇతి శ్రుతేః I and ఏకరూపః - ఏకమేవ రూపం వాస్తవం యస్య సః ఏకరూపః I "స ఏకః స ఏవ రుద్ర" ఇతి శ్రుతిః II SS(PP)(511). and as అనేకঃ- మాయయా బహురూపత్వాత్ నైకః; "ఇన్ద్ ్రో మాయాభిః పురురూప ఈయే"(బృ.ఉప్. $0 I \times I \cap E$) ఇతి శ్రుతిః I Also అనేకమూర్త҈ঃ- అవతారేషు స్వేచ్ఛయా లోకానాముపకారిణీర్బహ్వీర్మూర్తీర్భజత ఇతి అనేకమూర్త్యిး- అవతారేషు స్వేచ్ఛయా లోకానాముపకారిణీర్బహ్వీర్మూర్తీర్భజత ఇతి అనేకమూర్త్యిః I (VS 721) and శతమూర్త్యిః- సహస్రసజ్ఞ్యాతా అనేకమూర్తయిః సంవిదాకృతేః సస్తేతి శతమూర్తిః I (VS 723). సహస్రమూర్త్యిః - సహస్రసజ్ఞ్యాతా అనేకమూర్తయుః, సర్వాత్మకత్వాత్, అస్య సస్తేతి సహస్రమూర్తుః I "యత్పరం బ్రహ్మ సర్వాత్మే"తి శ్రుతిః II SS(PP)(209) and బహురూపః - బ్రహ్మాదీ స్థావరాన్హాకరేణ బహురూపః I "ఇన్డ్ మాయాభిః పురురూపు" ఇతి శ్రుతిః I SS(PP)(393). The Siva Mahimna Stotram (No.23) says this in a highly poetic fashion.

త్వమర్కస్వైం సోమస్వ్వమసి పవనస్వైం హుతవహ-స్త్వమాపస్వైం వ్యోమ త్వము ధరణిరాత్మా త్వమితి చ I పరిచ్ఛిన్నమేవం త్వయి పరిణతా బిఖితి గీరం న విద్మస్థత్వైం వయమిహ తు యత్ త్వం న భవసి II

Some hold this limiting opinion about You: You are the Sun; You are the Moon; You are the Fire; You are the Air; You are the Water; You are the Space; You are the Earth; and You are the Self. But we do not know that thing which You are not.

Worshipping any deity with such an expanded vision will bring in infinitely richer results and also take our understanding of God to a higher degree. Sri Bhagavatha says (5-7-5) that the king Bharatha performed the religious rites with this idea in his mind and offered the results of the rites to the Lord with the knowledge that the different deities are only different limbs of the Lord.

సమ్ప్రచరత్సు నానాయాగేషు విరచితాఙ్గక్రియేష్వపూర్వం యత్ తత్ క్రియాఫలం ధర్మాఖ్యం పరే బ్రహ్మణి యజ్ఞపురుషే సర్వదేవతారిజ్గానాం మన్హాణాం అర్థనియామకతయా సాక్షాత్కర్తరి పరదేవతాయాం భగవతి వాసుదేవ ఏవ భావయమాన ఆత్మనైపుణ్యమృదితకషాయో హవిఃష్వధ్వ ర్యుభిః గృహ్యమాణేషు స యజమానో యజ్ఞభాజో దేవాంస్తాన్ పురుషావయవేష్వభ్యధ్యాయత్ ।

It is said that the king Bharata's mind was thouroughly cleansed through the purity of his actions and he developed intense devotion to the Lord.

Swami Rama Thirta explains this with an interesting example. A lady goes to a jeweller's shop desirous of buying, say, a gold bangle. The salesman there displays various designs of bangles available with him. She does not look at the other items, also made of gold, on display or being shown to other ladies there. She is taken by the form and the name "bangle" and buys it. She makes the payment and goes away happily with the bangles.. A thief enters the shop at night. He collects all items of gold and makes good his escape. He does not bother whether the item is a bangle or a chain or something else. That is, he is not taken by the form like the lady. The Swami points out that there is no such THING as "bangle" or "chain". "Bangle" and "chain" are only gold. "Bangle" and "chain" are only names given to particular forms of gold. They do not have existance of their own. They depend on the gold for their existance but not vice versa. The gold can exist separately, independently of the bangle and the chain. Such a thing, like gold in this case, which gives substance to other things is called Adhishtanam అధిష్టానమ్ I . Some more ekShamples are: wood is the Adhishtanam for articles like chair and table made out of it. One cannot bring a chair or table without bringing wood. Or, to put it bluntly, when one is bringing a chair or table, he is bringing only wood. Clay is the Adhishtanam for pot and other items made of clay. The names and forms like "bangle" and "chain" are not permanent as they can be changed; but not the Adhishtanam gold which gives them existance. It will continue to exist even after the bangle or chain is melted or made into a different item. In fact what we call as "bangle" or "chain" or by any other name is only gold. Such items do not exist by themselves. The lady temporarily overlooks the Adhishtanam gold - the permanent substance - as her mind is set on the bangle. But the thief is wiser. He is after the Adhishtanam gold only. He is not fooled by the names and forms like "bangle" and "chain" and as a result becomes richer. The conclusion, the Swamiji says is, that most of us are struggling with the world of names and forms only and may be termed as ajnanis. But the wise thief, who goes beyond names and forms is like a jnani. He strikes it rich.

So at level 2, one can worship the deity as the Supreme Being, as being behind it, as the source and sustainer of all other forms of deities. Not surprisingly, one of His names is (VS No.324)

He has also the name సర్వదేవమయః I The suffix మయ appended to any word means "made of" or composed of. Thus we say the ornament is స్వర్ణమయు. It is gold and nothing but gold only. Gold pervades it in and through. Similarly, the Lord has the name (SS950) సర్వదేవమయః I . Any deity is nothing but a form and name of the Lord only. We have seen this said in this popular verse from Niti Sastra.

The vessels (made of clay) are different but the clay is one. The ornaments are many but the gold is one. The cows are many but the milk is one. (So also) the bodies are many but the Lord is one.

This understanding will bring in rich dividends in the form of material gains and also spiritual progress. Since He is in the form of all deities, the worship offered to Him flows to all deities, which are His various forms only and as a result fetches the benefits of worshipping them also. Sri Bhagavatha (8-5-49) illustrates this with an apt example.

Even as pouring water at the roots of a tree nourishes the trunk and branches as well. even so worshipping the Lord Vishnu amounts to propitiating all as well as oneself. Taking the example of bangle and chain discussed earlier, we see that when the gold is cleaned and polished, the ornaments "bangle" and "chain" get automatically cleaned and polished. Also when we weigh the "bangle" and "chain", we are in fact weighing the adhishtanam gold only. This brings home the idea conveyed all along. That is, worship offered to a deity in any form is indeed worship offerd to the Supreme Being only, but unknowingly. And worship offered to the Supreme Being is equivalent to worshipping all the deities. An incident in the life of the Tamil saint Sambandar illustrates this point. He wanted to go to Madurai, the capital of Pandyan kingdom. The kingdom was at that time, under a wave of Jainism and the king too was under the spell of that religion.

In view of this, it appears that his well wishers advised him to drop the idea of visiting that place as they feared he may be harmed there. They added that the planetary positions also were not favourable for undertaking the journey. But the saint was not discouraged by such thoughts. He recited ten verses through which he conveyed that the planets will do no harm

to the devotee of the Lord; but on the other hand they will do only good and much, much good only. His vision was very clear. When one is under the Lord's protection, the planets, who are His form only, will not harm him. So Sri Bhagavatha (2-3-10) says that a wise person, whether he has many desires, or has no desires or he desires mokSha can worship the Lord and benefit.

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అకామః సర్వకామో వా మోక్షకామః ఉదారధీః ।
తీవేణ భక్తియోగేన యజేత పురుషం పరమ్ ॥
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But we are only human. We are fascinated by the worldly gains like health and lucre as we feel they are near and are tangible and no attraction to things like God's grace and salvation which sound distant and nebulous. Yama, the god of death, mentions this with sadness in Kathopanishad. (1-2-2)

He adds with regret that these people will be reborn and come to him again and again. As an aside, it is to be pointed out that some devotees may call the Supreme Being by different names such as Siva or Krishna etc. For example, the authour of Siva-mahimna Stotram says: మహేశాన్నా పరో దేవి: that is, there is no God superior to Mahesha or Siva. They may also add that they will not worship other deities who can give only petty benefits or favours. For example we see Sri Sankaracharya saying so in his famous work Sivanandalahari.

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సహస్రం వ<u>ర్షనే</u> జగతి విబుధాః క్షుద్రఫలదా
న మన్యే స్వప్నే వా తదనుసరణం తత్కృతఫలమ్ I
హరి-బ్రహ్మాదీనామపి నికటభాజా-మసులభం
చిరం యాచే శంభో శివ తవ పదాంభోజ-భజనమ్ II V II
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There are thousands of gods who can give petty benefits. I will not even dream of worshipping them or seeking favours from them. O Shambo! I seek only Your lotus feet which is difficult to attain even by Gods like Vishnu and Brahma, though they are near You. Prima facie, it will seem that the Acharya is speaking disparagingly of Vishnu and Brahma. But, his intention becomes clear if we can see that he is taking Siva as the Supreme Lord. All other Gods become His manifestations only and cannot give ever lasting bliss or mokSha like Him. In the same vein, Kulasekhara says in his Mukundamala thus.

పృథ్వీ రేణురణు: పయాంసి కణికా ఫల్లుస్స్పులిజ్లో లఘు: తేజో నిశ్వసనం మరుత్తమతరం రోన్స్లాం సుసూక్మం నభః । కుద్రా రుద్రపితామహప్రభృతయః కీటాస్సమస్తాస్సురాః దృష్టే యత్ర స తావకో విజయతే భూమా 🗕 వధూతావధి: ॥ 🗩 💵 ॥

He terms all gods including Rudra and Brahma as insignificant. The idea is that when one realises that Lord alone is supreme and real, all other gods are only names and forms and so are unsubstantial and insignificant. But all have said the one fact stated above, that is worshipping Him is the best thing to do.

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Please send corrections to sanskrit@cheerful.com