The Greatness of Shrisuktam

श्रीसूक्तमहात्म्यम्

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These verses narrate the glory of Shri Suktam, the vedic hymn in praise of Shri or Laxmi Devi. They are in the form of a dialogue between Parasurama and Pushkara, the son of Varuna and are from chapter 129 of Shri Vishnu Dharmottara purana. The English translation given after each verse is not exact, but will convey the meaning of the verse. Shri is the bestower of all that is auspicious to her devotees. Generally She is said to grant wealth. But this limitation is in our mind only. Really She can grant all wishes including mokSha itself. The ShriSuktam thus is a prayer for not only wealth but all that is required for leading a dharmic life and attaining Her grace.

Parasurama said: O Lord! son of Varuna! Kindly tell me the mantras mentioned in each veda for attaining prosperity.

Pushkara said: The Shri Suktam contained in each veda is capable of giving all prosperity to one living in any of the worlds.
Parasurama said: O you who knows all details about dharma! kindly tell me about the Shri Suktam that is to be found in the vedas and also the procedure to be followed in observing it.

Pushkara replied as follows. The fifteen verses beginning हिरण्य वर्णम् are to be seen in the Rig veda. It is auspicious and can confer prosperity.

Similarly, the four verses beginning रथे अक्षेषु वजेत and the Shri Suktam to be seen in the Yajur veda are very beneficial.

Similarly the verses beginning आयूर्यायम् in the Sama veda and the verses beginning श्रीयम् दातुमैविद्धि in the Atharvana veda along with the Shri Sukta are really very beneficial.

One who recites the Shri Sukta will get rid of his poverty in toto. One who performs homa with oblations will receive similar benefits.

One performing the homa offering ten thousand lotus flowers
dipped in ghee will be blessed by laxmi devi who holds the lotus flower in her hands. Like wise, if one offers homa with one hundred thousand flowers (with Shri Sukta) in water, (continued in the next verse)

नापैित तत्कुलालाह्वमि: विष्णोर्वक्षमगता यथा ।
ध्वाराकानान्तु बिल्वानं हुतवा रामायुतं तथा ॥ १०॥
Laxmi will reside in his house permanently, as She stays in the chest of Shri Vishnu. Further, if one performs homa with ten thousand bilva leaves dipped in ghee, (continued in the next verse)

बहुवित्तमवामोति स यावननसंत्चन्ति ।
बिल्वानं लक्ष्मोमेन कुंठे लक्ष्मीपुपाशुते ॥ ११॥
he gets immense wealth as per his wish. If he performs homa for a hundred thousand times with bilva leaves then Laxmi will stay in his house permanently.

पदानामथ बिल्वानं कोटिहृमं समाचरेत् ।
श्रद्धानाः समामोति देवेन्द्रतममिप ध्रुवम् ॥ १२॥
If one performs homa for ten million times with lotus and bilva leaves he is sure to attain the position of Indra.

संपूज्य देवीं वरदं यथावत्
पदेस्तिस्तेषाः कुसुमेश्वरान्ये: ।
क्षीरण भूपैं: परमात्रभक्ष्ये:
लक्ष्मीमवामोति विधानतः ॥ १३॥
Similarly one who worships Her with lotus, white flowers, milk, incense and excellent food items as prescribed will receive great wealth.

इति श्री विष्णुहृमांतरे द्वितीयवंडे मार्कण्डेयवत्रसंवादे
रामेऽपि पुष्करोपाल्याने श्रीसूक्तमहात्मकथने नाम
अद्याविन्दयुत्तर शततमो:ध्यायः ॥

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