Tripurasundari Ashtakam

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Octad to tripurasundari
by shrImad sha.nkarAchArya

Introduction

Before we begin, let us offer ourselves at the feet of the Divine Mother, mahAtripurasundari, who as Ishvara rules the world but is none other than the indwelling spirit (Atman) within us and which pervades us all that exists. This introduction deals with the background on the name of tripurasundari. It is one of the best epithets to describe the Devi meaning that she is the belle of all the three worlds. The word tripura can be interpreted variously. The kAlikA purANa says that by the will of pradhAna, the body of Lord Shiva became triple: the upper part became Brahma, the middle part became ViShNu and the lower part became Rudra. As these three pura-s (bodies) are in Lord Shiva, he is called Tripura (three bodied) and his wife is known as tripura. In the kAmakalA vilAsa (13,14), the honored sage, abhiyukta, mentions that Devi created all the three forms and she is before all (purobhava), because she is in the form of all the three (trayImayi) and exists even after the dissolution of the three worlds and recreates them again. In the brahmANDa-purANa, it is mentioned that the Goddess tripurasundari rules over the entire universe and She is the supreme empress, and Brahma, ViShNu and Shiva are mere functionaries in her empire. The LalitA SahasranAma portrays Her as being attended by LakShmi and Saraswati on either side. Shankaracharya, in his saundrayalahirI, mentions that Brahma, ViShNu and Shiva started their cosmic processes when the Supreme Shakti knitted Her brow for a split second.

The Devi mantra consists of three syllables, and her fifteen lettered mantra panchadashAkShari is composed of three kUTa-s (peaks). She resides in three nADI-s (nerve channels), namely suShumnA, pingalA, and iDA. She is the ruler of the three Shaktis - ichchA (will), kriyA (action), and j nAna (knowledge). She pervades all the three
worlds - heaven, earth and the nether world. She is the controller of all the three bodies - sthula (gross), sukshma (subtle), and karaṇa (causal). She is the self which is present through the three states of existence - jāgrat (waking), svapna (dream), and suShupti (deep sleep). Though she is above all guṇa-s, She pervades the three modes of energy - sattva (purity), rajas (mobility) and tamas (inertia).

Love and joy are the inherent qualities of beauty. Sundarī means belle and beauty. Shankaracharya, while explaining Chandogya upaniṣad 7, 31:1, mentions that all longing and desire is a source of pain, and in what is finite there is no bliss. He mentions that the Infinite alone can produce bliss. When bliss takes on a form, it is sundarī: sarvāṅga sundarī (lalitā trishati, verse 130) and Shankara comments on this name of the Devi as the one who possesses all the marks of beauty and has all the qualities of perfection and is thus the source of Bliss.

May the Divine Mother guide us in our every action and thought, and may She confer upon us the greatest gift of all, moksha (liberation) by removing the veil of maya which She weaves. At Her feet, OM tātSa.

अथ त्रिपुरसुन्दरी अष्टकम् ।
कदम्बवनचारिणी मुनिकदम्बकादभिविनी
नितम्भजित भूघरं सुरनितभिविनीसेविताम् ।
नवाम्बुरुहलोचनामभिनामव्युद्धयामला
त्रिलोचनकुटुम्बिनी त्रिपुरसुन्दरीमाथ्रये ॥ १॥

कदम्बवनवासिनी कनकवझकीधारिणी
महार्षणिहारिणी मुखसमुखसद्वृणीम् ।
दयाविभवकारिणी विशाद्वोचनी चारिणी
त्रिलोचनकुटुम्बिनी त्रिपुरसुन्दरीमाथ्रये ॥ २॥

कदम्बवनशालया कुचभरोपलोप्यान्यायो
कुचोपमितशैलया गुरुकुपालसद्वृणयः ।
मदरुणकपोलया मधुरोत्तवचालया
कयापिघननीलया कवचिता वर्य लीलयः ॥ ३॥

कदम्बवनमध्यमाङ्कनककण्डलोपस्थिताः
पद्मभुरुहवासिनी सततसिद्धसोदामिनीम् ।
恭敬∂पुरसुयकम ्
तजपािचं
िवकचचंिचूडामिणं
िऽलोचनकुटुिन
िऽपुरसुरीमाौये
॥ ४॥

कुचाितिवपिकां
कुिटलकुलालंकृ तां
कुशेशयिनवािसन
कुिटलिचिवेिषणीम ्
।

मदाणिवलोचनां
मनिसजािरसंमोिहन
मतमुिनककां
मधुरभािषणीमाौये
॥ ५॥

समप्रथमपुिणिणीरुधिरबिन्दुलालम्बरां
गृहीतमधुपात्रांरेतेचांकरणां
घनस्तनभरोभां गलितचूळिकां द्यामलां
त्रिलोचनकुटुंबिणीम त्रिपुरसुन्दरीमाणये
॥ ६॥

सकुःकुमविलेपनामककुंचुबिक्षुरिकां
समन्द्रसिस्तेरिणांसत्तरचापाधाङ्कुःशाम्
अशोपजनमोहिनीमरणाल्युभूषां
जापाकुसुमभासुरां
।

अशेषजनमोिहनीमेणमा
भूषारां
जपाकुसुमभासुरां
जपिवधौ
कुसुमभासुरां
।

॥ ७॥

पुररपुरिका
िचकुरबसैरंिीकां
िपतामहपितोतां
पुटपटीरचचारताम ्
।

भजािमभुवनांिबकां
सुरवधूिटकाचेिटकाम ्
॥ ८॥

॥ इति श्रीमद् शारुराचार्यविरचितं त्रिपुरसुन्दर्याखं समातमं
कदम्बवनवासिनी स्तोत्रम् च

Encoded and proofread Madras Giridhar

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