Shiva Panchakshara Mantra Stotra

शिवपञ्चकश्राकरमन्त्रस्तोत्रम्

Document Information

Text title : paJNchAkSharamantra stotra
File name : panch.itx
Category : panchaka, shiva, shankarAchArya
Location : doc_shiva
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Latest update : September 15, 2020
Send corrections to : Sanskrit@cheerful.com

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September 15, 2020

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A Shivastotra by ShankarAchArya

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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: नमः शिवाय च।

The dAridrya dahana stotra of VasiShTha says:

दारिद्र्य-दुःखनाय नमः शिवाय।

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.
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).

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.”

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.”

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.”

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.”

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

॥ इति श्रीमणकराचार्यविचारितं शिवपञ्चकाश्रस्तोत्रं समासम् ॥

शिवपञ्चकाश्रस्तोत्रम्

नागेन्द्रहाराय त्रिलोचनाय भस्माङ्रागाय महेश्वराय ।
नित्याय शुद्धाय दिगम्बराय तस्मै नकाराय नमः शिवाय ॥ १ ॥

मन्दारुपुष्प-बहुपुष्प-सुपुष्पिताय तस्मी मकाराय नमः शिवाय ॥ २ ॥ variation

मकारमहिताय

शिवाय गौरीवदनाय-बृन्द- सूर्याय दक्षाध्वरनाशकाय ।
श्रीनीलकण्ठाय वृषभजाय तस्म शिकाराय नमः शिवाय ॥ ३ ॥

वसिष्ठ-कुम्भोज्जन-मानमिथुनाधिशाम्भ मेवार्चित्तशृखाय ।
चन्द्राक-वैशानश्रोचनाय तस्मै वकाराय नमः शिवाय ॥ ४ ॥

शिवपञ्चकाश्रस्तोत्रम्

ष्ठिराय जटाधराय पिनाकहस्ताय सनातनाय ।
दिव्याय देवाय दिगम्बराय तस्मै यकाराय नमः शिवाय ॥ ५ ॥
शिवपंचक्षरमन्त्रस्तोत्रम्

पंचक्षरमिदं पुण्यं यः पटेच्छिवसन्निधयतः।
शिवतोकमवामोति शिवेन सह मोंदते॥

॥ इति श्रीमन्नङ्कराचार्यंविरचितं शिवपंचक्षरस्तोत्रं समासाम्॥

Encoded and proofread, and translated by
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pdf was typeset on September 15, 2020

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