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Shri Subrahmanya Bhujangam 1

Comments by Ravishankar Mayavaram

shrI subrahmaNya bhujangam is a stotra sung under inspiration by shrI Adi shankarAchArya at Thiruchendur (presently located in Tamil Nadu, India). When he meditated upon shrI subrahmaNya, he became aware of the self luminous light shining in his heart and words came out his mouth in extempore in bhujanga metre. It is also said that AchArya then actually saw the AdisheSha worshipping the Lord and adopted the bhujanga metre.


Invocation of shrI vighneshvara

Though he always sports the appearance of a child, he can crumble the the mountains of obstacles. Though he is elephant–faced, he is honored even by his five–faced father Shiva (sadyaojAtam, vAmadevam, aghoram, tatpuruSham and IshAnam). Lord Brahma, Indra and the other Devas seek him to fulfil their aspirations. He is known as Ganesha and he is endowed with boundless glory. May he bless me with wealth!

AchAryA’s humility

न जानामि शब्दं न जानामि चार्थं
न जानामि पद्यं न जानामि गद्यम् ।
I know not the science of musical sounds, I know not the meanings of complex texts either, I know not the nature of shlokas made of four types of padAs, and nor do I know the intricacies of the Gadyam style! But in my heart, shines a effulgent light with luminous six faces, and because of that from my mouth, amazing phrases with musical tone and meanings pour out in extempore.

This shloka brings out the humility of the AchArya, who is considered as the greatest jnani, poet, and yogi who walked on the face of this earth. Meditating on the verse will bring wisdom to the aspirant.

Lord as the Goal of VedAs

When shrI shankara sang this verse, it is said that Lord Subrahmanya gave him darshan.

O Son of Mahadeva! Seat on the peacock chariot, being the essence of the great mahA vAkyAs, having wonderfully attractive body, dwelling in the heart of great sages, O the quintessence of four vedas! Thou are indeed the Lord of the Universe.

Reason for residing on the sea shore

O Lord Subrahmanya! son of spotless parAshakti [the Mother of the Cosmos], Thou have taken the your abode near the sea shore (Thiruchendur is a coastal town) as if it is indication that whenever the devotees take refuge in Thee, they can easily cross the ocean of Samsara (the eternal cycle of life and death) and reach the other side of the shore safely!

Destroyer of devotee’s difficulties
The waves of worries that haunt the minds of the devotees get destroyed like the waves of the ocean when they hit the shore, Thou stands on the sea-side town of Thiruchendur exemplifying this truth that the mental worry-waves get destroyed when the devotees surrender themselves at Thy feet. O Lord Guha (one who resides in the cave of the heart)! I meditate on you always!

Glory of Sugandha Hill

O Lord ShanmukhA! Thou stands on the top of the Sugandha hill, proclaiming that whenever the devotees climb this hill it will give the same benefit as climbing the king of mountains (Kailas)! May the six-faced lord on the Sugandha hills remain there to bless me!

Glory of Lord Guha

On the shores of the great ocean which steals away the sins of the devotees, stands the Sugandha hills, the most favourable site for the sages to perform their penance! Thou resides there to destroy the worries of the devotees! O self-luminous Lord who is present in the cave of the heart! I adore Thee!
In a radiant golden bed room, on a cot set with rubies and covered on all sides with sweet smelling flowers, Thou art seated with the effulgence of thousand suns! Thou art the answer to every desire of the heart and Thou fulfils the righteous desires of Thy devotees! Thou art the lord of devas and son of the lord of the universe! O KartikeyA I meditate on Thee!

Meditation on Lord’s feet

Let the mind (like a bee) which is burdened with domestic troubles become happy by hovering around Thy lotus feet which is adorned with the jingling ringlets made of rings and beads, red in color indicating the grace, filled with the nectar of beauty and attracts the minds of the devotees.

Meditation on Lord’s waist

Oh! Skanda, I meditate on Thy waist which is covered by a gold colored cloth, shining with a string of ringing bells and beads, wearing a shining gold belt over the golden silk cloth, and which is by itself self-resplendent

Meditation on Lord’s Chest
Oh! conqueror of Tarakasura! By embracing Valli’s (Hunter’s daughter) well-developed breast ornated with saffron, Thy chest became red colored, thereby manifesting your eternal grace towards devotees. And such a chest I adore.

Meditation on Twelve Arms

Oh! Shanmuga! Thy arms punished Brahma, Thy arms governs the world as Thy play, Thy arms killed Soorapadma and other demons who are enemies of Indra, Thy arms are matchless in protecting the Universe, and Thy arms are a terror to Thine enemies. I worship Thy twelve arms which does all these things effortlessly.

Meditation on Lord’s Six Faces

What can I compare to Thy six faces! If there be six full moons free from blemishes and if those moons be ever shining on all sides, even then they would be no match to your effulgent faces.

Meditation on Lord’s Facial Features

Oh! Son of Parameshwara, I see Thy six lotus smiling faces shining like a group of swans, having gleaming side glance ever moving like a row of bees and with red lips overflowing with nectar.
Meditation on Lord’s Twelve Eyes

Oh! Son of Parameshwara! Oh! Merciful Lord!
When Thou hast twelve broad long eyes extending upto ears, what will Thou loose by casting that side glance for a moment [on me]?

Meditation on Lord’s Six Heads

Oh! Lord of the Universe! I offer my prostration to Thy six heads wearing crowns with brilliant rubies which protect the welfare of creatures, which were smelt by Parameshwara with joy uttering six times the mantra “Child Thou were born of me, May Thou live long.”

Meditation on Lord Balasubrahmanya

Oh! Kumara! Son of Lord Parameshwara (who destroyed Tripura)!
With garlands of brilliant rubies on Thy shoulders and chest, with bright cheeks shining when pendants dangling from Thy ears, wearing silk garment around Thy waist, and with vel in Thy hand, Oh! Lord appear before me (It is said that Lord appeared before AchArya when he sung this stotra)!

Meditation on Somaskandar

Oh!
When Lord Shankara called Thee affectionately with arms extended.
Thou hurriedly rose from Mother’s lap and rushed into Shankara’s arms who embraced thee affectionately. I meditate on such a Lord Kumara.

Meditation on Lord’s Eleven Names to Conquer Passions

Oh kumara! Oh Son of Lord of the Universe! One shines in the cave of the heart as GuhA!
Oh skanda! Oh Lord of the Devas Army! Oh Wielder of the weapon Vel (spear) which is the svarUpa of Parashakti!
One who rides on the peacock chariot! Oh Beloved of the Hunter’s daughter (Valli)!
Destroyer of the sins of your devotees! Enemy of the TarAkasura! Oh Lord protect me!

It is said that one who recites these nine will over come the passions.

Prayer for Darshan During the Last Moments of Life

Hail Guha, Dayalo. During the last moments of my life, when
I will have lost control of senses, when I will have lost consciousness, when I will be unable
move my limbs, when I will be emitting foam of phlegm, when my body will be trembling
with fear of death, when I will have none to protect me, Thou must hasten to give me
Darshan then.

Prayer to Give Darshan During Death Pangs

subrabhujanga.pdf
Oh! Lord, when ferocious messengers of Death-God come to torture me angrily shouting, “Burn him, Kill him”
Oh! Lord Thou must hasten to appear before me, riding on Peacock, carrying Shaktivel, to encourage me not to be afraid.

Prayer for Protection During Last Moments

Oh Merciful Lord! I am prostating to Thy feet often to secure Thy blessings. Oh treasure house of mercy! I offer prayers to please Thee. Thou should not be indifferent towards me during my last moments. At that time I may not have the control and energy to pray to Thee!

Prayer to Drive Away Mental Worries

O Lord! Thous hast slain the demon Soora who ruled the thousand universes! So were the demons TArakasura and Simhavaktra. But Lord, why have you not killed the demon called mental worry which haunts my mind? When it is afflicting me, what will I do? and where will I go [other than you for help]?

Prayer to Destroy Mental Worries
Oh Son of Uma! I am always troubled by the mental worries. Thou art the friend of helpless! I approach none but you for saving me. Quickly destroy my mental worries as they interfere with my devotion towards Thee!

Glory of Lord’s Holy Ash

Oh Conqueror of Taraka! Severe epilepsy, leprosy, consumption, lung diseases, venereal diseases, fevers, mental diseases of all types, they run away the moment they Thy vibhuti.

Acts of the Indriyas

Always may I have before my eyes the Murti of Lord Skanda! Always let my ears hear only the praises of Lord Skanda! Always let my mouth sing the praise of Lord Skanda! Always let my hands be of service to the Lord! Always let my body be a servant to the Lord!

Let my limbs, thoughts and actions be devoted to Skanda!

Lord Guha Alone is the Saviour of the Ordinary

In all the worlds there are Devas to grant the boons of sages and great bhaktas. But for the lowly and ordinary devotees, I know not of any other Deity to protect them except Guha!

Six Faced Lord is Our Family Deity
Oh Lord KumAra!
Let my wife, children, relatives, friends, other men and women in our household, venerate Thee! praise Thee! and always absorbed in Thy thoughts!

Prayer to Vel to Destroy Diseases

Oh! Destroyer of Krauncha Shaila!
Let every thing that trouble my body, birds, beasts, insects, severe diseases, be pierced by Thy powerful weapon Vel and taken far away and destroyed.

Prayer to Father of the Universe

Do not the parents overlook the faults of their children?
Oh! Chief of the army of Devas! I am a small child. Thou art the Father of the Universe. Oh MaheshA! Forgive all my faults.

Prayer to the Lord
I bow to Thee, O Peacock (the symbol of vedas)!
I bow to Thee, O Shakti Weapon (Vel is Parashakti herself),
I bow to Thee, O Sheep (the symbol of MAya tattvam)
I bow to Thee, O Cock (the symbol of Ego)
I bow to Thee, O Ocean (the symbol of ananda)
I bow to Thee, O Thiruchendur Shrine
I bow to Thee, O Lord Skanda!
I bow to Thee again and again!
Let all my prostrations reach Thee!

Prayer to Lord to Reveal His Powers

O Source of ananda, reveal Thyself!
O Embodiment boundless effulgent light, reveal Thyself!
O Lord! who has all pervading glory, reveal Thyself!
O Embodiment of bliss, reveal Thyself!
O Lord, Thou art the ocean of bliss, reveal Thyself!
O Lord who is the friend of all creatures, reveal Thyself!
O Lord, Son of Parameshwara, Bestower of liberation, reveal Thy Glory to me and protect me!

Effect of Reciting These Shlokas
That holy devotee, who prostrates to Lord Guha, reciting the Bhujanga stotra daily, with devotion, will be blessed with good sons, good wife, wealth and long life, and at end of his life, will attain eternal bliss with Lord Skanda

॥ इति श्रीमच्छदरभगवतः कृतो 
श्रीसुब्रह्मण्यभुजङ्ग सम्पूर्णम् ॥

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