Shri Venkatesha Karavalamba Stotra

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Author: Shri Nrisinha Bharati of Shringeri Math
Transliterated by: Sunder Hattangadi
Proofread by: Sunder Hattangadi
Translated by: A. Narayanaswami
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Hymn to Shri Venkatesha for the support of his hand

Translation by A. Narayanaswami

O Shri Venkatesha, you who have your magnificent abode on the Shesha Hills, you of the divine form, Narayana, Achyuta, Hari, with eyes broad as lotus petals, you who protect all the worlds with a playful sidelong glance of your eyes, give me the support of your hand. 1.

O Shri Venkatesha, whose lotus-like feet Brahma and other gods worship, you with the conch in your hand, whose divine hand is well adorned with the Sudarshana discus, you ocean of mercy, the refuge of all, embodiment of purity, give me the support of your hand. 2.
O Shri Venkatesha, who are to be comprehended from the Upanishads, who are the pilot for all to cross the ocean of worldly life, O Shri Padmanabha whose lotus-like feet Laxmi worships, who alone make the world a holy place, O you Vishnu who remove all sins, give me the support of your hand.

3.

O Shri Venkatesha, husband of Laxmi, whose innate nature is the theme of the Vedas, you who impart self-realization that takes away lust and other evils, who put down the Asuras and others of ill intent, O Janardana, Vasudeva, give me the support of your hand.

4.

O Shri Venkatesha, rid me fast of the three miseries (of spiritual, material, and supernatural origin) that afflict man, all-powerful Murare, in your compassion, you with eyes like the lotus, protect me; and, O Vishnu, considering me your disciple, protect me every day; and give me the support of your hand.

5.

O Shri Venkatesha, with the golden crown
glittering with the nine kinds of gems, with
your forehead adorned with the marking done
with the musk, you with the lotus-like face
resembling the moon at the full and eyes
like the lotus, give me the support of your hand. 6.

O Shri Venkatesha, whose gracious words bestow
the boons sought by the crowd praising your glories,
whose conch-like neck is adorned with a necklace
studded with precious stones, the bright gems on
whose shoulder ornament illumine the horizons of
the compass, give me the support of your hand. 7.

O Shri Venkatesha, you who have your upper
arms bedecked with bracelets, who are the spirit of
auspiciousness, who are adorned with shoulder ornaments,
who have the lords of the serpents for wristbands on
both your hands, who give (your devotees) all they
desire, give me the support of your hand. 8.

O Shri Venkatesha, Lord, who support the
universe, ocean of compassion, I
pray, in your mercy, lift me up who am sunk in
the middle of the sea (of mundane pursuits);
also bestow on me the auspicious outlook which
is the basis for the accumulation of spiritual
merit, and give me the support of your hand. 9.

O Shri Venkatesha, whose handsome body is smeared
with a heavenly (coloring) powder and is covered with
a yellow cloth, whose brightness is like that of the
morning sun, who have Brahma (the Creator) in your navel,
and whose waist is tied with a cloth, give me the
support of your hand. 10.

O Shri Venkatesha, who have your waist well-secured
with a band studded with gems, whose knees resemble mirrors
wrought of the ruby, who captivate the entire world by (the
beauty of) your feet, give me the support of your hand. 12.

O Shri Venkatesha, whose feet are lustrous with
the river (Ganga) that purifies the universe, the
day I had sight of your feet, my sins and the
(spiritual) darkness in my heart were all
dissolved away, O sovereign Lord; give me the
support of your hand. 12.
O Shri Venkatesha, when you looked me over while I was in distress, with eyes full of compassion, all the enemies (to spiritual progress), lust, and other evil passions departed from me, and, merciful One, all my poverty vanished; give me the support of your hand. 13.

These verses were composed by the sannyasin Shriman Nrisinha, who was like a honey-bee hovering over the lotus feet of Shri Venkatesha. Those mortals who recite them will attain to the supreme world of Visnu. 14.

Thus completes the Shri Venkatesha Karavalamba Stotram composed by Shri Nrisinha Bharati Svami, the Jagadguru of Sringeri.

Note: Among the 36 Jagadgurus, starting with Adi Shankaracharya, who have adorned the Shringeri Muth since it was founded twelve centuries ago, eight have had the name Nrisinha (Narasinha) Bharati. We do not know which of the eight is the author of this beautiful hymn.
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