

సుదర్శనాష్టకమ్

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by shrI V. Sadagopan

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This year on Swami Desikan's birthday, I have translated the sudarshana Ashtakam at the request of a devotee of shrI Ranganatha Swami Sannadhi at Pomona, NY. This poem in melodious and lilting Sanskrit is a pleasure to recite and listen to. Traditionally, this stotram is recited in homes, when some one has fever or illness of other kinds. Swami Desikan is said to have composed it to help the residents of Tirupputkuzhi, when they suffered from the grip of a epidemic fever. Alternatively, It is said that he composed it at Tiruvahindrapuram prior to a major debate with a leader of another sampradaya. Swami Desikan won that debate and thereby established the supremacy of shrIman Narayana and Visishtadvaita. Swami Desikan chose the 'dhrithas' chandas as a meter for the eight verses praising sudarshana. He chose the 'aupachandasikam' meter for the phala-Sruti sloka. Both these meters hint at the Vedic origin of sudarshana as indicated by Swami Desikan in one or more verses of this Stotram.

శ్రీమతే నిగమాంత మహాదేశికాయ నమః
శ్రీమాన్ వేంకటనాథార్యః కవితార్కిక కేశరీ ।
వేదంతాచార్య వర్యో మే సన్నిధత్తామ్ సదా హృది ॥

Verse 1:

ప్రతిభటశ్రేణి భీషణ వరగుణస్తోమ భూషణ
జనిభయస్థాన తారణ జగదవస్థాన కారణ ।

నిఖిలదుష్కర్మ కర్మన నిగమసద్గర్మ దర్శన

జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన ॥

O shrI sudarshana! All the enemies of your Lord's devotees run away fearing your prowess. All auspicious attributes find their home in you. Those , Who worship you cross the 'shoreless' ocean of Samsara and free themselves from their cycles of births and deaths. The entire Universe is stabilized by your mighty power. You cut asunder all the sins of those who approach you as their refuge. You bless all of your devotees with the knowledge about the righteous conduct prescribed by the Vedas. O Lord sudarshana of these auspicious attributes! Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 2:

శుభజగద్రూప మణ్డన సురగణత్రాస ఖన్దన

శతమఖబ్రహ్మ వన్దిత శతపథబ్రహ్మ నన్దిత ।

ప్రథితవిద్యత్ సపక్షిత భజదహిర్బుధ్న్య లక్షిత

జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన ॥

O shrI sudarshana! You are resplendent as a precious decoration on the hand of shrIman Narayana, who has the universes as His body. Through your grace, Devas are freed from the fear caused by the Asuras. Indra and Brahma always worship you. The Satapatha Brahmana belonging to Sukla Yajur Veda hails your glories and pays its tributes to you. The scholars of this universe seek your help to overcome their contestants. Ahirbudhnya Samhita states that Ahirbudhnya (Siva) worships you and sought the boon to see your beautiful form with His own eyes. O Lord sudarshana of illustrious attributes! Hail To Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 3:

స్ఫుటతటిజ్ఞాల పిఞ్జర వృధుతరజ్ఞాల వజ్జర

పరిగత ప్రత్నవిగ్రహ పతుతరప్రజ్ఞ దుర్ధహ ।

ప్రహరణ గ్రామ మణ్డిత పరిజన త్రాణ పణ్డిత

జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన ॥

O Lord sudarshana! You shine like the resplendent assembly of lightnings. The bright tongues of flames surrounding you appear like a cage (home) for you. The forms of Vasudeva, Sankarshana and other vyuha murti-s find their positions around your geometric form (yantra). Even the scholars with sharp intellects stumble, when they try to understand the full extent of your glory. It is a beautiful sight to see the sixteen weapons of yours resting on your hands to serve you. You are dedicated to come to the rescue of those ,who seek your protection . O shrI sudarshana of such auspicious attributes! Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 4:

నిజపదప్రీత సద్గణ నిరుపధిస్థిత షడ్గుణ

నిగమ నిర్వ్యాధ వైభవ నిజపర వ్యూహ వైభవ ।

హరి హయ ద్వేషి దారణ హర పుర ఘోష కారణ

జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన ॥

O Lord sudarshana! The Righteous people have firm attachment to your holy feet. The Six Kalyana GunAs --- Knowledge, Power, Strength, Wealth, Heroism, and effulgence-- find their natural home in You. The Vedas have firmly established Your glory in their many sections. Like your Lord, You have the forms of para and vyuha. You cut asunder the fear caused by the foes of Indra, the foremost among your devotees. You were responsible for the burning down Kashi, the city of Siva to ashes. You stood at the tip of Siva's arrow, when He was engaged in the campaign

to destroy TripurAsura. O shrI sudarshana Of such Kalyana Gunas! Hail
to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 5:

దనుజ విస్తార కర్తన జని తమిస్త్రా వికర్తన
దనుజవిద్యా నికర్తన భజదవిద్యా నివర్తన ।
అమర దృష్ట స్వ విక్రమ సమర జష్ట భ్రమిక్రమ
జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన ॥

O Lord sudarshana! You arrest the growth of the evil-minded Asuras
and destroy them down to their roots. You are like the resplendent Sun
banishing the dark night of Samsara, which bedevil your devotees. You
Overcome any and every act of deception practised by the Asuras. You
remove every shred of false knowledge that invade the minds of those ,who
seek refuge in you. The Devas celebrate Your heroic deeds and experience
joy in witnessing Your powerful actions. You revolve and rotate in many
ways in your battles against the enemies of Your devotees. May Thou with
such auspicious attributes prosper further! Hail to Thee! Hail To Thee!

Verse 6:

ప్రథిముఖాలీఢ బన్ధుర పృథుమహాహేతి దన్తుర
వికటమాయ బహిష్కృత వివిధమాలా పరిష్కృత ।
స్థిరమహాయన్త్ర తన్త్రిత దృఢ దయా తన్త్ర యన్త్రిత
జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన ॥

O Lord sudarshana! You give darsana to us with Your dynamic gait of One
foot placed forward in movement and the other rapidly following it. Your
position in that gait is beautiful to behold. You are surrounded by Your
magnificent and fearsome weapons. You are the conqueror of Powerful
illusions (mAyA) caused by Asuras. You are not therefore affected

by their acts of MayA. You are decorated with many beautiful flower garlands that add to your natural beauty. You are firmly bound in the warp of your great compassion for your devotees and bless them , when they worship You through Your Yantra and Mantra. O shrI sudarshana of such auspicious qualities! Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 7:

మహిత సమ్పత్ సదక్షర విహితసమ్పత్ షడక్షర
షడరచక్ర ప్రతిష్ఠిత సకల తత్త్వ ప్రతిష్ఠిత ।
వివిధ సజ్జల్ప కల్పక విబుధసజ్జల్ప కల్పక
జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన ॥

O Lord sudarshana of many prime qualities! The wealth of the righteous is their true knowledge about Your Lord. You Bless them with the unperishable wealth of MokSham, When they seek refuge at Your holy feet. Those who recite Your mantra made up of the six letters (akSharas) gain incomparable wealth. Your devotees (upAsakas) invoke You in Your yantra of six corners formed by two intersecting triangles and worship You at its epicenter. You pervade and reside in all the creations of Your Lord. You have the power to complete all deeds that you decide to undertake. You are thus a satya sankalpa and serve as the divine Kalpaka tree granting all the boons that your devotees request. O shrI sudarshana! Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 8:

భువన నేత్ర త్రయీమయ సవన తేజస్త్రయీమయ
నిరవధి స్వాదు చిన్మయ నిఖిల శక్తే జగన్మయ ।
అమిత విశ్వక్రియామయ శమిత విశ్వగ్భయామయ
జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన జయ జయ శ్రీ సుదర్శన ॥

O Lord sudarshana, the eye of the Universe! You are of the form of the three Vedas. You are of the form of the three fires -- gArhapatyam, Ahvaneeyam and dakShinAgni -- of the YagAs. You are of the delectable form of true knowledge! You have the power to accomplish every deed. You have taken the form of the Universe and its contents. You are worshipping thru the sacrificial rituals of your devotees. In return, You destroy the fears and diseases of those, who worship You from all directions. O Lord sudarshana of auspicious qualities! Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 9:

ఫల శ్రుతి

ద్విచతుష్కమిదం ప్రభూతసారం పఠతాం వేంకటనాయక ప్రణీతమ్ ।
విషమేఽపి మనోరథః ప్రధావన్ న విహన్యేత రథాఙ్గ ధుర్య గుప్తః ॥

Those, who recite this Stotram consisting of eight verses in praise of sudarshana composed by Venkatanatha known as Vedanta Desikan comprehend the deep references to the glory of Lord sudarshana will have the fulfilment of all their wishes. The Boon-granting powers of Lord sudarshana will make them realize all their wishes by overcoming all obstacles that stand in the way.

॥ ఇతి శ్రీ సుదర్శనాష్టకం సమాప్తమ్ ॥
కవితార్కికసింహాయ కల్యాణగుణశాలినే ।
శ్రీమతే వేంకటేశాయ వేదాంతగురవే నమః ॥

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