

ಸುದರ್ಶನಾಷ್ಟಕಮ್

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by shrI V. Sadagopan

October 2, 1995

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.

ಶ್ರೀಮತೇ ನಿಗಮಾಂತ ಮಹಾದೇಶಿಕಾಯ ನಮಃ

ಶ್ರೀಮಾನ್ ವೇಂಕಟನಾಥಾಯಃ ಕವಿತಾರ್ಕಕ ಕೇಸರೀ ।

ವೇದಂತಾಚಾರ್ಯ ವಯೋ ಮೇ ಸನ್ನಿಧತ್ತಾಮ್ ಸದಾ ಹೃದಿ ॥

Verse 1:

ಪ್ರತಿಭಟಶ್ರೀಣಿ ಭೀಷಣ ವರಗುಣಸ್ತೋಮ ಭೂಷಣ
ಜನಿಭಯಸ್ಥಾನ ತಾರಣ ಜಗದವಸ್ಥಾನ ಕಾರಣ ।
ನಿಖಿಲದುಷ್ಕರ್ಮ ಕರ್ಶನ ನಿಗಮಸದ್ಧರ್ಮ ದರ್ಶನ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ॥

O shrī 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:

ಶುಭಜಗದ್ರೂಪ ಮಣ್ಣನ ಸುರಗಣತ್ರಾಸ ಖನ್ನನ
ಶತಮಖಬ್ರಹ್ಮ ವಂದಿತ ಶತಪಥಬ್ರಹ್ಮ ನಂದಿತ ।
ಪ್ರಥಿತವಿದ್ವತ್ ಸಪಕ್ಷಿತ ಭಜದಹಿರ್ಬುದ್ಧ್ಯ ಲಕ್ಷಿತ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ॥

O shrī sudarshana! You are resplendent as a precious decoration on the
hand of shrīman 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:

ಸ್ಫುಟತಟಿಜ್ಜಾಲ ಪಿಞ್ಜರ ಪೃಥುತರಜ್ವಾಲ ಪಞ್ಜರ
ಪರಿಗತ ಪ್ರತ್ನವಿಗ್ರಹ ಪತುತರಪ್ರಜ್ಞ ದುರ್ಗ್ರಹ |
ಪ್ರಹರಣ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಮಣ್ಣಿತ ಪರಿಜನ ತ್ರಾಣ ಪಣ್ಣಿತ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ||

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 shrī sudarshana of such auspicious attributes! Hail
to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 4:

ನಿಜಪದಪ್ರೀತ ಸದ್ಗುಣ ನಿರುಪಧಿಸ್ಥಿತ ಷಡ್ಗುಣ
ನಿಗಮ ನಿವ್ಯೂಢ ವೈಭವ ನಿಜಪರ ವ್ಯೂಹ ವೈಭವ |
ಹರಿ ಹಯ ದ್ವೇಷ ದಾರಣ ಹರ ಪುರ ಪೋಷ ಕಾರಣ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ||

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:

ದನುಜ ವಿಸ್ತಾರ ಕರ್ತನ ಜನಿ ತಮಿಸ್ರಾ ವಿಕರ್ತನ
ದನುಜವಿದ್ಯಾ ನಿರ್ಕರ್ತನ ಭಜದವಿದ್ಯಾ ನಿವರ್ತನ ।
ಅಮರ ದೃಷ್ಟ ಸ್ವ ವಿಕ್ರಮ ಸಮರ ಜುಷ್ಟ ಭ್ರಮಿಕ್ರಮ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ॥

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:

ಪ್ರಥಿಮಖಾಲೀಢ ಬನ್ಧರ ಪೃಥುಮಹಾಹೇತಿ ದನ್ತರ
ವಿಕಟಮಾಯ ಬಹಿಷ್ಕೃತ ವಿವಿಧಮಾಲಾ ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ।

ಸ್ಥಿರಮಹಾಯನ್ತ್ರ ತನ್ತ್ರ ತ ದೃಢ ದಯಾ ತನ್ತ್ರ ಯನ್ತ್ರ ತ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ॥

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:

ಮಹಿತ ಸಮ್ಪತ್ ಸದಕ್ಷರ ವಿಹಿತಸಮ್ಪತ್ ಷಡಕ್ಷರ
ಷಡರಚಕ್ರ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಸಕಲ ತತ್ತ್ವ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ |
ವಿವಿಧ ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಕಲ್ಪಕ ವಿಬುಧಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಕಲ್ಪಕ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ॥

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:

ಭುವನ ನೇತ್ರ ತ್ರಯೀಮಯ ಸವನ ತೇಜಸ್ತ್ರಯೀಮಯ
ನಿರವಧಿ ಸ್ವಾದು ಚಿನ್ಮಯ ನಿಖಿಲ ಶಕ್ತೇ ಜಗನ್ಮಯ ।
ಅಮಿತ ವಿಶ್ವಕ್ರಿಯಾಮಯ ಶಮಿತ ವಿಶ್ವಗ್ಭಿಯಾಮಯ
ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಜಯ ಜಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ ॥

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 woorshipped 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:

ಫಲ ಶ್ರುತಿ
ದ್ವಿಚತುಷ್ಟಮಿದಂ ಪ್ರಭೂತಸಾರಂ ಪಠತಾಂ ವೇಂಙ್ಕಟನಾಯಕ ಪ್ರಣೀತಮ್ ।
ವಿಷಮೇಽಪಿ ಮನೋರಥಃ ಪ್ರಧಾವನ್ ನ ವಿಹನ್ಯೇತ ರಥಾಂಶ್ಚ ಧುರ್ಯ ಗುಪ್ತಃ ॥

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.

॥ ಇತಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನಾಷ್ಟಕಂ ಸಮಾಪ್ತಮ್ ॥
ಕವಿತಾರ್ಕಿಕಸಿಂಹಾಯ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಗುಣಶಾಲಿನೇ ।
ಶ್ರೀಮತೇ ವೇಂಕಟೇಷಾಯ ವೇದಾಂತಗುರವೇ ನಮಃ ॥

Translation by V.Sadagopan . Available at
<http://www.ramanuja.org/sv/acharyas/desika/stotras/sudarsanatml>

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