

ଆର୍ତ୍ତିହରଷ୍ଟୋତ୍ରମ୍

{॥ ଆର୍ତ୍ତିହରଷ୍ଟୋତ୍ରମ୍ ॥}

Artiharastotram by Sri Sridhara Venkatesa.

This is a short poem consisting of nine verses. Herein the poet prays to Lord Siva to remove the afflictions of the devotee. He asks if it is alright for the Lord not to respond to his prayers when He is reputed to protect those who even think of Him. Then he says that he is just the opposite of the Lord who is omnipotent and omniscient in that he is a weakling and ignoramus. How is it, he asks, that Lord has not taken pity on him. These verses are very moving in their appeal. The poem is a precious gem and the reader would like to add it to the collection of hymns they recite during their prayer.

॥ ଅଥ ଆର୍ତ୍ତିହରଷ୍ଟୋତ୍ରମ୍ ॥

ଶ୍ରୀ ଶଂଭୋ ମୟ କରୁଣାଶିଶିରାଂ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିଂ ଦିଶନ୍ ସୁଧାବୃଷ୍ଟିମ୍ ।
ସନ୍ତାପମପାକୁରୁମେ ମନ୍ତ୍ରାପରମେଶ ତବ ଦୟାୟାଃ ସ୍ୟାମ୍ ॥ ୧ ॥

ଅବସୀଦାମି ଯଦାତ୍ତିଭିରନ୍ନୁଗୁଣମିଦମୋକ୍ଷୋଽହସ୍ୟାଂ ଖଲୁ ମେ ।
ତବ ସନ୍ନବସୀଦାମି ଯଦନ୍ତକଶାସନ ନତଞ୍ଜବାନ୍ନୁଗୁଣମ୍ ॥ ୨ ॥

ଦେବ ସ୍ମରଂତି ତବ ଯେ ତେଷାଂ ସ୍ମରତୋଽପି ନାତିରିତିକୀର୍ତ୍ତିମ୍ ।
କଲୟସି ଶିବ ପାହୁତିକ୍ରନ୍ଦନ୍ ସୀଦାମ୍ୟହଂ କିମୁଚିତମିଦମ୍ ॥ ୩ ॥

ଆଦିଶ୍ୟାଘକୃତୌ ମାମନ୍ତୁର୍ଯାମିନ୍ନସାବଦ୍ଧାମ୍ବେତି ।

ଆର୍ତ୍ତିଷ୍ଟମଜୟସେ ମାଂ କିଂବୁୟାଂ ତବକୃପୈକପାତ୍ରମହମ୍ ॥ ୪ ॥

ମନ୍ଦାଗୁଣୀରହଂ ତବ ମୟ କରୁଣାଂ ଘଟୟତୁଂ ବିବୋନାଲମ୍ ।

ଆକୃଷ୍ଟୁଂ ତାନ୍ତୁ ବଲ୍ଲଦଲମିହ ମଢ଼େନ୍ୟମିତି ସମାଶ୍ବସିତି ॥ ୫ ॥

ତ୍ବଂ ସର୍ବଜ୍ଞୋଽହଂ ପୁନରଜ୍ଞୋଽନୀଶୋହମୀଶ୍ବରତ୍ବମସି ।

ତ୍ବଂ ମୟ ଦୋଷାନ୍ ଗଣୟସି କିଂ କଥୟେ ତୁଦତି କିଂ ଦୟା ନତ୍ବମ୍ ॥ ୬ ॥

ଆଶ୍ରିତମାର୍ତତରଂ ମାମୁପେକ୍ଷସେ କିମିତି ଶିବ ନ କିଂ ଦୟ ସେ ।

ଶ୍ରିତଗୋସ୍ତା ଦୀନାର୍ତ୍ତିହୃଦିତି ଖଲୁ ଶଂସଂତି ଜଗତି ସନ୍ତସ୍ତବାମ୍ ॥ ୭ ॥

ପ୍ରହରାହରେତିବାଦୀ ଫଣିତମଦାଶ୍ୟ ଇତି ପାଲିତୋ ଭବତା ।

ଶିବ ପାହାତି ବଦୋଽହଂ ଶୃତୋ ନ କିଂ କ୍ବାଂ କଥଂ ନ ପାଲ୍ୟସ୍ତେ ॥ ୮ ॥

ଶରଣଂ ବ୍ରଜ ଶିବମାର୍ତୀସ୍ତସତବ ହରେଦିତି ସତାଂ ଗିରାଽହମ୍ ତ୍ବମ୍ ।

ଶରଣଂ ଗତୋଽସ୍ମି ପାଲୟ ଖଲମପି ତେଷ୍ବୀଶ ପକ୍ଷପାତାନ୍ନମ୍ ॥ ୯ ॥

ଇତି ଶ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀଧରବେଂକଟେଶାର୍ଯକୃତିଷୁ ଆର୍ତ୍ତିହରସ୍ତୋତ୍ରଂ ସଂପୂର୍ଣମ୍ ॥

Encoded and proofread by N. Balasubramanian bbalu at satyam.net.in

{LIFE OF SRIDHARA VENKATESA}

ଶ୍ରୀକଣ୍ଠମିବ ଭାସ୍ବନ୍ତଂ ଶିବନାମପରାୟଣମ୍ ।

ଶ୍ରୀଧରଂ ବେଞ୍ଜଟେଶାୟଂ ଶ୍ରେୟସେ ଗୁରୁମାଶ୍ରୟେ ॥

Sridhara Venkatesa lived about 300 years ago in Tiruvisanallur, a village in Tanjavur district in Tamilnadu. He was called Tiruvisanallur Ayyaval (deeply respected person) out of great respect people held for him. Even today he is known by that name only. He was the son of Lingayaryar who was a minister to the Maharaja of Mysore. Even as a young boy Ayyaval was deeply religious and in particular had great devotion to Shiva but he made no distinction between Shiva and Vishnu. He studied Vedas, shastras and puranas and had a great desire to travel and spread the message of the puranas and in particular the glory of Lord's name among the people. After his father's death the Maharaja wanted him to take his father's job but he politely declined and left Mysore state with his wife and mother. He came to Tiruchirapalli in Tamilnadu and stayed for some time giving talks. He was supposed to have brought back to life a woman who had died by praying to the Lord. This attracted people who wanted him to solve their problems. Ayyaval did not like this and left the place. He proceeded to Tanjavur. It seems that King Shahaji (1684-1710.AD) who was ruling at that time in Tanjavur wanted him to stay in Tanjavur but Ayyaval wanted to lead a quiet life. King Shahaji was inviting scholarly brahmins to stay in his kingdom. He renamed the village Tiruvisanallur as Shahajirajapuram. One street was allotted for their stay. Ayyaval also stayed in a house there. Ayyaval was a proponent of the view that in this dark age Kali chanting the lord's name will ward off its evil effects. He was the senior contemporary of Bodhendra Swami

who was the 59th pontiff of the Shankara Math at Kanchipuram and who was an ardent advocate of the glory of the lord's name. Ayyaval wrote a book ଭଗବନ୍ନାମଭୂଷଣମ୍ (Bagavannamabhushanam) on the subject which is sadly not available now. Bodhendra Swami had also written a book ନାମାମୃତରସାୟନମ୍ (Namamritarasayanam) on the subject wherein he had made references to the work of Ayyaval. Once Ayyaval had to perform a sraddha ceremony in his house. Therein food is prepared and offered to the departed forefathers who are invoked in three brahmins invited for the occasion. When every thing was getting ready Ayyaval saw an outcaste with his family in a famished condition begging for food. His heart melted with compassion at their condition. Without any hesitation he offered them the food that was being prepared for the ceremony. He then had the house washed and prepared to conduct the ceremony again. But the brahmins in the village considered this act reprehensible and refused to conduct the ceremony again. Ayyaval pleaded with them quoting texts from the scriptures to support his action but the Brahmins were not convinced. He asked them what he should do to remedy the situation. They said that the only atonement was having a bath in the Ganges. But there was no time to go to Varanasi and return. So he prayed to Lord Shiva (in Gangashtakam) to release the waters of Ganga from His matted hair as he did on an earlier occasion for Bhagiratha. Water started flowing out of the well in his house and flooded the streets of the village. The villagers got scared and prayed to Ayyaval to forgive them and stop the flood that was threatening the village. He accordingly prayed again to stop the flooding and requested her to appear

in the well every year on that day. Even now people flock to that place every year on that day and take bath in the waters of the well in the belief that Ganga is present in the well on that day. Ayyaval had composed a number of works some of which are not yet been printed and some not available. Some of his works are listed below. (1) Bhagavannama Bhushanam. (2) Akhyashashti. (3) Daya satakam. (4) Matrubbhasatakam. (5) Stuti paddati. (6) Shivabhakthikalpalatha. (7) Shivabhaktha lakshanam. (8) Taravali stotram. (9) Artihara stotram. (10) Kuliresvarashtakam. (11) Jambhunathashtakam. (12) Doshapariharashtakam. (13) Krishnadwadasa manjari. (14) Achyuthashtakam. (15) Dola navarathnamala. (16) Padamanimanjari – a sanskrit dictionary. (17) Shahajiraja charitam.

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