

सुदर्शनाष्टकम्

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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.

श्रीमते निगमान्त महादेशिकाय नमः

श्रीमान् वेङ्कटनाथार्यः कविताङ्किक केसरी ॥

वेङ्कटनाथार्य वर्यो मे सन्निधत्ताम् सद्य हृदि ॥

Verse 1:

પ્રતિભટશ્રેણિ ભીષણ વરગુણસ્તોમ ભૂષણ
જનિભયસ્થાન તારણ જગદવસ્થાન કારણ ॥
નિખિલદુષ્કર્મ કર્શન નિગમસદ્ધર્મ દર્શન
જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન ॥

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:

શુભજગદ્ગૂપ મણ્ડન સુરગણત્રાસ ખન્ડન
શતમખબ્રહ્મ વન્દિત શતપથબ્રહ્મ નન્દિત ॥
પ્રથિતવિદ્વત્ સપક્ષિત ભજદહિર્બુધ્વ્ય લક્ષિત
જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન ॥

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.

Ahribudhnya Samhita states that Ahribudhnya (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:

સ્ફુટતટિજ્જાલ પિઞ્જર પૃથુતરન્વાલ પઞ્જર
પરિગત પ્રત્નવિગ્રહ પતુતરપ્રજ્ઞ દુર્ગ્ગહ ॥
પ્રહરણ ગ્રામ મણિડેત પરિજન ત્રાણ પણિડેત
જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન ॥

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

Verse 4:

નિજપદપ્રીત સદ્ગુણ નિરુપધિસ્ફીત ષડ્ગુણ
નિગમ નિર્વ્યૂહ વૈભવ નિજપર વ્યૂહ વૈભવ ॥
હરિ હય દ્વેષિ દારણ હર પુર પ્લોષ કારણ
જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન ॥

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:

દનુજ વિસ્તાર કર્તન જનિ તમિસ્રા વિકર્તન
દનુજવિદ્યા નિકર્તન ભજદ્વિદ્યા નિવર્તન ॥
અમર દૃષ્ટ સ્વ વિક્રમ સમર જુષ્ટ ભ્રમિક્રમ
જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન ॥

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:

પ્રથિમુખાલીઢ બન્ધુર પૃથુમહાહેતિ દન્તુર
વિકટમાય બહિષ્કૃત વિવિધમાલા પરિષ્કૃત ॥
સ્થિરમહાયન્ત્ર તન્ત્રિત દૃઢ દયા તન્ત્ર યન્ત્રિત
જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન ॥

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:

મહિત સમ્પત્ સદ્ધક્ષર વિહિતસમ્પત્ ષડ્ધક્ષર
ષડ્ધચક્ર પ્રતિષ્ઠિત સકલ તત્ત્વ પ્રતિષ્ઠિત ॥
વિવિધ સકુલ્ય કલ્પક વિબુધસકુલ્ય કલ્પક
જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન ॥

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:

ભુવન નેત્ર ત્રયીમય સવન તેજસ્ત્રયીમય
નિરવધિ સ્વાદુ ચિન્મય નિખિલ શક્તે જગન્મય ॥
અમિત વિશ્વક્રિયામય શમિત વિશ્વગ્ભયામય
જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન જય જય શ્રી સુદર્શન ॥

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 worshipped 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:

ફલ શ્રુતિ

द्विचतुष्टमिदं प्रभूतसारं पठतां वेङ्कटनायक प्रणीतम् ॥
विषमेऽपि मनोरथः प्रधावन् न विहन्येत रथाङ्गं धुर्य गुप्तः ॥

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.

॥ इति श्री सुदर्शनाष्टकं समाप्तम् ॥
कवितार्किकसिंहाय कल्याणगुणशालिने ॥
श्रीमते वेङ्कटेशाय वेदान्तगुरवे नमः ॥

Translation by V.Sadagopan . Available at
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