

सुदर्शानाष्टकम्

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by shrl 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 shrl

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 shrlman 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 कवितार्किक केसरी ॥

वेङ्कटनाथार्य वर्यो मे सन्निधत्ताम् सद्य हृदि ॥

Verse 1:

प्रतिभटश्रेणि भीषण वरगुणस्तोम भूषण
जनिभयस्थान तारण जगदवस्थान कारण ॥
निभिलदुष्कर्म कर्शन निगमसद्धर्म दर्शन
जय जय श्री सुदर्शन जय जय श्री सुदर्शन ॥

O shrl 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:

शुभजगद्रूप मण्डन सुरगणत्रास भण्डन
शतमभभ्रक्ष वन्दित शतपथभ्रक्ष नन्दित ॥
प्रथितविद्वत् सपक्षित भजदृष्टिर्बुध्न्य लक्षित
जय जय श्री सुदर्शन जय जय श्री सुदर्शन ॥

O shrl sudarshana! You are resplendent as a precious decoration on the hand of shrlman 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:

स्फुटतटिक्काल पिञ्जर पृथुतरन्वाल पञ्जर
परिगत प्रलविग्रह पतुतरप्रज्ञ दुर्ग्रह ॥
प्रहरण ग्राम मण्डित परिजन त्राण पण्डित
जय जय श्री सुदर्शन जय जय श्री सुदर्शन ॥

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:

निजपदप्रीत सद्गण निरुपधिरङ्गीत षड्गुण
निगम निर्व्यूढ वैभव निजपर व्यूढ वैभव ॥
हरि ह्य द्वेषि दारण हर पुर प्लोष कारण
जय जय श्री सुदर्शन जय जय श्री सुदर्शन ॥

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 shrl sudarshana Of such Kalyana Gunas! Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee!

Verse 5:

દનુજ વિસ્તાર કર્તન જનિ તમિસ્રા વિકર્તન
દનુજવિદ્યા નિકર્તન ભવદ્વિદ્યા 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:

प्रथिमुभालीढ अन्धुर पृथुमहाडेति दन्तुर
विकटमाय अहिष्कृत विविधमाला परिष्कृत ॥
स्थिरमहायन्त्र तन्त्रित दृढ दया तन्त्र यन्त्रित
जय जय श्री सुदर्शन जय जय श्री सुदर्शन ॥

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

Verse 7:

महित सम्पत् सद्दक्षर विहितसम्पत् षडक्षर
षडरचक प्रतिष्ठित सकल तत्त्व प्रतिष्ठित ॥
विविध सङ्कल्प कल्पक विबुधसङ्कल्प कल्पक
जय जय श्री सुदर्शन जय जय श्री सुदर्शन ॥

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:

इल श्रुति

द्वियतुष्टमिदं प्रभूतसारं पठतां वेङ्कटनायक प्रणीतम् ॥
विषमेऽपि मनोरथः प्रधावन् न विहन्येत रथाङ्ग 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 ॥
कविताङ्किसिंहाय कल्याणगुणशालिने ॥
श्रीमते वेङ्कटेशाय वेदान्तगुरवे नमः ॥

Translation by V.Sadagopan . Available at

<http://www.ramanuja.org/sv/acharyas/desika/stotras/sudarsanatml>

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