

സുദർശാനാഷ്ടകം

{॥ സുദർശാനാഷ്ടകം ॥}

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.

ശ്രീമതേ നിഗമാന്ത മഹാദേശികായ നമഃ
ശ്രീമാൻ വേങ്കടനാഥായഃ കവിതാർകിക കേസരീ ।
വേദന്താചാര്യ വർയോ മേ സന്നിധത്താമ് സദാ ഹൃദി ॥

Verse 1:

പത്രിഭടശ്ശരണി ഭീഷണ വരഗുണസ്തോമ ഭൂഷണ
ജനിഭയസ്ഥാന താരണ ജഗദവസ്ഥാന കാരണ ।

നിഖിലദൃഷ്കർമ്മ കർശന നിഗമസദ്ധർമ്മ ദർശന
ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ॥

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:

ശുഭജഗദ്ഗുപ മൺഡന സുരഗണതന്ത്രസ ഖൻഡന
ശതമഖബഹുവ വൻദിത ശതപഥബഹുവ നൻദിത ।
പത്മിതവിദ്വത് സപക്ഷിത ഭജദഹിർബുധ്നയ ലക്ഷിത
ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ॥

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:

സ്ഫുടതടിജ്ജാല പിഞ്ജര പൃഥുതരജ്വാല പഞ്ജര

പരിഗത പത്മനവിഗ്രഹ പതൂതരപജ്ഞ ദുർഗ്രഹ ।
പഹരണ ഗ്രാമ മൺഡിത പരിജന ത്വണ പൺഡിത
ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ॥

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:

നിജപദപ്രീത സദ്ഗണ നിരൂപധിസ്ഥിത ഷഡ്ഗുണ
നിഗമ നിർവ്യാധുഃ വൈഭവ നിജപര ധ്യൂഹ വൈഭവ ।
ഹരി ഹയ ദ്വേഷി ദാരണ ഹര പുര ഘോഷ കാരണ
ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ॥

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:

ദനുജ വിസ്താര കർത്ത ജനി തമിസ്രാ വികർത്തന
ദനുജവിദ്യാ നികർത്ത ഭജദവിദ്യാ നിവർത്തന ।
അമര ദൃഷ്ട സ്പ വികമ്ര സമര ജുഷ്ട ഭ്രമികമ്ര
ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ॥

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:

പ്രഥിമുഖാലീഡ ബന്ധൂര പൃഥുമഹാഹേതി ദന്തൂര
വികടമായ ബഹിഷ്കൃത വിവിധമാലാ പരിഷ്കൃത ।
സ്ഥിരമായന്തത്ര തന്തരിത ദൃഡ ദയാ തന്തത്ര യന്തരിത
ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ॥

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:

മഹിത സമ്പത് സദക്ഷര വിഹിതസമ്പത് ഷഡക്ഷര
ഷഡരചക്ര പത്രിഷ്ഠിത സകല തത്ത്വ പത്രിഷ്ഠിത ।
വിവിധ സങ്ക്രമക ക്രമക വിബുധസങ്ക്രമക ക്രമക
ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ॥

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:

ഭുവന നേത്രത്രയീമയ സവന തേജസ്ത്രയീമയ
നിരവധി സുവാദു ചിന്മയ നിഖില ശക്തേ ജഗന്മയ ।
അമിത വിശ്വകൃയാമയ ശമിത വിശ്വഗ്ദ്ധയാമയ
ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ജയ ജയ ശ്രീ സുദർശന ॥

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:

ഫല ശുതി

ദ്വിചതുഷ്കമിദം പഭൂതസാരം പഠ്യാം വേദൈകനായക പണ്ണീതം ।
വിഷമേ/പി മനോരമഃ പശ്യാവൻ ന വിഹന്ത്യേത രമാങ്ഗ ധൂര്യ ഗുപ്തഃ ॥

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.

॥ ഇതി ശ്രീ സുദർശനാഷ്ടകം സമാപ്തം ॥
കവിതാർകികസിംഹായ കർയാണഗുണശാലിനേ ।
ശ്രീമതേ വേദൈകേഷായ വേദാന്തഗുരവേ നമഃ ॥

Translation by V.Sadagopan . Available at
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