

തോടകാഷ്ടകം

{॥ തോടകാഷ്ടകം ॥}

Here is an article containing the toTakAShTakam, eight verses
composed in honor of Adi ShankarAchArya.

A short description of the advaita paramparA and a short
account of Shankara's disciple toTaka are included.

Invocation:

ശങ്കരം ശങ്കരാചാര്യം കേശവം ബാദരായണമ് ।
സുതദ്രാഷ്ടയകൃതൗ വന്ദേ ഭഗവന്തൗ പുനഃ പുനഃ ॥

I offer obeisances again and again to shrI Veda VyAsa, the author of
the Brahma sUtras, who is none other than Lord VishNu, and shrI
ShankarAchArya, the commentator on those sUtras, who is none other
than Lord Shiva.

advaita guru-paramparA:

നാരായണം പദ്മഭുവം വസിഷ്ഠം ശക്തിം ച തത്പുത്രപ്രരാശരം ച ।
ധ്യാസം ശുകം ഗൌഡപദം മഹാൻതം ഗോവിന്ദയോഗീന്ദ്രമുമാസ്ത ശിഷ്യമ് ॥

ശ്രീ ശങ്കരാചാര്യമുമാസ്ത പദ്മപാദം ച ഹസ്താമലകം ച ശിഷ്യമ് ।
തം തോടകം വാതിരീകകാരമന്യാനസ്ഥദ്ഗുരൂൻ സംതതമാനതോ । അസ്ഥി ॥

These two verses honor the advaita paramparA . The names mentioned here,

in order, are 1) Shrlman nArAyaNa, 2) BrahmA, 3) VasiShTha, 4) Shakti, 5) ParAshara, 6) VyAsa, 7) Shuka, 8) GauDapAda, 9) GovindapAda, 10) Shrl (Adi) ShankarAchArya, and his four disciples, 11) PadmapAda, 12) HastAmalaka, 13) toTaka, and 14) Sureshvara, and other Gurus.

Sureshvara is also known as VArttikakAra because he wrote the famous vArttika's on the BRihadAraNyaka and taittirIya upaniShads.

ShrlmannArAyaNa instructed the Vedas to BrahmA . The Vedas have no author, and are hence called "apauruSheya." Veda VyAsa authored the Brahma sUtra and other texts, such as the GItA, to expound the knowledge of the Vedas.

Jagadguru Adi ShankarAchArya is a unique historical figure of India in that he combined within himself the characteristics of a poet, logician, an ardent devotee and a mystic and at the same time was the leading exponent of the system of philosophy called advaita . In his commentaries on the Prasthanatraya, he exhibited a rare faculty of relentlessly logical and concatenated argument and refutation, and such subtlety of reasoning as has been unsurpassed in the philosophical works of the world.

His main teachings may be summarized as the affirmation of SamsAra or succession of births and deaths due to Karma and its significance, the realization of the essential relativity of phenomena in comparsion to the reality of the Supreme Self, the realization of that Self not being a mere theoretical exercise, but in the nature of the direct realization and actual experience taught by the upanishadic saying, tattvam asi, "You are That."

On the occasion of Shrl Shankara Jayanti, I decided to post the popular stotra on Shankara known as "toTakAShTaka." The hymn is so called because it has been composed in the difficult but beautiful meter called toTaka.

There is an interesting history associated with this stotra . Anandagiri was one of the less scholarly disciples living with Shankara at Sringeri.

But Giri, as he was called, was extremely devoted to the AchArya . Giri would always engage himself in the service of his Guru . Once it so happened that Shankara was about to begin his usual morning discourse on the upanishads and the other disciples started reciting the shAnti pATha . But Giri was absent because he had gone to the river to wash his Guru's clothes . So Shankara asked the other disciples to wait for Giri's return . But PadmapAda, who was obviously proud of his erudition, said, "Giri is a dull fellow . He really does not deserve to learn the shAstras. What is the point in waiting for him to join us?"

Shankara decided to humble the pride of PadmapAda and other disciples. Out of sheer compassion for Giri, the AchArya blessed him with the knowledge of the shAstras, making use of supernatural powers to do so. As a result, Giri became a learned scholar instantaneously . Returning from the river, he composed the toTakAShTaka, eight verses in praise of his Guru . The other disciples were struck with wonder to hear him extemporaneously compose the aShTaka in the difficult meter . Giri also composed another work, again in the toTaka meter, called the ShrutisArasamuddharaNa . Due to the grace of the Guru, Giri became a knower of all scriptures, and he earned the respect of PadmapAda and other disciples . He came to be known as toTakAchArya, because he was an adept in composing verses in the toTaka meter . He became one of Shankara's four most important disciples, and was later entrusted with running the JyotirmaTh at Badari.

The above story is from the Shankara digvijaya of Madhava-Vidyaranya.

॥ ശ്രുതിസാരസംഗ്രഹം ॥

The toTakAShTaka has been composed in the toTaka meter, in which each pAda (quarter) has four sa-gaNa's . Here a sa-gaNa is made up of two short syllables followed by a long one . The hymn naturally lends itself

to be set to music . A suggested RAga is (Hindustani) toDi.

വിദിതാവിലശാസ്ത്രസുധാജലധേ മഹിതോപനിഷത് ക്രമിതാർഥനിയേ ।
ഹൃദയേ കലയേ വിമലം ചരണം ഭവ ശങ്കര ദേശിക മേ ശരണമ് ॥ ൧ ॥

O knower of the nectar-ocean of the scriptures, the expounder of the
knowledge of the great upanishadic treasure! I meditate on Your pure lotus
feet in my heart . O Preceptor Shankara, be my refuge.

കരുണാവരുണാലയ പാലയ മാം ഭവസാഗരദുഃഖവിദൂനഹൃദമ് ।
രചയാഖിലദർശനതത്ത്വവിദം ഭവ ശങ്കര ദേശിക മേ ശരണമ് ॥ ൨ ॥

Save me whose heart is afflicted by the misery of the ocean of births,
O (You who are) the ocean of compassion! (By Your grace) make me the
knower of the truths of all the systems of philosophy . O Preceptor Shankara,
be my refuge.

ഭവതാ ജനതാ സുഹിതാ ഭവിതാ നിജബോധവിചാരണ ചാരുമതേ ।
കലയേശ്വരജീവവിവേകവിദം ഭവ ശങ്കര ദേശിക മേ ശരണമ് ॥ ൩ ॥

The people have found happiness due to You, who have the intellect adept in
the inquiry into Self-knowledge . Make me understand the knowledge of God
and the soul . O Preceptor Shankara, be my refuge.

ഭവ ഏവ ഭവാനിതി മേ നിതരാം സമജായത ചേതസി കൌതുകിതാ ।

മമ വാരയ മോഹമഹാജലധിം ഭവ ശങ്കര ദേശിക മേ ശരണം ॥ ൪ ॥

You are Lord Shiva Himself . Knowing this my mind is filled with an
abundance of joy . Put an end to my sea of delusion . O Preceptor Shankara,
be my refuge.

സുകൃതേ । അധികൃതേ ബഹുധാ ഭവതോ ഭവിതാ സമദർശനലാലസതാ ।
അതിദീനമിമം പരിപാലയ മാം ഭവ ശങ്കര ദേശിക മേ ശരണമ് ॥ ൫ ॥

Only after numerous virtuous deeds have been performed in many
ways, does a keen desire for the experience of Brahman through You arise.
Protect (me who am) extremely helpless . O Preceptor Shankara, be my refuge.

ജഗതീമവിതും കലിതാകൃതയോ വിചരന്തി മഹാമഹസശ്ചലതഃ ।
അഹിമാംശൂരിവാത്വിഭാസി ഗുരോ ഭവ ശങ്കര ദേശിക മേ ശരണമ് ॥ ൬ ॥

For the sake of saving the world, (Your) great (disciples) wander assuming
various forms and guises . O Guru, You shine like the sun (among them).
O Preceptor Shankara, be my refuge.

ഗുരുപുംഗവ പുംഗവകേതന തേ സമതാമയതാം നഹി കോ । അപി സുധീഃ ।
ശരണാഗതവത്സല തത്ത്വനിയേ ഭവ ശങ്കര ദേശിക മേ ശരണമ് ॥ ൭ ॥

O Best among the Gurus! The Lord whose flag bears the emblem of the

bull! You have no equal among the wise . You who are affectionate to those
who seek refuge! The treasure of truth! O Preceptor Shankara, be my refuge.

വിദിതാ ന മയാ വിശദൈകകലാ ന ച കിംചന കാഞ്ചനമസ്തി ഗുരോ ।
ദൃതമേവ വിധേഹി കൃപാം സഹജാം ഭവ ശങ്കര ഭേശിക മേ ശരണമ് ॥ ൮ ॥

I have neither understood even one branch of knowledge clearly, nor do I
possess any wealth, O Guru . Quickly bestow on me the compassion which is
natural to You . O Preceptor Shankara, be my refuge.

More Information:

A life-sketch of Shankara and information on advaita may be found at:

<http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~vidya/advaita/advaitatml>

Encoded and translation by Anand Hudli at ahudli@silver.ucs.indiana.edu

Please send corrections to sanskrit@cheerful.com

Last updated ത്oday

<http://sanskritdocuments.org>

Totakashtakam Lyrics in Malayalam PDF

% File name : totaka8.itx

% Category : aShTaka

% Location : doc_shiva

% Language : Sanskrit

% Subject : philosophy/hinduism/religion

% Transliterated by : Anand Hudli ahudli@silver.ucs.indiana.edu

% Proofread by : Anand Hudli ahudli@silver.ucs.indiana.edu

% Latest update : November 1, 2010

% Send corrections to : Sanskrit@cheerful.com

% Site access : <http://sanskritdocuments.org>

%

% This text is prepared by volunteers and is to be used for personal study

% and research. The file is not to be copied or reposted for promotion of

% any website or individuals or for commercial purpose without permission.
% Please help to maintain respect for volunteer spirit.
%

We acknowledge well-meaning volunteers for Sanskritdocuments.org and other sites to have built the collection of Sanskrit texts.
Please check their sites later for improved versions of the texts.
This file should strictly be kept for personal use.
PDF file is generated [October 12, 2015] at Stotram Website