నటరాజస్తాత్ర ,చరణ శృంగ రహిత (పతన్జలి)

(॥ ରଣ୍ଡଟଞ୍ଚ୍ଚ୍ ,ଘ୪ର ଶ୍ୱ୍ରୁ ୪ ୪ ୪ ଓ ଓ ଓଡ଼ୁଣ) ॥}

This hymn is by Sage Patanjali, the author and compiler of the famous yogasUtra . Once upon a time, as the story of the origin of the hymn goes, Nandi, Shiva's carrier would not allow Patanjali Muni to have Darshan of the Lord Shiva (Nataraja of Chidambaram). In order to reach Lord Shiva, Patanjali, with his mastery over grammatical forms, spontaneously composed this prayer in praise of the Lord without using any extended ('dIrgham') syllable, (without 'charaNa' and 'shRi~Nga' i.e . leg and horn) to tease Nandi. Shiva was quickly pleased, gave Darshan to the devotee, and danced to the lilting tune of this song .

The place where this incidence is said to have happened is

Chidambaram (also known as Thillai), located about a hundred miles

from Madras, Tamilnadu, India. It is considered to be one of the

holiest places in India. In this temple, which has a gold covered roof,

Lord Nataraja is present in a cosmic-dancing form. Many books have been

written on the greatness of the temple and its deity and can also be inferred

from various hymns composed in praise of the Lord by the Shaiva

Siddhanta Saints.

Please refer to http://www.geocities.com/Athens/2583

for more information and detailed description of Shaiva Siddhanta.

The translation of the hymn is based on Smt . Usha Bhise's and is taken from the book `caranasrngarahitam natarajastotram.' This book also contains a sanskrit commentary on this stotra by Chandrakala . The book was published by Bharati Samskrta Vidya Niketanam in 1992-

॥ అథ-చరణశృఙ్ధరహిత-నటరాజస్తోత్రమ్ ॥ సదఞ్చిత ముదఞ్చిత నికుఞ్చిత పదం ఝలఝలఞ్చలిత మఱ్జు కటకమ్ పతజ్జాలి దృగజ్జాన మనజ్జాన మచఞ్చలపదం జనన భజ్జాన కరమ్ । కదమ్బరుచిమమ్బరవసం పరమమ్బుద కదమ్బ కవిడమ్బక కగలమ్ చిదమ్బుధి మణిం బుధ హృదమ్బుజ రవిం పర చిదమ్బర నటం హృది భజ ॥ ೧॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer Shiva, residing in the holy place,
Chidambaram . He is called Hara (the destroyer) who smashed the three cities
(of demon tripura). He is worshipped by good people . While dancing he has
lifted one foot which is bent . His lovely bracelets are set in motion of
dance movements and hence are making a jingling sound . He is like
ointment to the eyes of Patanjali by whose application the vision gets
clear for receiving knowledge . However, he is free from contamination of
any kind . He destroys the cycle of birth (and death). He possesses the
loveliness of Kadamba tree; wears the sky as garment . His throat is dark
like the multitude of rainy clouds . He is the jewel in the ocean of
consciousness . He is the the Sun blossoming the lotus- heart
of wise persons.

హరం త్రిపుర భజ్జానం అనన్తకృతకఙ్కణం అఖణ్డదయ మన్తరహితం విరిజ్చాసురసంహతిపురస్ధర విచిన్తితపదం తరుణచన్ర్మమకుటమ్ I పరం పద విఖణ్డితయమం భసిత మణ్డితతనుం మదనవజ్చన పరం చిరన్తనమముం ప్రణవసజ్బోతనిధిం పర చిదమ్బర నటం హృది భజ II ೨II

Heartily resort to the great dancer, Shiva, residing in the holy place, Chidambaram . He is the destroyer of the world, who destroys sin and

grants emancipation. He has destroyed the three cities of demon tripura, representing the three types of sorrows. He is wearing the great serpent, ananta, like a bracelet. He is incessantly showering compassion and is endless. God Brahma, Indra and the other devatas meditate upon his feet. The crescent moon adorns his crown.

The great one has crushed yama by his feet . His body is decorated with ash. He is inclined to brush aside cupid . His preciousness is saturated in the syllable - AUM.

అవన్తమఖిలం జగదభడ్గ గుణతుఙ్గమమతం ధృతవిధుం సురసరిత్-తరఙ్గ నికురమ్మ ధృతి లమ్పట జటం శమనదమ్భసుహరం భవహరమ్ I శివం దశదిగన్తర విజృమ్భితకరం కరలసన్మ్మగశిశుం పశుపతిం హరం శశిధనజ్ఞాయపతఙ్గనయనం పరచిదమ్మర నటం హృది భజ II 3II

Heartily resort to the great dancer, Lord Shiva, residing in the holy place, Chidambaram, who protects all the world. His lofty place is due to the indestructible good qualities. It is difficult to grasp his nature. He has held crescent moon in his forehead. His matted hair is covetous of holding the multitude of waves of the divine river, Ganga. He has dispelled the vanity of Yama and is capable of delivering men from the pangs of worldly life. The Lord of creatures, the auspicious God, in whose hand a young deer is dancing, has spread his hands in all ten quarters. The great destroyer has moon, fire and sun as his eyes.

అనన్తనవరత్న విలసత్కటకకిజ్కిణిఝలం ఝలఝలం ఝలరవం ముకున్దవిధి హస్తగతమద్దల లయధ్వనిధిమిద్ధిమిత నర్తన పదమ్ ı శకున్వరథ బర్తిరథ నన్దిముఖ శృజ్ధిరిటిభృజ్ధిగణసజ్షనికటమ్ Heartily resort to the great dancer, Shiva residing in the holy place,

Chidambaram . The tiny bells attached to his bracelets which are shining

with innumerable gems of nine kinds are making a sweet jingling sound.

The dancing movements of his feet are accompanied by the drum

in the hands of Mukunda (vishnu) and vidhi (brahma). He is closely surrounded

by Vishnu, riding a chariot to which a bird (Garuda) is yoked, by kartikeya,

riding a charior to which a peacock is yoked, by a troupe of Gana-s

consisting of Srngi, Riti, Bhrngi etc headed by Nandi . Prominent sages

like Sananda and Sanaka are saluting his feet.

అనన్తమహసం త్రిదశవన్ద్య చరణం ముని హృదన్తర వసన్తమమలమ్ కబన్ధ వియదిన్వవని గన్ధవహ వహ్మిమఖ బస్ధురవిమఱ్జు వపుషమ్ । అనన్తవిభవం త్రిజగన్తర మణిం త్రినయనం త్రిపుర ఖణ్డన పరమ్ సనన్ద ముని వన్దిత పదం సకరుణం పర చిదమ్బర నటం హృది భజ ॥ ॥॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer, Lord Shiva, residing in the holy place called Chidambaram . His lustre is beginningless and endless . His feet are revered by the gods . The pure one who is free from all blemishes resides in the interior of sages hearts . He wields a lovely body made up of the following components - water, sky, moon, earth, wind, fire, sacrificer (atman) and Sun . His riches are infinite; he is the jewel of the three worlds having three eyes, he is incline to smash the three cities of Tripura . The god who takes pity (on the distressed) is saluted by Sage Sananda.

అచిన్వ్రమలివృన్ధ రుచి బస్ధురగలం కురిత కున్ద నికురమ్బ ధవలమ్ ముకున్ద సుర వృన్ద బల హన్ఫ్ర కృత వన్దన లసన్తమహికుణ్డల ధరమ్ । అకమ్పమనుకమ్పిత రతిం సుజన మఙ్గలనిధిం గజహరం పశుపతిమ్ ధనజ్ఞాయ నుతం ప్రణత రజ్ఞానపరం పర చిదమ్బర నటం హృది భజ ॥ ६॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer, Shiva, residing in the holy place,

Chidambaram . He is not capable of being understood by the faculty of thinking.

His dark colored throat is attractive with its resemblance to the colour of
a multitude of bees . His complexion is white like a bunch of blooming

Kunda flowers . He wears a glittering appearance when saluted by Vishnu,
gods, and Indra, the killer of balasyre . His ear ornament consists of
serpent . He is free from fear and hence unmoved . However, he took pity
on Rati . He is a reservoir of all auspicious things for good persons.

The destroyer of Gajasure is the Lord of creatures, praised by Arjuna.

He is inclined to be delightful to persons who bow down to Him.

పరం సురవరం పురహరం పశుపతిం జనిత దన్నిముఖ షణ్ముఖమముం మృడం కనక పిఙ్గల జటం సనకపఙ్మజ రవిం సుమనసం హిమరుచిమ్ I అసఙ్షమనసం జలధి జన్మకరలం కవలయన్త మతులం గుణనిధిమ్ సనన్ద వరదం శమితమిన్దు వదనం పర చిదమ్బర నటం హృది భజ II 2II

Heartily resort to the great dancer Shiva residing in the holy place Chidambaram . He is the best among gods, destroyer of the three cities for the benefit of the world . That Lord of creatures has given birth to elephant-headed Ganesha for warding off obstacles and to six-faced Kartikeya for leading divine army . The benevolent god

has hair that is brownish like gold. He is like Sun who causes the blooming of the lotus in the form of sage Sanaka. Having a mind kind to all, he weilds the lustre of snow. His mind is not attached to anything, even to Parvati. He has swallowed poison arising out of ocean in order to save the world from its adverse effects. He is a store-house of quailities, not comparable to anyone else. He has given boons to sage, Sananda. Having a face which is delightful like the moon, he has attained the blissful state.

అజం క్షితిరథం భుజగపుఙ్గవగుణం కనక శృజ్ధి ధనుషం కరలసత్ కురఙ్గ పృథు టఙ్క పరశుం రుచిర కుఙ్కుమ రుచిం డమరుకం చ దధతమం ၊ ముకున్ద విశిఖం నమదవన్ధ్య ఫలదం నిగమ వృన్ద తురగం నిరుపమం సచణ్డికమముం ఝటితి సంహృతపురం పరచిదమ్మర నటం హృది భజ ॥ ए॥

Heartily resort to the great dancer, Lord Shiva, who resides in the holy place, Chidambaram, and He is without birth. The earth itself is his chariot. The great serpent, Vasuki is his bowstring.

The golden peaked Meru is His bow. In His hands shines a deer, a big sword and an aze. He weilds a damaru (drum) which has the color of lovely kumkuma. Mukunda himself is his arrow. He effectively grants the desire to those who salute him. The multitude of Vedic texts are his horses (or mind). The incomparable God accompanied by Chandika has quickly destroyed the cities of demon tripura.

అనఙ్గపరిపన్థినమజం క్షితి ధురస్ధరమలం కరుణయన్తమఖిలం జ్వలన్తమనలం దధతమన్తకరిపుం సతతమిస్థ్రముఖవన్దితపదమ్ ఉదజ్చదరవిన్దకుల బన్దుశత బిమ్బరుచి సంహతి సుగన్ది వపుషం Heartily resort to the great dancer, Lord Shiva, who resides in the holy place, Chidambaram . Birthless, he is an enemy of Cupid . He bears the burden of the earth, He is intensely compassionate to all . The killer of demon Andhaka is capable of holding buring fire . Gods headed by Indra are constantly falling at His feet . He is having a body which has got the lustre of a group of hundred rising suns and is fragrant. He is praised by Patanjali and is like a parrot in the cage of the syllable Omkara.

ఇతి స్తవమముం భుజగపుఙ్గవ కృతం ప్రతిదినం పఠతి యః కృతముఖః సదః ప్రభుపద ద్వితయదర్శనపదం సులలితం చరణ శృఙ్గ రహితమ్ । సరఃప్రభవ సమ్భవ హరిత్పతి హరిప్రముఖ దివ్యనుత శఙ్కరపదం స గచ్ఛతి పరం న తు జనుర్జలనిధిం పరమదుఃఖజనకం దురితదమ్ ॥ ೧०॥

Here ends the praise song composed by Patanjali who is an incarnation of the great serpent Shesha. One who learns it by heart and recites it will find a seat in the assembly of Gods. The praise song is charming. The words in it lead to the perception of the Lord's pair of feet.

It flows on, being beginningless and endless (composed of the meter charaNashri.ngarahita). It contains the description of Shankara praised by the divine beings headed by Brahmadeva, Lords of the Quarters and Vishnu. One who recites this hymn,quickly reaches the highest goal and does not steep into the ocean of worldly existence which causes great sorrow and sinfulness.

॥ ఇతి శ్రీపతజ్ఞాలిమునిప్రణీతం చరణశృఙ్ధరహిత నటరాజస్తోత్రం సమ్పూర్ణమ్ ॥

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