

పఞ్చాక్షరమస్తోత్రం

{॥ పఞ్చాక్షరమస్తోత్రం ॥}

A Shivastotra by ShankarAchArya

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The term Shiva means "auspicious. " The God Shiva is all-auspiciousness . The mantra namaH ShivAya, used to offer salutations to Shiva, is an effective prayer to propitiate Shiva . This mantra appears in many places in Vedic and Puranic literature.

For example, the famous shrI Rudram hymn from the Yajur Veda, commonly employed to perform the worship of the Shiva linga, says: నమః శివాయ చ ।

The dAridrya dahana stotra of VasiShTha says:

దారిద్ర్యదుష్ట-దహనాయ నమః శివాయ ।

Salutations to Shiva who burns up the grief caused by poverty! Here poverty does not necessarily mean material poverty; it also means spiritual poverty.

This pa.nchAkShara (five syllabled) mantra namaH ShivAya is sometimes called the mUla mantra or basic mantra of Shiva . Each of the five syllables, na, ma, shi, vA, and ya, is held to be so sacred that it represents Shiva even by itself.

The following is the ShivapanchAkShara stotra composed by

Adi SankarAchArya . One may worship the Shiva linga by
reciting this stotra and offering bilva leaves.

శివపంచాక్షరస్తోత్ర

నాగేస్త్రహారాయ త్రిలోచనాయ భస్మాఙ్గరాయ మహేశ్వరాయ ।

నిత్యాయ శుద్ధాయ దిగమ్బరాయ తస్మై నమః శివాయ ॥ ౧॥

Salutations to Shiva, who wears the King of snakes as a
garland, the Three-eyed God, whose body is smeared with
ashes, the great Lord, the eternal and pure One, who wears
the directions as His garment, and who is represented by the
`na " kAra (term).

మన్దాకిని-సలిలచందన-చర్చితాయ

నన్దీశ్వర-ప్రమథనాథ- మహేశ్వరాయ ।

మన్దారపుష్ప-బహుపుష్ప-సుపూజితాయ

తస్మై మకారాయ నమః శివాయ ॥ ౨॥

I bow to Shiva, who has been worshipped with water from the
gangA (mandAkini) and annointed with sandalwood paste, the
Lord of nandI, the Lord of the host of goblins and ghosts,
the great Lord, who is worshiped with mandAra and many other
kinds of flowers, and who is represented by the
syllable `ma. "

శివాయ గౌరీవదనాబ్జ-వృన్ద-

సూర్యాయ దక్షాధ్వరనాశకాయ ।
శ్రీనీలకణ్ఠాయ వృషధ్వజాయ
తస్మై శికారాయ నమః శివాయ ॥ ౩॥

Salutations to Shiva, who is all-auspiciousness, Who is the
sun that causes the lotus face of GaurI (PARvatI) to blossom,
Who is the destroyer of the Yajna of dakSha, whose throat is
blue (nIlakaNTha), whose flag bears the emblem of the bull,
and who is represented by the syllable ``shi. "

వసిష్ఠ-కుమ్భోద్భవ-గౌతమార్యమునీస్త్ర-దేవార్చితశేఖరాయ ।
చంద్రార్క-వైశ్వానరలోచనాయ తస్మై వకారాయ నమః శివాయ ॥ ౪॥

VasiShTha, agastya, Gautama, and other venerable sages, and
Indra and other Gods have worshipped the head of (Shiva's
linga). I bow to that Shiva whose three eyes are the moon,
sun and fire, and who is represented by the syllable ``va. "

యక్షస్వరూపాయ జటాధరాయ పినాకహస్తాయ సనాతనాయ ।
దివ్యాయ దేవాయ దిగమ్బరాయ తస్మై యకారాయ నమః శివాయ ॥ ౫॥

Salutations to Shiva, who bears the form of a YakSha, who
has matted hair on His head, Who bears the pinAka bow
in His hand, the Primeval Lord, the brilliant God,
who is digambara (naked), and who is represented by the

syllable ``ya. "

పంచాక్షరమిదం పుణ్యం యః పఠేచ్ఛివసన్నిధౌ ।

శివలోకమవాప్నోతి శివేన సహ మోదతే ॥

Anyone who recites this sacred five-syllabled mantra,
(namaH shivAya) near the Shiva (linga), attains the abode
of Shiva and rejoices there with Shiva.

॥ ఇతి శ్రీమచ్ఛంకరాచార్యవిరచిత శివపంచాక్షర స్తోత్రం సమాప్తం ॥

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