

## चरणशृङ्गरहित नटराजस्तोत्रम्

charaNashRîN^garahita naTaraajastotram.h<sup>1</sup>

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 ('diirgham') syllable, (without 'charaNa' and 'shR^iN^ga' 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.<sup>2</sup>

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.

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॥ अथ चरणशृङ्गरहित नटराजस्तोत्रम् ॥

सदञ्चित मद्दञ्चित निकञ्चित पदं झलझलञ्चलित मञ्जः कटकम्  
पतञ्जलि दृगञ्जन मनञ्जन मचञ्चलपदं जनन भञ्जन करम् ।  
कदम्बरुचिमम्बरवसं परमम्बद् कदम्ब कविडम्बक कगलम्  
चिदम्ब्रुधि मणिं बभ्रु हृदम्ब्रु रविं पर चिदम्बर नटं हृदि भज ॥ १ ॥

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

<sup>1</sup>Send corrections to P. P. Narayanaswami at [swami@math.mun.ca](mailto:swami@math.mun.ca)

<sup>2</sup>Please refer to <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/2583> for more information and detailed description of Shaiva Siddhanta.

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.

हरं त्रिपरं भञ्जनम अनन्तकृतकङ्कणम अखण्डदय मन्तरहितं  
विरिञ्चिसरसंहतिपरन्धर विचिन्तितपदं तरुणचन्द्रमकटम् ।  
परं पद विखण्डितयमं भसित मण्डिततनः मदनवञ्चन परं  
चिरन्तनममः प्रणवसञ्चितनिधिं पर चिदम्बर नटं हृदि भज ॥ २ ॥

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.

अवन्तमखिलं जगदभङ्ग गणतङ्गममतं धृतविधः सरसरित्-  
तरङ्ग निकरम्ब धृति लम्पट जटं शमनदम्भसहरं भवहरम् ।  
शिवं दशदिगन्तर विजृम्भितकरं करलसन्मृगशिशः पशस्रतिं  
हरं शशिधनञ्जयपतङ्गनयनं परचिदम्बर नटं हृदि भज ॥ ३ ॥

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.

अनन्तनवरत्नविलसत्कटककिङ्किणिझलं झलझलं झलरवं  
मकन्दविधि हस्तगतमद्वल लयध्वनिधिमिद्विमित नर्तन पदम् ।  
शकन्तरथ बर्हिरथ नन्दिमख शृङ्गिरिटिभृङ्गिगणसङ्घनिकटम्  
सनन्दसनक प्रमख वन्दित पदं परचिदम्बर नटं हृदि भज ॥ ४ ॥

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.

अनन्तमहसं त्रिदशवन्द्य चरणं मग्नि हृदन्तर वसन्तममलम्  
कबन्ध वियदिन्द्रवनि गन्धवह वह्निमख बन्धरविमञ्जः वपुषम् ।  
अनन्तविभवं त्रिजगन्तर मणिं त्रिनयनं त्रिपर खण्डन परम्  
सनन्द मग्नि वन्दित पदं सकरुणं पर चिदम्बर नटं हृदि भज ॥ ५ ॥

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.

अचिन्त्यमलिवृन्द रुचि बन्धरगतं करित कन्द निकरम्ब धवलम्  
मकन्द सर वृन्द बल हन्तृ कृत वन्दन लसन्तमहिकण्डल धरम् ।  
अकम्पमनकम्पित रतिं सज्जन मङ्गलनिधिं गजहरं पशुप्रतिम्  
धनञ्जय नत्तं प्रणत रञ्जनपरं पर चिदम्बर नटं हृदि भज ॥ 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.

परं सरवरं परहरं पशुपतिं जनित दन्तिमुख षण्मुखममः  
 मृडं कनक पिङ्गल जटं सनकपङ्कज रविं सप्तनसं हिमरुचिम् ।  
 असङ्खमनसं जलधि जन्मकरलं कवलयन्त मतलं गणनिधिम्  
 सनन्द वरदं शमितमिन्दु वदनं पर चिदम्बर नटं हृदि भज ॥ ७ ॥

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 qualities, 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.

अजं क्षितिरथं भज्जगपङ्कवगणं कनक शृङ्गि धनस्रं करलसत्  
 करङ्ग पृथः टङ्क परशः रुचिर कङ्कम रुचिं डमरुकं च दधतमं ।  
 मङ्कन्द विशिखं नमदवन्ध्य फलदं निगम वृन्द तरुगं निरुपमं  
 सचण्डिकममः झटिति संहृतपरं परचिदम्बर नटं हृदि भज ॥ ८ ॥

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.

अनङ्गपरिपन्थिनमजं क्षिति धरन्धरमलं करुणयन्तमखिलं

ज्वलन्तमनलं दधतमन्तकरिपंः सततमिन्द्रमखवन्दितपदम् ।  
उदञ्चदरविन्दकल बन्धशत बिम्बरुचि संहति सगन्धि वपुः  
पतञ्जलिन्तं प्रणवपञ्चर शकंपर चिदम्बर नटं हृदि भज ॥ ९ ॥

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 burning 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.

इति स्तवममं भज्जगपङ्गव कृतं प्रतिदिनं पठति यः कृतमखः  
सदः प्रभसद द्वितयदर्शनपदं सल्ललितं चरण शृङ्ग रहितम् ।  
सरःप्रभव सम्भव हरित्पति हरिप्रमख दिव्यन्त शङ्करपदं  
स गच्छति परं न तः जनर्जलनिधिं परमदःखजनकं दरितदम् ॥ १० ॥

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 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.

॥ इति श्रीपतञ्जलिमन्निप्रणीतं चरणशृङ्गरहित नटराजस्तोत्रं संपूर्णम् ॥

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