

॥ श्री सुब्रह्मण्य भुजङ्गम् ॥



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Sri Subrahmanya Bhujangam is a stotra composed by Sri Adi Sankaraacharya at Thiruchendur (presently located in Tamil Nadu, India). When Sri Sankara meditated upon Sri Subrahmanya at this temple, he became aware of the self luminous light shining in his heart and words came out his mouth extemporaneously in the bhujanga metre. It is also said that Achaarya then actually saw the Adishesha worshipping the Lord and hence, adopted the bhujanga metre.

Major portion of the translation provided here is adopted from the following book:

Iyer, Ganesa M., *Srimat Sankara Bhagavat Padal's Sri Subrahmanya Bhujangam*, The Little flower Company, Madras, 1992.

Invocation of Sri Vighneshvara

सदा बालरूपाऽपि विघ्नाद्रिहन्त्री

महादन्तिवक्त्राऽपि पञ्चास्यमान्या ।

विधीन्द्रादिमृग्या गणेशाभिधा मे

विधत्तां श्रियं काऽपि कल्याणमूर्तिः ॥ १ ॥

Though he always sports the appearance of a child, he can crumble the mountains of obstacles. Though he is elephant--faced, he is honored even by his five--faced father Shiva (sadyaojaatam, vaamadevam, aghoram, tatpurussham and iishaanam). Lord Brahma, Indra and the other Devas seek him to fulfil their aspirations. He is known as Ganesha and he is endowed with boundless glory. May he bless me with wealth!

Acharya's Humility

न जानामि शब्दं न जानामि चार्थं

न जानामि पद्यं न जानामि गद्यम् ।

चिदेका षडास्य हृदि द्योतते मे

मुखान्निःसरन्ते गिरश्चापि चित्रम् ॥ २ ॥

I know not the science of musical sounds, I know not the meanings of complex texts either, I know not the nature of shlokas made of four types of padaas, and nor do I know the intricacies of the Gadyam style! But in my heart, shines a effulgent light with luminous six faces, and because of that from my mouth, amazing phrases with musical tone and meanings pour out in extempore.

This shloka brings out the humility of the acharya, who is considered as the greatest jnani, poet, and yogi ever walked on the face of this earth. Meditating on the verse will bring wisdom to the aspirant.

Lord as the Goal of Vedas

मयूराधिरूढं महावाक्यगूढं

मनोहारिदेहं महच्चित्तगेहम् ।

महीदेवदेवं महावेदभावं

महादेवबालं भजे लोकपालम् ॥ ३ ॥

According some traditions it is said that when Sri Sankara sang this verse Lord Subrahmanya gave him darshan.

O Son of Mahadeva! Seated on the peacock chariot, being the essence of the great mahaa vaakyaas, having wonderfully attractive body, dwelling in the heart of great sages, O the quintessence of four vedas! Thou are indeed the Lord of the Universe.

Reason for Residing on the Sea Shore

यदा संनिधानं गता मानवा मे

भवाम्भोधिपारं गतास्ते तदैव ।

इति व्यञ्जयन्सिन्धुतीरे य आस्ते

तमीडे पवित्रं पराशक्तिपुत्रम् ॥ ४ ॥

O Lord Subrahmanya! son of spotless paraashakti [the Mother of the Cosmos], Thou have taken the your abode near the sea shore (Thiruchendur is a coastal town) as if it is indication that whenever the devotees take refuge in Thee, they can easily cross the ocean of samsara (the eternal cycle of life and death) and reach the other side of the shore safely!

Destroyer of Devotee's Difficulties

यथाब्धेस्तरङ्गा लयं यन्ति तुङ्गा-

स्तथैवापदः सन्निधौ सेवतां मे ।

इतीवोर्मिपंक्तीर्नृणां दर्शयन्तं

सदा भावये हृत्सरोजे गुहं तम् ॥ ५ ॥

The waves of worries that haunt the minds of the devotees get destroyed like the waves of the ocean that hit the shore, Thou stands on the sea-side town of Thiruchendur exemplifying this truth that the mental worry-waves get destroyed when the devotees surrender themselves at Thy feet. O Lord Guha (one who resides in the cave of the heart), I meditate on you always!

Glory of Sugandha Hill

गिरौ मन्निवासे नरा येऽधिरूढा-

स्तदा पर्वते राजते तेऽधिरूढाः ।

इतीव ब्रुवन्गन्धशैलाधिरूढः

स देवो मुदे मे सदा षण्मुखोऽस्तु ॥ ६ ॥

O Lord Shanmukha! Thou stands on the top of the Sugandha hill, proclaiming that whenever the devotees climb this hill it will give the same benefit as climbing the king of mountains (Kailas)! May the six-faced lord on the Sugandha hills remain there to bless me!

Glory of Lord Guha

महाम्भोधितीरे महापापचोरे

मुनिन्द्रानुकूले सुगन्धाख्यशैले ।

गुहायां वसन्तं स्वभासा लसन्तं

जनार्तिं हरन्तं श्रयामो गुहं तम् ॥ ७ ॥

On the shores of the great ocean which steals away the sins of the devotees, stands the Sugandha hills, the most favourable site for the sages to perform their penance! Thou resides there to destroy the worries of the devotees! O self-luminous Lord who is present in the cave of the heart! I adore Thee!

Description of Lord's bed room

लसत्स्वर्णगेहे नृणां कामदोहे

सुमस्तोमसंछन्नमाणिक्यमञ्चे ।

समुद्यत्सहस्रार्कतुल्यप्रकाशं

सदा भावये कार्तिकेयं सुरेशम् ॥ ८ ॥

In a radiant golden bed room, on a cot set with rubies and covered on all sides with sweet smelling flowers, Thou art seated with the effulgence of thousand suns! Thou art the answer to every desire of the heart and Thou fulfils the righteous desires of Thy devotees! Thou art the lord of devas and son of the lord of the universe! O Kartikeyaa I meditate on Thee!

Meditation on Lord's feet

रणद्धंसके मञ्जुलेऽत्यन्तशोणे

मनोहारिलावण्यपीयूषपूर्णे ।

मनःषट्पदो मे भवक्लेशतप्तः

सदा मोदतां स्कन्द ते पादपद्मे ॥ ९ ॥

Let the mind (like a bee) which is burdened with domestic troubles become happy by hovering around Thy lotus feet which is adorned with the jingling ringlets made of rings and beads, red in color indicating the grace, filled with the nectar of beauty and attracts the minds of the devotees.

Meditation on Lord's waist

सुवर्णाभदिव्याम्बरैर्भासमानां

क्वणत्किङ्किणीमेखलाशोभमानाम् ।

लसद्धेमपट्टेन विद्योतमानां

कटिं भावये स्कन्द ते दीप्यमानाम् ॥ १० ॥

O Skanda, I meditate on Thy waist which is covered by a

gold colored cloth, shining with a string of ringing bells and beads, wearing a shining gold belt over the golden silk cloth, and which is by itself self-resplendent

Meditation on Lord's Chest

पुलिन्देशकन्याघनाभोगतुङ्ग-

स्तनालिङ्गनासक्तकाश्मीररागम् ।

नमस्यामहं तारकारे तवोरः

स्वभक्तावने सर्वदा सानुरागम् ॥ ११ ॥

O conqueror of Tarakasura! By embracing Valli's (Hunter's daughter) well--developed breast ornated with saffron, Thy chest became red colored, thereby manifesting your eternal grace towards devotees. And such a chest I adore.

Meditation on Twelve Arms

विधौ क्लृप्तदण्डान् स्वलीलाधृताण्डा-

न्निरस्तेभशुण्डान् द्विषत्कालदण्डान् ।

हतेन्द्रारिषण्डाञ्जगत्राणशौण्डान्

सदा ते प्रचण्डान् श्रये बाहुदण्डान् ॥ १२ ॥

O Shanmukha! Thy arms punished Brahma, Thy arms governs the world as Thy play, Thy arms killed Soorapadma and other demons who are enemies of Indra, Thy arms are matchless in protecting the Universe, and Thy arms are a terror to Thine enemies. I worship Thy twelve arms which does all these things effortlessly.

Meditation on Lord's Six Faces

सदा शारदाः षण्मृगाङ्गा यदि स्युः

समुद्यन्त एव स्थिताश्चेत्समन्तात् ।

सदा पूर्णबिम्बाः कलङ्कैश्च हीना-

स्तदा तन्मुखानां ब्रुवे स्कन्द साम्यम् ॥१३॥

What can I compare to Thy six faces! If there be six full moons free from blemishes and if those moons be ever shining on all sides, even then they would be no match to your effulgent faces.

Meditation on Lord's Facial Features

स्फुरन्मन्दहासैः सहंसानि चञ्च-

त्कटाक्षावलीभृङ्गसंघोज्ज्वलानि ।

सुधास्यन्दिबिम्बाधरणीशसूनो

तवालोकये षण्मुखाम्भोरुहाणि ॥ १४॥

O Son of Parameshwara! I see Thy six lotus smiling faces shining like a group of swans, having gleaming side glance ever moving like a row of bees and with red lips overflowing with nectar.

Meditation on Lord's Twelve Eyes

विशालेषु कर्णान्तदीर्घेष्वजस्रं

दयास्यन्दिषु द्वादशस्त्रीक्षणेषु।

मयीषत्कटाक्षः सकृत्पातितश्चे-

द्भवेत्ते दयाशील का नाम् हानिः॥ १५॥

O Son of Parameshwara! O Merciful Lord! When Thou hast twelve broad long eyes extending upto ears, what will Thou loose by casting that side glance for a moment (on me)?

Meditation on Lord's Six Heads

सुताङ्गोद्भवो मेऽसि जीवेति षड्वा

जपन्मन्त्रमीशो मुदा जिघ्रते यान् ।

जगद्गारभृद्भ्यो जगन्नाथ तेभ्यः

किरीटोञ्चलेभ्यो नमो मस्तकेभ्यः॥ १६॥

O Lord of the Universe! I offer my prostration to Thy six heads wearing crowns with brilliant rubies which protect the welfare of creatures, which were smelt by Parameshwara with joy uttering six times the mantra "Child Thou were born of me, May Thou live long."

Meditation on Lord Balasubrahmanya

स्फुरद्रत्नकेयूरहाराभिराम-

श्वलत्कुण्डलश्रीलसद्गण्डभागः ।

कटौ पीतवासः करे चारुशक्तिः

पुरस्तान्ममास्तां पुरारेस्तनूजः ॥ १७ ॥

O Kumara! Son of Lord Parameshwara (who destroyed Tripura), with garlands of brilliant rubies on Thy shoulders and chest, with bright cheeks shining when pendants dangling from Thy ears, wearing silk garment around Thy waist, and with vel in Thy hand, O Lord! appear before me (It is said that Lord appeared before Achaarya when he sung this stotra).

Meditation on Somaskandar

इहायाहि वत्सेति हस्तान्प्रसार्या-

ह्वयत्यादराच्छङ्करे मातुरङ्गात् ।

समुत्पत्य तातं श्रयन्तं कुमारं

हराश्लिष्टगात्रं भजे बालमूर्तिम् ॥ १८ ॥

When Lord Shankara called Thee affectionately with arms extended, Thou hurriedly rose from Mother's lap and rushed into Shankara's arms who embraced thee affectionately. I meditate on such a Lord Kumara.

Meditation on Lord's Eleven Names to Conquer Passions

कुमारेशसूनो गुह स्कन्द सेना-

पते शक्तिपाणे मयूराधिरूढ ।

पुलिन्दात्मजाकान्त भक्तार्तिहारिन्

प्रभो तारकारे सदा रक्ष मां त्वम् ॥ १९ ॥

O kumara! O Son of Lord of the Universe! One shines in the cave of the heart as Guhaa! O skanda! O Lord of the Devas Army! O Wielder of the weapon Vel (spear) which is the svaruupa of Parashakti! One who rides on the peacock chariot! O Beloved of the Hunter's daughter (Valli)! Destroyer of the sins of your devotees! Enemy of the Tاراakasura! O Lord protect me!

It is said that one who recites these names will over come the passions.

Prayer for Darshan During the Last Moments of Life

प्रशान्तेन्द्रिये नष्टसंज्ञे विचेष्टे

कफोद्गारिवक्त्रे भयोत्कम्पिगात्रे ।

प्रयाणोन्मुखे मय्यनाथे तदानीं

द्रुतं मे दयालो भवाग्रे गुह त्वम् ॥ २० ॥

O Guha! O compassionate one! during the last moments of my life, when I will have lost control of senses, when I will have lost consciousness, when I will be unable move my limbs, when I will be emitting foam of phlegm, when my body will be trembling with fear of death, when I will have none to protect me, Thou must hasten to give me Darshan then.

Prayer to Give Darshan During Death Pangs

कृतान्तस्य दूतेषु चण्डेषु कोपा-

दहच्छिञ्चि भिञ्चीति मां तर्जयत्सु ।

मयूरं समारुह्य मा भैरिति त्वं

पुरः शक्तिपाणिर्ममायाहि शीघ्रम् ॥ २१ ॥

O Lord!, when ferocious messengers of Death-God come to torture me angrily shouting, "Burn him, Kill him." O Lord! Thou must hasten to appear before me, riding on Peacock, carrying Shaktivel, to encourage me not to be afraid.

Prayer for Protection During Last Moments

प्रणम्यासकृत्पादयोस्ते पतित्वा

प्रसाद्य प्रभो प्रार्थयेऽनेकवारम् ।

न वक्तुं क्षमोऽहं तदानीं कृपाब्धे

न कार्यान्तकाले मनागप्युपेक्षा ॥ २२ ॥

O Merciful Lord! I am prostrating to Thy feet often to secure Thy blessings. O treasure house of mercy! I offer prayers to please Thee. Thou should not be indifferent towards me during my last moments. At that time I may not have the control and energy to pray to Thee!

Prayer to Drive Away Mental Worries

सहस्राण्डभोक्ता त्वया शूरनामा

हतस्तारकः सिंहवक्त्रश्च दैत्यः।

ममान्तर्हृदिस्थं मनःक्लेशमेकं

न हंसि प्रभो किं करोमि क्वयामि ॥ २३ ॥

O Lord! Thou hast slain the demon Soora who ruled the thousand universes! So were the demons Taarakasura and Simhavaktra. But Lord, why have you not killed the demon called mental worry which haunts my mind? When it is afflicting me, what will I do? and where will I go for help?

Prayer to Destroy Mental Worries

अहं सर्वदा दुःखभारावसन्नो

भवान्दीनबन्धुस्त्वदन्यं न याचे ।

भवद्भक्तिरोधं सदा क्लृप्तबाधं

ममाधिं द्रुतं नाशयोमासुत त्वम् ॥ २४ ॥

O Son of Uma! I am always troubled by the mental worries. Thou art the friend of helpless! I approach none but you for saving me. Quickly destroy my mental worries as they interfere with my devotion towards Thee!

Glory of Lord's Holy Ash

अपस्मारकुष्टक्शयार्शः प्रमेह-

ञ्चरोन्मादगुल्मादिरोगा महान्तः ।

पिशाचाश्च सर्वे भवत्पत्रभूतिं

विलोक्य क्षणात्तारकारे द्रवन्ते ॥ २५ ॥

O Conqueror of Taraka! Severe epilepsy, leprosy, consumption, lung diseases, venereal diseases, fevers, mental diseases of all types, they run away the moment they Thy vibhuti.

Acts of the Indriyas

दृशि स्कन्दमूर्तिः श्रुतौ स्कन्दकीर्ति-

मुखे मे पवित्रं सदा तच्चरित्रम् ।

करे तस्य कृत्यं वपुस्तस्य भृत्यं

गुहे सन्तु लीना ममाशेषभावाः ॥ २६ ॥

Always may I have before my eyes the Murti of Lord Skanda!
Always let my ears hear only the praises of Lord Skanda!
Always let my mouth sing the praise of Lord Skanda! Always

let my hands be of service to the Lord! Always let my body be a servant to the Lord! Let my limbs, thoughts and actions be devoted to Skanda!

Lord Guha Alone is the Saviour of the Ordinary

मुनीनामुताहो नृणां भक्तिभाजा-

मभीष्टप्रदाः सन्ति सर्वत्र देवाः ।

नृणामन्त्यजानामपि स्वार्थदाने

गुहाद्देवमन्यं न जाने न जाने ॥ २७ ॥

In all the worlds there are Devas to grant the boons of sages and great bhaktas. But for the lowly and ordinary devotees, I know not of any other Deity to protect them except Guha!

Six Faced Lord is Our Family Deity

कलत्रं सुता बन्धुवर्गः पशुर्वा

नरो वाथ नारि गृहे ये मदियाः ।

यजन्तो नमन्तः स्तुवन्तो भवन्तं

स्मरन्तश्च ते सन्तु सर्वे कुमार ॥ २८ ॥

O Lord Kumaara! Let my wife, children, relatives, friends, other men and women in our household, venerate Thee! praise Thee! and always absorbed in Thy thoughts!

Prayer to Vel to Destroy Diseases

मृगाः पक्षिणो दंशका ये च दुष्टा-

स्तथा व्याधयो बाधका ये मदङ्गे ।

भवच्छक्तितीक्ष्णाग्रभिन्नाः सुदूरे

विनश्यन्तु ते चूर्णितक्रौञ्चशैल॥ २९॥

O Destroyer of Krauncha Shaila! Let every thing that trouble my body, birds, beasts, insects, severe diseases, be pierced by Thy powerful weapon Vel and taken far away and destroyed.

Prayer to the Father of the Universe

जनित्री पिता च स्वपुत्रापराधं

सहेते न किं देवसेनाधिनाथा

अहं चातिबालो भवान् लोकतातः

क्षमस्वापराधं समस्तं महेश॥ ३०॥

Do not the parents overlook the faults of their children? O Chief of the army of Devas! I am a small child. Thou art the Father of the Universe. O Mahesha! Forgive all my faults.

Prayer to the Lord

नमः केकिने शक्तये चापि तुभ्यं

नमश्छाग तुभ्यं नमः कुक्कुटाय ।

नमः सिन्धवे सिन्धुदेशाय तुभ्यं

पुनः स्कन्दमूर्ते नमस्ते नमोऽस्तु ॥ ३१ ॥

I bow to Thee, O Peacock (the symbol of vedas)!
I bow to Thee, O Shakti Weapon (Vel is Parashakti herself),
I bow to Thee, O Sheep (the symbol of Maaya tatvam)
I bow to Thee, O Cock (the symbol of Ego)
I bow to Thee, O Ocean (the symbol of ananda)
I bow to Thee, O Thiruchendur Shrine
I bow to Thee, O Lord Skanda!
I bow to Thee again and again!
Let all my prostrations reach Thee!

Prayer to Lord to Reveal His Powers

जयानन्दभूमञ्जयापारधाम-

अयामोघकीर्ते जयानन्दमूर्ते ।

जयानन्दसिन्धो जयाशेषबन्धो

जय त्वं सदा मुक्तिदानेशसूनो॥ ३२॥

O Source of ananda, reveal Thyself! O Embodiment boundless effulgent light, reveal Thyself! O Lord! who has all pervading glory, reveal Thyself! O Embodiment of bliss, reveal Thyself! O Lord, Thou art the ocean of bliss, reveal Thyself! O Lord who is the friend of all creatures, reveal Thyself! O Lord, Son of Parameshwara, Bestower of liberation, reveal Thy Glory to me and protect me!

Effect of Reciting These Shlokas

भुजङ्गाख्यवृत्तेन क्लृप्तं स्तवं यः

पठेद्भक्तियुक्तो गुहं संप्रणम्य ।

स पुत्रान्कलत्रं धनं दीर्घमायु-

र्लभेत्स्कन्दसायुज्यमन्ते नरः सः ॥ ३३ ॥

That holy devotee, who prostrates to Lord Guha, reciting the Bhujanga stotra daily, with devotion, will be blessed with good sons, good wife, wealth and long life, and at end of his life, will attain eternal bliss with Lord Skanda!

इति श्रीमच्छङ्करभगवतः कृतौ श्रीसुब्रह्मण्यभुजङ्गं

संपूर्णम् ॥

Credits

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