

Evening Prayers

Verses from *Saundaryalahari* by Shri Shankaracharya

Om, Gurur brahmā
Gurur vishnuḥ
Gurur devo maheshvaraḥ
Guruh sākshāt param brahma
Tasmai shrī gurave namaḥ

The Guru is Brahma (the creator)
The Guru is Vishnu (the sustainer)
The Guru is Shiva (the Lord of dissolution)
Truly, the Guru is the Transcendent One
To that most venerable Guru, homage.

Asato mā sad gamaya
Tamaso mā jyotir gamaya
Mrityor mā amritam gamaya

Lead me from the unreal to the real
Lead me from darkness to light
Lead me from mortality to immortality

Om Saha nāvavatu
Saha nau bhunaktu
Saha vīryam karavāvahai
Tejasvi nāvadhītam astu
Mā vidvishāvahai

O Lord, may we be protected
May we be nourished
May we create strength among one another
May our study be filled with light
May there be no ill-feeling among us

Om shāntiḥ shāntiḥ shāntiḥ

Om, Peace, peace, peace

Shivaḥ śhaktyā yukto yadi bhavati śhaktaḥ prabhavitum
na cedevaṁ devo na khalu kuśhalaḥ spanditum api |
atas tvām ārādhyām hari-hara-viriñcādibhir api
praṇantum stotum vā katham akṛita-puṇyaḥ prabhavati. || (1)

The unmanifested reality can manifest itself only with the help of Mother Divine. All the forces are under Her command. Without Her help God is not able even to stir. Is it possible for the aspirants who have not performed good karma either to worship or to praise thee, O Mother, Who are worshipped even by the three great powers of creation, protection, and destruction?

Avidyānām antas timira-mihira-dvīpanagarī
jadānām caitanya-stabaka-makaranda-sruti sritiḥ |
daridrāṇām cintā-maṇi-guṇanikā janma jaladhau
nimagnānām daṁṣṭrā mura-ripu-varāhasya bhavati || (3)

Thou are the sun that dispels the darkness of the ignorant; to the unknowing Thou are a spiritual flower overflowing with honey; to the needy Thou are the gem which bestows one's heart's desires; and to those who are drowned in the ocean of births and deaths, Thou are the Rescuer.

Sudhā-sindhora madhye sura-viṭapi-vāṭī-parivṛite
maṇi-dvīpe nipopavana-vati cintāmaṇi-grihe |
śhivakāre mañche parama-śhiva-paryaṅka nilayām
bhajanti tvām dhanyāḥ katichana chid-ānanda-laharīm || (8)

Blessed are the few that worship Thee, the flood of consciousness and bliss, having as Thy abode the lap of the Supremely Auspicious One, in the mansion built from the gems which yield all desires, situated in a garden on the island of gems, surrounded by divine trees in an ocean of ambrosia.

Om shāntiḥ shāntiḥ shāntiḥ