

Evening Prayers

Verses from *Saundaryalahari* by Shri Shankaracharya

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

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 shāntih shāntih shāntih

Om, Peace, peace, peace

Shivah śaktyā yukto yadi bhavati śaktaḥ prabhavitum
 na cedevam̄ devo na khalu kuśhalah spanditum api |
 atas tvām ārādhyām hari-hara-viriñcādibhir api
 praṇantum stotum vā katham akṛita-punyaḥ 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 sritih |
daridrāṇām cintā-maṇi-guṇanikā janma jaladhau
nimagnānām daṁśhṭrā 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-sindhор madhye sura-viṭapi-vāṭī-parivṛite
maṇi-dvīpe nipopavana-vati cintāmaṇi-grihe |
śivakāre mañche parama-śiva-paryāṅka nilayāṁ
bhajanti tvāṁ 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 shāntih shāntih shāntih