ASTROBHAVA

SACRED HYMN · SANSKRIT (DEVANAGARI) WITH MEANING

# Ganga Stotram

Attributed to Adi Shankaracharya

## THE COMPLETE HYMN · SANSKRIT (DEVANAGARI)

Fourteen verses in the pajjhatika metre; the printed closing line follows verse 14, and the bathing shloka Gange cha Yamune is given last.

**VERSE 1**

देवि सुरेश्वरि भगवति गङ्गे त्रिभुवनतारिणि तरलतरङ्गे ।
शङ्करमौलिविहारिणि विमले मम मतिरास्तां तव पदकमले ॥

O Goddess, queen of the gods, blessed Ganga, who carries the three worlds across, with your restless, rippling waves. O pure one who plays on the head of Shiva, may my mind rest at your lotus feet.

**VERSE 2**

भागीरथि सुखदायिनि मातस्तव जलमहिमा निगमे ख्यातः ।
नाहं जाने तव महिमानं पाहि कृपामयि मामज्ञानम् ॥

O Bhagirathi, giver of happiness, O Mother, the glory of your waters is proclaimed in the Vedas. I do not know your greatness; O compassionate one, protect me, ignorant as I am.

**VERSE 3**

हरिपदपाद्यतरङ्गिणि गङ्गे हिमविधुमुक्ताधवलतरङ्गे ।
दूरीकुरु मम दुष्कृतिभारं कुरु कृपया भवसागरपारम् ॥

O Ganga, river that flows as the water which washed the feet of Vishnu, whose waves are white as snow, the moon and pearls. Take away the burden of my wrong deeds, and in your kindness carry me across the ocean of worldly existence.

**VERSE 4**

तव जलममलं येन निपीतं परमपदं खलु तेन गृहीतम् ।
मातर्गङ्गे त्वयि यो भक्तः किल तं द्रष्टुं न यमः शक्तः ॥

Whoever has drunk your pure water has surely attained the highest state. O Mother Ganga, the verse says that Yama, lord of death, cannot even look upon one who is devoted to you.

**VERSE 5**

पतितोद्धारिणि जाह्नवि गङ्गे खण्डितगिरिवरमण्डितभङ्गे ।
भीष्मजननि हे मुनिवरकन्ये पतितनिवारिणि त्रिभुवनधन्ये ॥

O Jahnavi Ganga, uplifter of the fallen, whose breaking waves are adorned by the great mountains they cut through. O mother of Bhishma, daughter of the great sage, you who stop the fallen from falling further, blessed in all three worlds.

VERSE 6

कल्पलतामिव फलदां लोके प्रणमति यस्त्वां न पतति शोके ।
पारावारविहारिणि गङ्गे विमुखयुवतिकृततरलापाङ्गे ॥

The verse says that whoever bows to you, who grant fruits in this world like the wish-fulfilling creeper, does not fall into sorrow. O Ganga, who flows playfully into the ocean, your restless side-glance is like that of a young woman who has turned her face away.

VERSE 7

तव चेन्मातः स्रोतः स्नातः पुनरपि जठरे सोऽपि न जातः ।
नरकनिवारिणि जाह्नवि गङ्गे कलुषविनाशिनि महिमोत्तुङ्गे ॥

O Mother, the verse says that one who has bathed in your stream is not born again from a womb. O Jahnavi Ganga, you who keep people from hell, destroyer of impurity, lofty in your greatness.

VERSE 8

पुनरसदङ्गे पुण्यतरङ्गे जय जय जाह्नवि करुणापाङ्गे ।
इन्द्रमुकुटमणिराजितचरणे सुखदे शुभदे भृत्यशरण्ये ॥

O you who spare us from taking an impure body again, whose waves are holy: victory, victory to you, Jahnavi, whose glance is full of compassion. Your feet shine with the jewels of Indra's crown; you give happiness and auspiciousness and are the refuge of your servants.

VERSE 9

रोगं शोकं तापं पापं हर मे भगवति कुमतिकलापम् ।
त्रिभुवनसारे वसुधाहारे त्वमसि गतिर्मम खलु संसारे ॥

O blessed Goddess, take away my illness, grief, suffering and sin, and the whole crowd of my wrong thoughts. O essence of the three worlds, necklace of the earth, you alone are my refuge in this worldly life.

VERSE 10

अलकानन्दे परमानन्दे कुरु करुणामयि कातरवन्द्ये ।
तव तटनिकटे यस्य निवासः खलु वैकुण्ठे तस्य निवासः ॥

O Alakananda, supreme bliss, compassionate one worshipped by the distressed, show me your mercy. The verse says that one who lives near your banks surely lives in Vaikuntha.

VERSE 11

वरमिह नीरे कमठो मीनः किं वा तीरे शरटः क्षीणः ।
अथवा श्वपचो मलिनो दीनस्तव न हि दूरे नृपतिकुलीनः ॥

Better to be a tortoise or a fish here in your water, or a thin lizard on your bank, or even a poor and unclean outcaste near you, than to be born in a royal family far away from you.

VERSE 12

भो भुवनेश्वरि पुण्ये धन्ये देवि द्रवमयि मुनिवरकन्ये ।
गङ्गास्तवमिममलं नित्यं पठति नरो यः स जयति सत्यम् ॥

O ruler of the world, holy and blessed Goddess whose form is flowing water, daughter of the great sage. The verse says that the person who recites this pure hymn to Ganga every day truly wins.

VERSE 13

येषां हृदये गङ्गाभक्तिस्तेषां भवति सदा सुखमुक्तिः ।
मधुराकान्तापज्झटिकाभिः परमानन्दकलितललिताभिः ॥

The verse says that those who hold devotion to Ganga in their hearts always have happiness and liberation. This praise is sung in sweet and lovely verses of the pajjhatika metre, graceful and filled with supreme joy.

VERSE 14

गङ्गास्तोत्रमिदं भवसारं वाञ्छितफलदं विमलं सारम् ।
शङ्करसेवकशङ्कररचितं पठति सुखी स्तव इति च समाप्तः ॥

This hymn to Ganga is the essence of existence, pure and precious, and the verse says it grants what one desires. Composed by Shankara, the servant of Shiva, it makes happy the one who recites it; so the hymn is complete.

CLOSING

इति श्रीमच्छङ्कराचार्यविरचितं गङ्गास्तोत्रं सम्पूर्णम् ॥

Thus ends the Ganga Stotram composed by the revered Shankaracharya.

GANGA MANTRA 1

गङ्गे च यमुने चैव गोदावरि सरस्वति ।
नर्मदे सिन्धु कावेरि जलेऽस्मिन् संनिधिं कुरु ॥

O Ganga, Yamuna, and also Godavari and Sarasvati, O Narmada, Sindhu and Kaveri: be present in this water. It is recited while bathing or when water is taken for worship.

## Read it on its page

The Ganga Stotram with its meaning, how and when it is recited, and the same text in five more scripts: astrobhava.com/mantra/ganga-stotram/



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