ASTROBHAVA

SACRED HYMN · SANSKRIT (DEVANAGARI) WITH MEANING

Shiva Aparadha Kshamapana Stotram

Attributed to Adi Shankaracharya

THE COMPLETE HYMN · SANSKRIT (DEVANAGARI)

The fifteen verses of the standard printed edition, from adau karmaprasangat to the plea for refuge in verse 15. The printed closing line is given at the end.

VERSE 1

आदौ कर्मप्रसङ्गात्कलयति कलुषं मातृकुक्षौ स्थितं मां विण्मूत्रामेध्यमध्ये क्वथयति नितरां जाठरो जातवेदाः ।
यद्यद्वै तत्र दुःखं व्यथयति नितरां शक्यते केन वक्तुं क्षन्तव्यो मेऽपराधः शिव शिव शिव भोः श्रीमहादेव शंभो ॥

In the beginning, through the force of past deeds, impurity takes hold of me lying in my mother's womb, and the fire of the belly scorches me constantly amid filth. Who can describe the pain that tormented me there? O Shiva, Shiva, Shiva, O great god Shambhu, forgive my fault.

VERSE 2

बाल्ये दुःखातिरेकान्मललुलितवपुः स्तन्यपाने पिपासुर्नो शक्तश्चेन्द्रियेभ्यो भव मलजनिता जन्तवो मां तुदन्ति ।
नानारोगातिदुःखाद्रुदितपरवशः शंकरं न स्मरामि क्षन्तव्यो मेऽपराधः शिव शिव शिव भोः श्रीमहादेव शंभो ॥

In childhood, from excess of suffering, my body soiled and longing only for the breast, I had no mastery over my senses, O Bhava, and creatures born of filth stung me. Overcome by weeping from many illnesses and pains, I did not remember Shankara. O Shiva, great god Shambhu, forgive my fault.

VERSE 3

प्रौढोऽहं यौवनस्थो विषयविषधरैः पञ्चभिर्मर्मसंधौ दष्टो नष्टो विवेकः सुतधनयुवतिस्वादुसौख्ये निषण्णः ।
शैवे चिन्ताविहीनं मम हृदयमहो मानगर्वाधिरूढं क्षन्तव्यो मेऽपराधः शिव शिव शिव भोः श्रीमहादेव शंभो ॥

Grown into youth, I was bitten at my vital joints by the five serpents of the sense objects; my discernment was lost and I sank into the sweet comforts of children, wealth and women. Alas, my heart, mounted on pride and arrogance, had no thought for Shiva. O Shiva, great god Shambhu, forgive my fault.

VERSE 4

वार्धक्ये चेन्द्रियाणां विकलगतिमतश्चाधिदैवादितापैः प्राप्तै रोगैर्वियोगैर्व्यसनकृशतनोर्ज्ञप्तिहीनं च दीनम् ।
मिथ्यामोहाभिलाषैर्भ्रमति मम मनो धूर्जटेर्ध्यानशून्यं क्षन्तव्यो मेऽपराधः शिव शिव शिव भोः श्रीमहादेव शंभो ॥

In old age, with my senses failing in movement and thought, my body wasted by afflictions from fate and the elements, by diseases, separations and troubles, my mind is dull and wretched. Driven by false delusion and craving it wanders, empty of meditation on Dhurjati. O Shiva, great god Shambhu, forgive my fault.

VERSE 5

स्नात्वा प्रत्यूषकाले स्नपनविधिविधौ नाहृतं गाङ्गतोयं पूजार्थं वा कदाचिद्बहुतरगहनेऽखण्डबिल्वीदलं वा ।
नानीता पद्ममाला सरसि विकसिता गन्धपुष्पैस्त्वदर्थं क्षन्तव्यो मेऽपराधः शिव शिव शिव भोः श्रीमहादेव शंभो ॥

Bathing at dawn, I never brought Ganga water for the rite of your ablution, nor ever gathered whole bilva leaves from the deep forest for your worship. I never brought you a garland of lotuses blooming in the lake, nor fragrant flowers. O Shiva, great god Shambhu, forgive my fault.

VERSE 6

दुग्धैर्मध्वाज्ययुक्तैर्दधिगुडसहितैः स्नापितं नैव लिङ्गं नो लिप्तं चन्दनाद्यैः कनकविरचितैः पूजितं न प्रसूनैः ।
धूपैः कर्पूरदीपैर्विविधरसयुतैर्नैव भक्ष्योपहारैः क्षन्तव्यो मेऽपराधः शिव शिव शिव भोः श्रीमहादेव शंभो ॥

I never bathed the linga with milk mixed with honey and ghee, with curd and jaggery; I never anointed it with sandal paste, nor worshipped it with golden flowers. I never offered incense, camphor lamps or foods of many flavours. O Shiva, great god Shambhu, forgive my fault.

VERSE 7

नो शक्यं स्मार्तकर्म प्रतिपदगहने प्रत्यवायाकुलाढ्ये श्रौते वार्ता कथं मे द्विजकुलविहिते ब्रह्ममार्गानुसारे ।
तत्त्वेऽज्ञाते विचारे श्रवणमननयोः किं निदिध्यासितव्यं क्षन्तव्यो मेऽपराधः शिव शिव शिव भोः श्रीमहादेव शंभो ॥

I cannot perform the rites of the Smritis, difficult at every step and full of the risk of lapses; how then can I speak of the Vedic rites laid down for the twice-born on the path to Brahman? When the truth is not known through enquiry, hearing and reflection, what is there to meditate upon? O Shiva, great god Shambhu, forgive my fault.

VERSE 8

ध्यात्वा चित्ते शिवाख्यं प्रचुरतरधनं नैव दत्तं द्विजेभ्यो हव्यं ते लक्षसंख्यैर्हुतवहवदने नार्पितं बीजमन्त्रैः ।
नो तप्तं गाङ्गतीरे व्रतजपनियमै रुद्रजाप्यं न जप्तं क्षन्तव्यो मेऽपराधः शिव शिव शिव भोः श्रीमहादेव शंभो ॥

Meditating on the name of Shiva in my mind, I never gave abundant wealth to the learned; I never offered oblations to you into the mouth of the fire with seed mantras counted in lakhs. I did no austerity on the Ganga's bank with vows, japa and discipline, nor chanted the Rudra. O Shiva, great god Shambhu, forgive my fault.

VERSE 9

नग्नो निःसंगशुद्धस्त्रिगुणविरहितो ध्वस्तमोहान्धकारो नासाग्रन्यस्तदृष्टिर्विदितभवगुणो नैव दृष्टः कदाचित् ।
उन्मन्यावस्थया त्वां विगतगतिमतिः शंकरं न स्मरामि क्षन्तव्यो मेऽपराधः शिव शिव शिव भोः श्रीमहादेव शंभो ॥

Never have I been seen as a renunciant, unattached and pure, beyond the three gunas, the darkness of delusion destroyed, gaze fixed on the tip of the nose, knowing the nature of worldly life. In the state beyond the mind, with movement and thought stilled, I have not remembered you, Shankara. O Shiva, great god Shambhu, forgive my fault.

VERSE 10

स्थित्वा स्थाने सरोजे प्रणवमयमरुत्कुम्भिते सूक्ष्ममार्गे शान्ते स्वान्ते प्रलीने प्रकटितविभवे दिव्यरूपे शिवाख्ये ।
लिङ्गाग्रे ब्रह्मवाक्ये सकलतनुगतं शंकरं न स्मरामि क्षन्तव्यो मेऽपराधः शिव शिव शिव भोः श्रीमहादेव शंभो ॥

Seated in the lotus place, with breath held as the sacred syllable Om in the subtle channel, with the inner mind calm and dissolved in that radiant, divine form called Shiva, I have not remembered Shankara who dwells in every body, at the summit of the linga, in the words of the Veda. O Shiva, great god Shambhu, forgive my fault.

VERSE 11

हृद्यं वेदान्तवेद्यं हृदयसरसिजे दीप्तमुद्यत्प्रकाशं सत्यं शान्तस्वरूपं सकलमुनिमनःपद्मषण्डैकवेद्यम् ।
जाग्रत्स्वप्ने सुषुप्तौ त्रिगुणविरहितं शंकरं न स्मरामि क्षन्तव्यो मेऽपराधः शिव शिव शिव भोः श्रीमहादेव शंभो ॥

In waking, dream and deep sleep I have not remembered Shankara, the beloved one known through Vedanta, shining with rising light in the lotus of the heart, the truth whose nature is peace, known only in the lotus-minds of all sages, beyond the three gunas. O Shiva, great god Shambhu, forgive my fault.

VERSE 12

चन्द्रोद्भासितशेखरे स्मरहरे गङ्गाधरे शंकरे सर्पैर्भूषितकण्ठकर्णविवरे नेत्रोत्थवैश्वानरे ।
दन्तित्वक्कृतसुन्दराम्बरधरे त्रैलोक्यसारे हरे मोक्षार्थं कुरु चित्तवृत्तिममलामन्यैस्तु किं कर्मभिः ॥

For the sake of liberation, make your thought pure and fix it on Hara, Shankara, whose crest shines with the moon, destroyer of Kama, bearer of the Ganga, whose neck and ears are adorned with serpents, from whose eye fire springs, who wears the fine garment of an elephant's hide, the essence of the three worlds. What use are other deeds?

VERSE 13

किं यानेन धनेन वाजिकरिभिः प्राप्तेन राज्येन किं किं वा पुत्रकलत्रमित्रपशुभिर्देहेन गेहेन किम् ।
ज्ञात्वैतत्क्षणभङ्गुरं सपदि रे त्याज्यं मनो दूरतः स्वात्मार्थं गुरुवाक्यतो भज भज श्रीपार्वतीवल्लभम् ॥

What use are carriages, wealth, horses and elephants, or a kingdom won? What use are sons, wife, friends, cattle, this body or a house? Knowing all this breaks in a moment, O mind, give it up at once and from afar; for your own true good, as the teacher says, worship, worship the beloved of Parvati.

VERSE 14

पौरोहित्यं रजनिचरितं ग्रामणीत्वं नियोगो माठापत्यं ह्यनृतवचनं साक्षिवादः परान्नम् ।
ब्रह्मद्वेषः खलजनरतिः प्राणिनां निर्दयत्वं मा भूदेवं मम पशुपते जन्मजन्मान्तरेषु ॥

Serving as a hired priest, wandering by night, headship of a village, servitude, heading a monastery, speaking untruth, bearing witness for others, living on another's food, hatred of the learned, delight in wicked company, cruelty to living beings: O Pashupati, may none of these be mine in birth after birth.

VERSE 15

आयुर्नश्यति पश्यतां प्रतिदिनं याति क्षयं यौवनं प्रत्यायान्ति गताः पुनर्न दिवसाः कालो जगद्भक्षकः ।
लक्ष्मीस्तोयतरङ्गभङ्गचपला विद्युच्चलं जीवितं तस्मान्मां शरणागतं करुणया त्वं रक्ष रक्षाधुना ॥

Life wastes away before our eyes, youth wears down day by day, days gone never return, and time devours the world. Fortune is as fickle as a breaking wave and life as quick as lightning. So in your compassion protect me, who have come to you for refuge; protect me now.

CLOSING

इति श्रीमत्परमहंसपरिव्राजकाचार्यस्य श्रीगोविन्दभगवत्पूज्यपादशिष्यस्य श्रीमच्छंकरभगवतः कृतौ शिवापराधक्षमापणस्तोत्रं संपूर्णम् ॥

Thus ends the Shiva Aparadha Kshamapana Stotram, a work of the revered Shankara Bhagavatpada, the paramahamsa wandering teacher and disciple of the revered Govinda Bhagavatpada.

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The Shiva Aparadha Kshamapana Stotram with its meaning, how and when it is recited, and the same text in five more scripts: astrobhava.com/mantra/shiva-aparadha-kshamapana-stotram/



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