



SACRED HYMN · SANSKRIT (DEVANAGARI) WITH MEANING

TOTAKASHTAKAM

— ◆ —
Totakacharya, disciple of Adi Shankara

The eight verses in totaka metre, each closing on the refrain to Shankara.

VERSE 1

विदिताखिलशास्त्रसुधाजलधे महितोपनिषत् कथितार्थनिधे ।
हृदये कलये विमलं चरणं भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥

O ocean of the nectar of all the scriptures you have known, O treasure of the meaning taught in the great Upanishads! I meditate in my heart on your spotless feet. O teacher Shankara, be my refuge.

VERSE 2

करुणावरुणालय पालय मां भवसागरदुःखविदूनहृदम् ।
रचयाखिलदर्शनतत्त्वविदं भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥

O ocean of compassion, protect me, whose heart is tormented by the sorrows of the sea of worldly life. Make me a knower of the truth of all the schools of philosophy. O teacher Shankara, be my refuge.

VERSE 3

भवता जनता सुहिता भविता निजबोधविचारण चारुमते ।
कलयेश्वरजीवविवेकविदं भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥

Through you the people will be made truly happy, O you whose mind is graceful in the inquiry into the knowledge of the Self. Make me understand the discernment between God and the individual soul. O teacher Shankara, be my refuge.

VERSE 4

भव एव भवानिति मे नितरां समजायत चेतसि कौतुकिता ।
मम वारय मोहमहाजलधिं भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥

The wondering thought that you are Bhava (Shiva) himself has arisen strongly in my mind. Hold back my vast ocean of delusion. O teacher Shankara, be my refuge.

VERSE 5

सुकृतेऽधिकृते बहुधा भवतो भविता समदर्शनलालसता ।
अतिदीनमिमं परिपालय मां भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥

Only when good deeds have been done in abundance and in many ways does the longing for the vision of oneness through you arise. Protect me, this utterly helpless one. O teacher Shankara, be my refuge.

VERSE 6

जगतीमवितुं कलिताकृतयो विचरन्ति महामहसश्छलतः ।
अहिमांशुरिवात्र विभासि गुरो भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥

To protect the world, great luminous beings take on forms and move about in disguise. Among them, O Guru, you shine here like the sun. O teacher Shankara, be my refuge.

VERSE 7

गुरुपुंगव पुंगवकेतन ते समतामयतां नहि कोऽपि सुधीः ।
शरणागतवत्सल तत्त्वनिधे भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥

O foremost of gurus, O you whose banner bears the bull (Shiva), no wise man attains equality with you. O you who cherish those who come for refuge, O treasure of truth, O teacher Shankara, be my refuge.

VERSE 8

विदिता न मया विशदैककला न च किंचन काञ्चनमस्ति गुरो ।
द्रुतमेव विधेहि कृपां सहजां भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥

I have not clearly mastered even a single branch of learning, nor do I possess any wealth at all, O Guru. Quickly bestow on me the grace that is natural to you. O teacher Shankara, be my refuge.

READ IT ON ITS PAGE

The Totakashtakam with its meaning, how and when it is recited, and the same text in five more scripts:
astrobhava.com/mantra/totakashtakam/



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