

shiva panchAkshara stotra

A Shivastotra by ShankarAchArya

The term Shiva means auspicious The God Shiva is all-auspiciousness. The mantra namaH ShivAya, used to offer salutations to Shiva, is an effective prayer to propitiate Shiva. This mantra appears in many places in Vedic and Puranic literature.

For example, the famous shrI Rudram hymn from the Yajur Veda, commonly employed to perform the worship of the Shiva linga, says: நமஃ ஸிவாய ச

The dAridrya dahana stotra of VasishhTha says தாரித்ரயதுஹ்க-தஹநாய நம: ஸிவாய ஸிவபங்சாசுநீரஸ்தோத்ர Salutations to Shiva who burns up the grief caused by poverty! Here poverty does not necessarily mean material poverty; it also means spiritual poverty.

This pa.nchAkshara (five syllabled) mantra namaH ShivAya is sometimes called the mUla mantra or basic mantra of Shiva. Each of the five syllables, na, ma, shi, vA, and ya, is held to be so sacred that it represents Shiva even by itself.

The following is the ShivapanchAkshara stotra composed by Adi SankarAchArya. One may worship the Shiva linga by reciting this stotra and offering bilva leaves.

நாகேந்த்ரஹாராய த்ரிலோசநாய பஸ்மாங்கராகாய மஹேஸ்வராய
நித்யாய ஸுத்தாய திகம்பராய தஸ்மை நகாராய நம: ஸிவாய 1
Salutations to Shiva, who wears the King of snakes as a garland, the Three-eyed God, whose body is smeared with ashes, the great Lord, the eternal and pure One, who wears the directions as His garment, and who is represented by the na kAra (term).

மந்தாகிநி-ஸலிசந்தந-சர்சிதாய
நந்தீஸ்வர-ப்ரமதநாத- மஹேஸ்வராய
மந்தாரபுஷ்ப-பஹு புஷ்ப-ஸுபூஜிதாய
தஸ்மை மகாராய நம: ஸிவாய 2

I bow to Shiva, who has been worshipped with water from the gangA (mandAkini) and annointed with sandalwood paste, the

Lord of nandI, the Lord of the host of goblins and ghosts,
the great Lord, who is worshiped with mandAra and many other
kinds of flowers, and who is represented by the
syllable ma.

சிவாய கௌரீவதநாப்ஜ-வ்ருந்த-

ஸீர்யாய தசுஷாத்வரநாகாய

ஸ்ரீநீலகண்டாய வ்ருஷ்த்வஜாய

தஸ்மை சிகாராய நம: சிவாய 3

Salutations to Shiva, who is all-auspiciousness, Who is the
sun that causes the lotus face of GaurI (PARvatI) to blossom,
Who is the destroyer of the Yajna of daksha, whose throat is
blue (nIlakaNTha), whose flag bears the emblem of the bull,
and who is represented by the syllable shi.

வஸிஷ்ட-கும்போத்பவ-கௌதமார்யமுநீந்த்ர-தேவார்சிதகைராய

சந்த்ரர்க-வைவ்நரஸேசநாய தஸ்மை வகாராய நம: சிவாய 4

VasishhTha, agastya, Gautama, and other venerable sages, and

Indra and other Gods have worshipped the head of (Shiva's
linga). I bow to that Shiva whose three eyes are the moon,
sun and fire, and who is represented by the syllable va.

யசுஷீஸ்வரூபாய ஜடாதராய பிநாகஹஸ்தாய ஸநாதநாய

திவ்யாய தேவாய திகம்பராய தஸ்மை யகாராய நம: சிவாய 5

Salutations to Shiva, who bears the form of a Yaksha, who
has matted hair on His head, Who bears the pinAka bow
in His hand, the Primeval Lord, the brilliant God,
who is digambara (naked), and who is represented by the
syllable ya.

பங்சாசுஷ்ரமிதம் புண்யம் ய: படேச்சிவஸந்நிதௌ

சிவலோகமவாப்நோதி சிவேந ஸஹ மோததே

Anyone who recites this sacred five-syllabled mantra,

(namaH shivAya) near the Shiva (linga), attains the abode
of Shiva and rejoices there with Shiva.

இதி ஸ்ரீமச்சங்கராசார்யவிரசித சிவபஞ்சாசுஷ்ர ஸ்தோத்ரம் ஸமாப்தம்