

॥ गङ्गाष्टकम् ॥
GANGA ASHTAKAM

(1)

भगवति भवलीलामौलिमाले तवांभः

कणमणुपरिमाणं प्राणिनो येस्पृशन्ति ।

अमरनगरनारीचामरग्राहिणीनां

विगतकलिकलङ्कातङ्कमङ्केलुठन्ति ॥

Oh Goddess! the playful garland on the crest of Siva! those beings who come into contact with the mere water droplets of yours, rejoice in the lapse of heavenly damsels carrying (serving with) chowries in their hand, having abandoned the fear of blemishes cast by Kali age.

(2)

ब्रह्माण्डं खण्डयन्ती हरशिरसि जटावलिमुल्लासयन्ती

स्वर्लोकादापतन्ती कनकगिरिगुहागण्डशैलात्स्खलन्ती ।

क्षोणीपृष्ठेलुठन्ती दुरितचयचमूर्निर्भरं भर्त्सयन्ती

पाथोधि पूरयन्ती सुरनगरसरित्पावनी नःपुनातु ॥

May the holy river of heavens protect us, which tearing open the universe (Brahmanda), swaying the creeper like matted hair of Siva, falls from the heavens, touching the caves and ranges of Sumeru, crawls on the earth threatening the forces of sins and fills up the ocean.

(3)

मञ्जन्मातङ्गकुम्भच्युतमदमदिरामोदमत्तालिजालं
स्नानैःसिद्धाङ्गनानां कुचयुगविगलकुंकुमासङ्गपिङ्गम् ।
सायं प्रातर्मुनीनां कुशकुसुमचयैश्छन्नतीरस्थनीरं
पायान्नो गाङ्गमम्भः करिकरमकराक्रान्तरंहस्तरङ्गम् ॥

May the waters of Ganga, where the bees are exhilarated by the intoxicating smell of the ichor oozing from the forehead of the bathing elephants, which has become yellowish due to the admixture of the turmeric paste on the chest of bathing Siddha damsels, whose shores are covered with the flowers and *kusa* offered by the hermits at dawn and dusk and whose wavy waters are ever occupied by the group of young tuskers and crocodile, protect us.

(4)

आदावादिपितामहस्य नियमव्यापारपात्रे जलं
पश्चात्पन्नगशायिनो भगवतः पादोदकं पावनम् ।
भूयःशंभुजटाविभूषणमणिर्जहोर्महर्षेरियं
कन्या कल्मषनाशिनी भगवती भागीरथी पातु माम् ॥

May Goddess Bhagirathi! the daughter of sage Jahnu, who at first was the waters in the Kamandalu of the premodial creator Brahma, later the holy waters that washes the feet of the Lord Vishnu who remains reclined on Adisesa, again the gem that adorned the matted hair locks of Lord Siva and the destroyer of sins, protect me!

(5)

शैलेन्द्रादवतारिणी निजजले मञ्जुनोत्तारिणी
पारावारविहारिणी भवभयश्रेणीसमुत्सारिणी ।
शेषाहेरनुकारिणी हरशिरोवल्लीदलाकारिणी
काशीप्रान्तविहारिणी विज्यते गङ्गा मनोहारिणी ॥

Victorious be the delightful Ganga! who descends from Himalayas, who elevates the people who take a plunge into her, who rejoices in the oceans, who destroys the fears of *samsara*, who imitates Adisesa by ever expanding, who appears like a creeper on the matted hair locks of Siva and who flows in the sacred Kashi.

(6)

कुतोऽवीची वीचिस्तव यदि गता लोचनपथं
त्वमापीता पीताम्बरपुरनिवासं वितरसि ।
त्वदुत्सङ्गे गङ्गे पतति यदि कायस्तनुभृतां
तदा मातः शातक्रतवपदलाभोऽप्यतिलघुः ॥

O Mother Ganga! anyone who falls within your "wavy" vision is never disturbed by the waves of *samsara*; you give him the abode of Vishnu, who sips your sacred waters and the heavenly position of Indrapita is easily obtained by one who relinquishes his life on your lap.

(7)

भगवति तव तीरे नीरमात्राशनोऽहं
विगतविषयतृष्णः कृष्णमाराधयामि ।
सकलकलुषभङ्गे स्वर्गसोपानसङ्गे
तरलतरतरङ्गे देवि गङ्गे प्रसीद ॥

O Goddess Devi Ganga, the destroyer of all sins! the stepping stone to heaven! possessor of endless waves! oh lady! be pleased!. I, who has merely taken a sip of your waters (at your bank) have become devoid of the desires for the worldly things and have started worshipping Lord Krishna

(8)

मातर्जाह्ववि शंभुसङ्गमिलिते मौलौ निधायाञ्जलिं
त्वत्तीरे वपुषोऽवसानसमये नारायणाङ्घ्रिद्वयम् ।
सानन्दं स्मरतो भविष्यति मम प्राणप्रयाणोत्सवे
भूयाङ्क्तिरविच्युता हरिहराद्वैतात्मिका शाश्वती ॥

Oh Mother Jahnavi! Oh Companion of Sambu, when my body is withered and vital airs are about to depart, may I be on your banks with folded hands and bowed head, remembering with joy constantly the feet of Siva and Vishnu.

(9)

गङ्गाष्टकमिदं पुण्यं यः पठेत्प्रयतो नरः ।
सर्वपापविनिर्मुक्तो विष्णुलोकं स गच्छति ॥

The person who recities this holy Gangashtaka with devotion attains the abode of Vishnu with all his sins expiated.

