

TOTAKĀṢṬAKAM

(A Hymn of Eight Stanzas)

Totakācārya

One of the chief disciples of Śaṅkara composed an octad of verses in praise of the Master. The metre he has used in this composition is the difficult but beautiful toṭaka. Hence he was himself given the name Toṭakācārya. Every word of this exquisite hymn bespeaks the utter devotion of its author to Śaṅkara. Śaṅkara, the Guru, is all to him. There is nothing equal to the Guru; nothing superior to Him. The Guru is the dispeller of the darkness of ignorance. There can be no greater good than the removal of ignorance. The spirit of devotion of the disciple is best expressed in the soul-moving burden of this song : Be Thou my refuge, O Master, Śaṅkara (bhava Śaṅkara deśika me śaraṇam)!

विदिताखिलशास्त्रसुधाजलधे

महितोपनिषत्कथितार्थनिधे ।

हृदये कलये विमलं चरणं

भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥ १ ॥

viditākhilāśāstrasudhājāladhe

mahitopaniṣatkathitārthanidhe,

hṛdaye kalaye vimalaṁ caraṇaṁ

bhava śaṅkara deśika me śaraṇam.

O Thou, the knower of all the Milk-Ocean of Scriptures! The expounder of the topics of the great Upanisadic treasure-trove! On Thy faultless feet I meditate in my heart, Be Thou my refuge O Master, Śaṅkara!

करुणावरुणालय पालय मां
भवसगरदुःखविदूनहृदम् ।
रचयाखिलदर्शनतत्त्वविदं
भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥ २ ॥

karuṇāvaruṇālaya pālaya mām
bhavasāgaraduḥkhavidūnahṛdam,
racayākhiladarśanatattvavidam
bhava śaṅkara deśika me śaraṇam.

O the ocean of compassion! Save me whose heart is tormented by the misery of the sea of births! Make me understand the truths of all the schools of philosophy! Be Thou my refuge, O Master, Śaṅkara.

भवता जनता सुहिता भविता
निजबोधविचारण चारुमते ।
कलयेश्वरजीवविवेकविदं
भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥ ३ ॥

bhavatā janatā suhitā bhavitā
nijabodhavicāraṇa cārumate,
kalayeśvarajīvavivekavidam
bhava śaṅkara deśika me śaraṇam.

By Thee the masses have been made happy, O
Thou Who hast a noble intellect, skilled in the inquiry
into self-knowledge! Enable me to understand the
wisdom relating to God and the soul. Be Thou my
refuge, O master, Śaṅkara.

भव एव भवानिति मे नितरां
समजायत चेतसि कौतुकिता ।
मम वारय मोहमहाजलधिं
भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥४॥

bhava eva bhavāniti me nitarām
samajāyata cetasi kautukitā,
mama vāraya mohamahājaladhīm
bhava śaṅkara deśika me śaraṇam.

Knowing that Thou art verily the Supreme Lord,
there arises overwhelming Bliss in my heart. Protect
me from the vast ocean of delusion. Be Thou my
refuge, O Master, Śaṅkara.

सुकृतेऽधिकृते बहुधा भवतो
भविता समदर्शनलालसता ।
अतिदीनमिमं परिपालय मां
भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥५॥

sukṛte dhikṛte bahudhā bhavato
bhavitā samadarśanalālasatā,
atidīnamimam paripālaya mām
bhava śaṅkara deśika me śaraṇam.

Desire for the insight into unity through Thee will spring only when virtuous deeds are performed in abundance and in various directions. Protect this extremely helpless person. Be Thou my refuge, O Master, Śaṅkara.

जगतीमवितुं कलिताकृतयो
विचरन्ति महामहसश्छलतः ।
अहिमांशुरिवात्र विभासि गुरो
भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥ ६ ॥

jagatīmavitum kalitākṛtayo
vicaranti mahāmahasaśchalataḥ,
ahimāṁśurivātra vibhāsi guro
bhava śaṅkara deśika me śaraṇam.

O Teacher! For saving the world the great, assume various forms and wander in disguise. Of them, Thou shinest like the sun. Be Thou my refuge, O Master, Śaṅkara.

गुरुपुंगव पुंगवकेतन ते
समतामयतां नहि कोऽपि सुधीः ।
शरणागतवत्सल तत्त्वनिधे
भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥ ७ ॥

gurupuṅgava puṅgava ketana te
samatāmayatām nahi ko pi sudhiḥ,
śaraṇāgatavatsala tattvanidhe
bhava śaṅkara deśika me śaraṇam.

O the best of Teachers! The Supreme Lord having the bull as banner! None of the wise is equal to Thee! Thou Who art compassionate to those who have taken refuge! The Treasure-trove of truth! Be Thou my refuge, O Master Śaṅkara.

विदिता न मया विशदैककला
न च किञ्चन काञ्चनमस्ति गुरो ।
द्रुतमेव विधेहि कृपां सहजां
भव शंकर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥८॥

viditā na mayā viśadaikakalā
na ca kiñcana kāñcanamasti guro,
drutameva vidhehi kṛpāṁ sahajāṁ
bhava śaṅkara deśika me śaraṇam.

Not even a single branch of knowledge has been understood by me correctly. Not even the least wealth do I possess, O Teacher. Bestow on me quickly Thy natural grace. Be Thou my refuge, O Master Śaṅkara.