Nitya नित्य

Shiv Panchakshar Stotram

शिव पञ्चाक्षर स्तोत्रम्

Shiv Panchakshar Stotram is a Sanskrit hymn of five verses built on the five syllables of the mantra "Na-Mah Shi-Va-Ya", and tradition attributes it to Adi Shankaracharya. Each verse praises Shiva and salutes him as one syllable in turn (Na, Ma, Shi, Va, Ya), and a closing phalashruti says those who recite it reach Shiva's abode. It is sung at abhishekam, on Mondays and on Maha Shivratri.

Shloka 1

Nagendraharaya Trilochanaya
Bhasmangaragaya Maheshvaraya
Nityaya Shuddhaya Digambaraya
Tasmai Nakaraya Namah Shivaya ॥1॥

To him who wears the king of serpents as a garland, the three-eyed one, whose body is smeared with sacred ash, the great Lord; the eternal, the pure, clothed only by the directions: to that Shiva, present in the syllable "Na", salutations.

Shloka 2

Mandakini Salila Chandana Charchitaya
Nandishvara Pramathanatha Maheshvaraya
Mandara Pushpa Bahupushpa Supujitaya
Tasmai Makaraya Namah Shivaya ॥2॥

To him who is anointed with the waters of the heavenly Ganga and with sandal paste, the great Lord of Nandi and of the pramatha hosts; who is worshipped with mandara and many other flowers: to that Shiva, present in the syllable "Ma", salutations.

Shloka 3

Shivaya Gauri Vadanabja Vrinda

Suryaya Dakshadhvara Nashakaya

Shri Nilakanthaya Vrishadhvajaya

Tasmai Shikaraya Namah Shivaya ॥3॥

To the auspicious one, the sun who makes the lotus face of Gauri bloom; the destroyer of Daksha's sacrifice; the glorious blue-throated Lord whose banner bears the bull: to that Shiva, present in the syllable "Shi", salutations.

Shloka 4

Vasishtha Kumbhodbhava Gautamarya

Munindra Devarchita Shekharaya

Chandrarka Vaishvanara Lochanaya

Tasmai Vakaraya Namah Shivaya ॥4॥

To him whose crown is worshipped by the great sages Vasishtha, Agastya and Gautama and by the gods; whose three eyes are the moon, the sun and fire: to that Shiva, present in the syllable "Va", salutations.

Shloka 5

Yakshasvarupaya Jatadharaya

Pinakahastaya Sanatanaya

Divyaya Devaya Digambaraya

Tasmai Yakaraya Namah Shivaya ॥5॥

To him who took the form of a Yaksha, who bears matted locks and holds the Pinaka bow, the eternal one; the divine, the shining God, clothed only by the directions: to that Shiva, present in the syllable "Ya", salutations.

Phalashruti (closing)

Panchaksharamidam Punyam Yah Pathet Shivasannidhau

Shivalokam Avapnoti Shivena Saha Modate

Whoever recites this sacred hymn of the five syllables in the presence of Shiva attains the abode of Shiva and rejoices there with Shiva.

Source: Shiva Panchakshara Stotram, sanskritdocuments.org (doc_shiva/panch, encoded and translated by Anand Hudli) and "Prabhata Stotranidhi" (stotranidhi.com, Devanagari); both carry the colophon naming Shri Shankaracharya

The meanings are our own first draft. A scholar has not reviewed them yet. If you spot a mistake, please tell us.

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