

Dakṣiṇāmūrti Dhyānaślokaś

Tradition holds that Lord Śiva in the form of Dakṣiṇāmūrti was the first teacher of Vedānta. He imparted Self-Knowledge to the four ṛṣis seated at his feet, initiating an oral tradition which has been passed down to us through the centuries

मौनव्याख्याप्रकटितपरब्रह्मतत्त्वं युवानं वर्षिष्ठान्तेवसदृषिगणैरावृतं ब्रह्मनिष्ठैः ।

आचार्येन्द्रं करकलितचिन्मुद्रमानन्दरूपं स्वात्मारामं मुदितवदनं दक्षिणामूर्तिमीडे ॥ १ ॥

I praise Lord *Dakṣiṇāmūrti*, the ageless one, who expounded the truth of nondual *Brahman* through silence, who is surrounded by aged disciples, who ever abide in *Brahman*, who is the best among teachers, whose hand is held in the gesture of *cin-mudrā*, who is the embodiment of joy, who revels in himself and who has a smiling countenance.

वटवितपिसमीपे भूमिभागेनिषण्णं सकलमुनिजनानां ज्ञानदातारमारात् ।

त्रिभुवनगुरुमीशं दक्षिणामूर्तिदेवं जननमरणदुःखच्छेददक्षं नमामि ॥ २ ॥

I salute Lord *Dakṣiṇāmūrti*, the teacher of the three worlds, who is adept at destroying the miseries of birth and death, who, seated on the ground under the banyan tree, bestows knowledge to all the sages near him.

चित्रं वटतरोर्मूले वृद्धशिष्या गुरुर्युवा । गुरोस्तु मौनं व्याख्यानं शिष्यास्तु छिन्नसंशयाः ॥ ३ ॥

It is (indeed) a wonder! Under the banyan tree were the aged disciples around the ever-young *guru*! The exposition of the *guru* was silence and the doubts of the disciples were dispelled.

निधये सर्वविद्यानां भिषजे भवरोगिणाम् । गुरवे सर्वलोकानां दक्षिणामूर्तये नमः ॥ ४ ॥

Salutations to Lord *Dakṣiṇāmūrti*, who is the abode of all learning, who is the remover of all sorrows born of limitations and who is the teacher of all the worlds.

ॐ नमः प्रणवार्थाय शुद्धज्ञानैकमूर्तये । निर्मलाय प्रशान्ताय दक्षिणामूर्तये नमः ॥ ५ ॥

Salutations to Lord *Dakṣiṇāmūrti*, who is essence of *Om*, who is the very embodiment of pure knowledge and who is ever pure and tranquil.