

Salutations to the Guru

गुरुवन्दनम् Guruvandanam

श्रुतिस्मृतिपुराणानाम् आलयं करुणालयम् । नमामि भगवत्पादं शङ्करं लोकशङ्करम् ॥ १ ॥

*śrutismṛtipurāṇānām ālayam karuṇālayam
namāmi bhagavatpādaṁ śaṅkaraṁ lokaśaṅkaram*

I salute Śaṅkarabhagavatpāda, the abode of śruti (Vedas), smṛti (Gītā, etc.), and purāṇas (epics like Rāmāyaṇa, Mahābhārata, etc.), the repository of compassion, the one who bestows happiness on the world.

शङ्करं शङ्कराचार्यं केशवं बादरायणम् । सूत्रभाष्यकृतौ वन्दे भगवन्तौ पुनः पुनः ॥ २ ॥

*śaṅkaraṁ śaṅkarācāryaṁ keśavaṁ bādarāyaṇam
sūtrabhāṣyakṛtau vande bhagavantau punaḥ punaḥ*

I salute, again and again, Śaṅkarācārya who is Lord Śiva, and Bādarāyaṇa who is Lord Viṣṇu, the venerable ones who wrote the aphorisms (Brahmasūtras) and commentaries (bhāṣyam to Brahmasūtras).

ईश्वरो गुरुरात्मेति मूर्तिभेदविभागिने । व्योमवद्व्याप्तदेहाय दक्षिणामूर्तये नमः ॥ ३ ॥

*īśvaro gururātmeti mūrtibhedavibhāgine
vyomavadvyāptadehāya dakṣiṇāmūrtaye namaḥ*

Salutations to Lord Dakṣiṇāmūrti, who is all-pervasive like space, but who appears (as though) divided as Lord, Teacher, and Self.

गुकारस्त्वन्धकारो वै रुकारस्तन्निवर्तकः । अन्धकारनिरोधित्वाद् गुरुरित्यभिधीयते ॥ ४ ॥

*gukārastvandhakāro vai rukārastannivartakaḥ
andhakāranirodhitvād gururityabhidīyate*

The letter “gu” stands for darkness (of ignorance), and “ru” represents its destruction. A guru is so called because he destroys the darkness (of ignorance).

सदाशिवसमारम्भां शङ्कराचार्यमध्यमाम् । अस्मदाचार्यपर्यन्तां वन्दे गुरुपरम्पराम् ॥ ५ ॥

*sadāśivasamārambhāṁ śaṅkarācāryamadhyamām
asmadācāryaparyantāṁ vande guruparamparām*

I salute the lineage of teachers, beginning with Śiva, the Lord, (linked by) Śaṅkarācārya in the middle, and extending down to my own teacher.