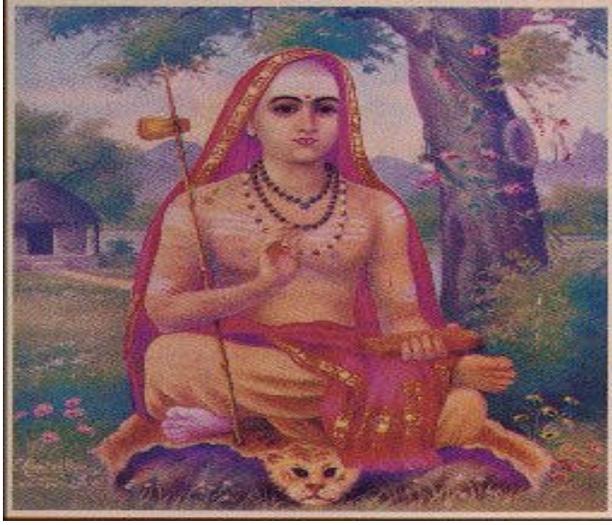


Kanaka Dhara Stotra

(The hymn of the golden shower)

BY

Sri Sankara Bhagavat Pada



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Introduction

Adhi Sankara was possibly one of the great saints of his time. He was born in a poor Brahmin family in Kerala .After brahmopadesa , as is usual during those times, he was asked to beg alms for his lunch. One day when he went to a Brahmin house, the lady of the house was so poor that she did not have anything to give him .She searched hard and found one small fruit of gooseberry, which she gave to Sankara the boy. He was so touched by her gesture that he sang these 21 mellifluous hymns on Goddess Lakshmi, who poured golden goose berries as rain to the poor woman's house.

Even today it is believed that poverty would be banished by singing this hymn.

Angam hare pulaka bhooshanamasrayanthi,
Bhringanga neva mukulabharanam thamalam,
Angikrithakhila vibhuthirapanga leela,
Mangalyadasthu mama mangala devathaya.

1

To the Hari who wears supreme happiness as Ornament,
The Goddess Lakshmi is attracted,
Like the black bees getting attracted,
To the unopened buds of black Tamala¹ tree,
Let her who is the Goddess of all good things,
Grant me a glance that will bring prosperity.

Mugdha muhurvidhadhadathi vadhane Murare,
Premathrapapranihithani gathagathani,
Mala dhrishotmadhukareeva maheth pale ya,
Sa ne sriyam dhisathu sagarasambhavaya.

2

Again and again return ,those glances,
Filled with hesitation and love,
Of her who is born to the ocean of milk,
To the face of Murari²,
Like the honey bees to the pretty blue lotus,
And let those glances shower me with wealth.

Ameelithaksha madhigamya mudha Mukundam
Anandakandamanimeshamananga thanthram,

¹ A forest tree

² The God who killed the asura called Mura i.e Lord Vishnu

Akekara stiththa kaninika pashma nethram,
Bhoothyai bhavenmama bhjangasayananganaya.

3

With half closed eyes stares she on Mukunda³,
Filled with happiness , shyness and the science of love,
On the ecstasy filled face with closed eyes of her Lord,
And let her , who is the wife of Him who sleeps on the snake,
Shower me with wealth.

Bahwanthare madhujitha srithakausthube ya,
Haravaleeva nari neela mayi vibhathi,
Kamapradha bhagavatho api kadaksha mala,
Kalyanamavahathu me kamalalayaya

4

He who has won over Madhu⁴,
Wears the Kousthuba⁵ as ornament,
And also the garland of glances, of blue Indraneela⁶,
Filled with love to protect and grant wishes to Him,
Of her who lives on the lotus,
And let those also fall on me,
And grant me all that is good..

Kalambudhaalithorasi kaida bhare,
Dharaadhare sphurathi yaa thadinganeva,
Mathu samastha jagatham mahaneeya murthy,
Badrani me dhisathu bhargava nandanaya

5

Like the streak of lightning in black dark cloud,
She is shining on the dark , broad chest,
Of He who killed Kaidaba⁷,
And let the eyes of the great mother of all universe,
Who is the daughter of Sage Bharghava⁸,
Fallon me lightly and bring me prosperity.

Praptham padam pradhamatha khalu yat prabhavath,
Mangalyabhaji madhu madhini manamathena,
Mayyapadetha mathara meekshanardham,
Manthalasam cha makaralaya kanyakaya.

6

The God of love could only reach ,

³ He who gives immortal bliss

⁴ An Asura

⁵ A garland worn by Vishnu

⁶ A precious blue stone

⁷ An Asura

⁸ One sage who did penance to have goddess Lakshmi as his daughter and succeeded.

The killer of Madhu⁹,
Through the power of her kind glances,
Loaded with love and blessing
And let that side glance ,
Which is auspicious and indolent,
Fall on me.

Viswamarendra padhavee bramadhana dhaksham,
Ananda hethu radhikam madhu vishwoapi,
Eshanna sheedhathu mayi kshanameekshanartham,
Indhivarodhara sahodharamidhiraya

7

Capable of making one as king of Devas in this world,
Her side long glance of a moment,
Made Indra¹⁰ regain his kingdom,
And is making Him who killed Madhu¹¹ supremely happy.
And let her with her blue lotus eyes glance me a little.

Ishta visishtamathayopi yaya dhayardhra,
Dhrishtya thravishta papadam sulabham labhanthe,
Hrishtim prahrushta kamlo dhara deepthirishtam,
Pushtim krishishta mama pushkravishtaraya.

8

To her devotees and those who are great,
Grants she a place in heaven which is difficult to attain,
Just by a glance of her compassion filled eyes,
Let her sparkling eyes which are like the fully opened lotus,
Fall on me and grant me all my desires.

Dhadyaddhayanupavanopi dravinambhudaraam,
Asminna kinchina vihanga sisou vishanne,
Dhushkaramagarmmapaneeya chiraya dhooram,
Narayana pranayinee nayanambhuvaha.

9

Please send your mercy which is like wind,
And shower the rain of wealth on this parched land,,
And quench the thirst of this little chataka¹² bird,
And likewise ,drive away afar my load of sins,
Oh, darling of Narayana¹³,
By the glance from your cloud like dark eyes.

⁹ An asura

¹⁰ King of Devas

¹¹ An Asura

¹² A mythical bird which is always thirsty.

¹³ Name of Lord Vishnu

Gheerdhevathethi garuda dwaja sundarithi,
Sakambhareethi sasi shekara vallebhethi,
Srishti sthithi pralaya kelishu samsthitha ya,
Thasyai namas thribhvanai ka guros tharunyai.

10

She is the goddess of Knowledge,
She is the darling of Him who has Garuda¹⁴ as flag,
She is the power that causes of death at time of deluge,
And she is the wife of Him who has the crescent,
And she does the creation, upkeep and destruction at various times,
And my salutations to this lady who is worshipped by all the three worlds.

Sruthyai namosthu shubha karma phala prasoothyai,
Rathyai namosthu ramaneeya gunarnavayai,
Shakthiyai namosthu satha pathra nikethanayai,
Pushtyai namosthu purushothama vallabhayai.

11

Salutations to you as Vedas¹⁵ which give rise to good actions,
Salutation to you as Rathi¹⁶ for giving the most beautiful qualities,
Salutation to you as Shakthi¹⁷, who lives in the hundred petalled lotus,
And salutations to you who is Goddess of plenty,
And is the consort of Purushottama¹⁸.

Namosthu naleekha nibhananai,
Namosthu dhugdhogdhadhi janma bhoomayai,
Namosthu somamrutha sodharayai,
Namosthu narayana vallabhayai.

12

Salutations to her who is as pretty.
As the lotus in full bloom,
Salutations to her who is born from ocean of milk,
Salutations to the sister of nectar and the moon,
Salutations to the consort of Narayana.

Namosthu hemambhujja peetikayai,
Namosthu bhoo mandala nayikayai,
Namosthu devathi dhaya prayai,
Namosthu Sarngayudha vallabhayai.

13

Salutations to her who has the golden lotus as seat,

¹⁴ A mythical eagle on which Lord Vishnu travels

¹⁵ Holy books of Hindus

¹⁶ Wife of the God of Love

¹⁷ Goddess parvathy

¹⁸ Greatest among men, a name of Lord Vishnu

Salutations to her who is the leader of the universe,
Salutations to her who showers mercy on devas,
And salutations to the consort of Him who has the bow called Saranga.

Namosthu devyai bhrugu nandanayai,
Namosthu vishnorurasi sthithayai,
Namosthu lakshmyai kamalalayai,
Namosthu dhamodhra vallabhayai.

14

Salutations to her who is daughter of Bhrigu¹⁹,
Salutations to her lives on the holy chest of Vishnu,
Salutations to Goddess Lakshmi who lives in a lotus,
And salutations to her who is the consort of Damodhara²⁰.

Namosthu Kanthiyai kamalekshanayai,
Namosthu bhoothyai bhuvanaprasootheryai,
Namosthu devadhibhir archithayai,
Namosthu nandhathmaja vallabhayai.

15

Salutations to her who is light living in Lotus flower,
Salutations to her who is the earth and also mother of earth,
Salutations to her who is worshipped by Devas,
And salutations to her who is the consort of the son of Nanda²¹.

Sampath karaani sakalendriya nandanani,
Samrajya dhana vibhavani saroruhakshi,
Twad vandanani dhuritha haranodhythani,
Mamev matharanisam kalayanthu manye.

16

Giver of wealth, giver of pleasures to all senses,
Giver of the right to rule kingdoms,
She who has lotus like eyes,
She to whom Salutations remove all miseries fast,
And my mother to you are my salutations.

Yath Kadaksha samupasana vidhi,
Sevakasya sakalartha sapattha,
Santhanodhi vachananga manasai,
Twaam murari hridayeswareem bhaje

17

He who worships your sidelong glances,

¹⁹ Another name for sage Bharghava referred earlier.

²⁰ He who was tied by a rope in the stomach—a name of Lord Krishna.

²¹ Nanda Gopa the foster father of Lord Krishna

Is blessed by all known wealth and prosperity,
And so my salutations by word, thought and deed,
,To the queen of the heart of my Lord Murari²² .

Sarasija nilaye saroja hasthe,
Dhavalathamamsuka gandha maya shobhe,
Bhagavathi hari vallabhe manogne,
Tribhuvana bhoothikari praseeda mahye

18

She who sits on the Lotus,
She who has lotus in her hands,
She who is dressed in dazzling white,
She who shines in garlands and sandal paste,
The Goddess who is the consort of Hari,
She who gladdens the mind,
And she who confers prosperity on the three worlds,
Be pleased to show compassion to me.

Dhiggasthibhi kanaka kumbha mukha vasrushta,
Sarvahini vimala charu jalaapluthangim,
Prathar namami jagathaam janani masesha,
Lokadhinatha grahini mamrithabhi puthreem.

19

Those eight elephants from all the diverse directions,
Pour from out from golden vessels,
The water from the Ganga²³ which flows in heaven,
For your holy purifying bath,
And my salutations in the morn to you ,
Who is the mother of all worlds,
Who is the house wife of the Lord of the worlds,
And who is the daughter of the ocean which gave nectar²⁴ .

Kamale Kamalaksha vallabhe twam,
Karuna poora tharingithaira pangai,
Avalokaya mamakinchananam,
Prathamam pathamakrithrimam dhyaya

20

She who is the Lotus,
She who is the consort,
Of the Lord with Lotus like eyes,
She who has glances filled with mercy,

²² He who killed the asura called Mura

²³ The holiest river for Hindus

²⁴ Goddess Lakshmi was supposed to have come out of the ocean of milk during churning .Nectar along with many things also came out similarly.

Please turn your glance on me,
Who is the poorest among the poor,
And first make me the vessel ,
To receive your pity and compassion.

Sthuvanthi ye sthuthibhirameeranwaham,
Thrayeemayim thribhuvanamatharam ramam,
Gunadhika guruthara bhagya bhagina,
Bhavanthi the bhuvi budha bhavithasayo.

21

He who recites these prayers daily,
On her who is personification of Vedas,
On her who is the mother of the three worlds,
On her who is Goddess Rema²⁵,
Will be blessed without doubt,
With all good graceful qualities,
With all the great fortunes that one can get,
And would live in the world,
With great recognition from even the learned.

²⁵ A name of Goddess Lakshmi