Bhavani Ashtakam

An Octet to the “Giver of Life”

By,

(Adhi Sankara Bhagwat Pada)

Translated By,

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(This great Sthothra by Adhi Sankara would move any one who reads it to tears. If a great soul like Him, had to describe himself, thus, Imagine the state of an ignoramus like any one of us.)

Na thatho, na matha, na bandur na datha,

Na puthro, na puthri , na bruthyo , na bartha,

Na jayaa na Vidhya, na Vruthir mamaiva,

Gathisthwam, Gathisthwam Thwam ekaa Bhavani.

Neither the mother nor the father,

Neither the relation nor the friend,

Neither the son nor the daughter,

Neither the servant nor the husband,

Neither the wife nor the knowledge,

And neither my sole occupation,

Are my refuges that I can depend, Oh, Bhavani,

So you are my refuge and my only refuge, Bhavani.

Bhavabdhava pare , Maha dhukha Bheeru,

Papaatha prakami , pralobhi pramatha,

Kam samsara pasa prabadha sadaham,

Gathisthwam, Gathisthwam thwam ekaa Bhavani.

I am in this ocean of birth and death,

I am a coward, who dare not face sorrow,

I am filled with lust and sin,

I am filled with greed and desire,

And tied I am, by the this useless life that I lead,

So you are my refuge and my only refuge, Bhavani.

Na Janaami Dhanam, Na cha dhyana yogam,

Na janami thathram, na cha sthothra manthram,

Na janami poojam, na cha nyasa yogam,

Gathisthwam, Gathisthwam thwam ekaa Bhavani

Neither do I know how to give,

Nor do I know how to meditate,

Neither do I know Thanthra*,

Nor do I know stanzas of prayer,

Neither do I know how to worship,

Nor do I know the art of yoga,

So you are my refuge and my only refuge, Bhavani

Na janami Punyam, Na janami theertham,

Na janami mukthim, layam vaa kadachit,

Na janami bhakthim, vrutham vaapi maatha,

Gathisthwam, Gathisthwam, thwam ekaa Bhavani.

Know I not how to be righteous,

Know I not the way to the places sacred,

Know I not methods of salvation,

Know I not how to merge my mind with God,

Know I not the art of devotion,

Know I not how to practice austerities, Oh, mother,

So you are my refuge and my only refuge, Bhavani

Kukarmi, kusangi, kubudhi, kudhasa,

Kulachara heena, kadhachara leena,

Kudrushti, kuvakya prabandha, sadaham,

Gathisthwam, Gathisthwam, thwam ekaa Bhavani.

Perform I bad actions,

Keep I company of bad ones,

Think I bad and sinful thoughts,

Serve I Bad masters,

Belong I to a bad family,

Immersed I am in sinful acts,

See I with bad intentions,

Write I collection of bad words,

Always and always,

So you are my refuge and my only refuge, Bhavani.

Prajesam, Ramesam, Mahesam, Suresam,

Dhinesam, Nisidheswaram vaa kadachit,

Na janami chanyath sadaham saranye,

Gathisthwam, Gathisthwam thwam ekaa Bhavani

Neither Do I know the creator,

Nor the Lord of Lakshmi,

Neither do I know the lord of all,

Nor do I know the lord of devas,

Neither do I know the God who makes the day,

Nor the God who rules at night,

Neither do I know any other Gods,

Oh, Goddess to whom I bow always,

So you are my refuge and my only refuge, Bhavani

Vivadhe, Vishadhe, pramadhe, pravase,

Jale cha anale parvathe shatru madhye,

Aranye, saranye sada maam prapahi,

Gathisthwam, Gathisthwam, thwam ekaa Bhavani.

While I am in a heated argument,

While I am immersed in sorrow,

While I am suffering an accident,

While I am travelling far off,

While I am in water or fire,

While I am on the top of a mountain,

While I am surrounded by enemies,

And while I am in a deep forest,

Oh Goddess, I always bow before thee,

So you are my refuge and my only refuge, Bhavani

Anadho, dharidro, jara roga yuktho,

Maha Ksheena dheena, sada jaadya vakthra,

Vipathou pravishta, pranshata sadhaham,

Gathisthwam, Gathisthwam, thwam ekaa Bhavani.

While being an orphan,

While being extremely poor,

While affected by disease of old age,

While I am terribly tired,

While I am in a pitiable state,

While I am being swallowed by problems,

And While I suffer serious dangers,

I always bow before thee,

So you are my refuge and only refuge, Bhavani

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* A form of worship by the yogis