

# Shri Subrahmanya Bhujangam

by Shrī Ādi Śhaṅkarāchārya.

While meditating on Shri Kārttikeya at a sea-side temple in Tamil Nadu, Ādi Śhaṅkarācharya became aware of the self-luminous shining in his heart and the poem spontaneously came in Bhujanga metre (four quarters of 12 syllables).

Invocation to Shri Ganesha:

**Sadā bālarūpā-'pi vighn'ādri hantrī**

**Mahādanti-vaktrā-'pi pañchāsya-mānyā,**

**Vidh'īndr'ādi-mṛigyā Gaṇeśh'ābhidhā me**

**Vidhattām śhriyam kā-'pi kalyāṇa mūrthiḥ.**

(1)

*Though always appearing as a child, You destroy mountains of obstacles.*

*Though elephant-faced, You are honored even by Your five-faced father.*

*Praised by Lord Brahma, Indra and the other Devas, known as Lord of the Ganas,*

*You are endowed with boundless glory. May You bless me with auspiciousness!*

Acharya's humility:

**Na jñāmi śhabdam na jñāmi ch'ārtham**

**Na jñāmi padyam na jñāmi gadyam,**

**Chid-ekā śhaḍāsya hṛidi dyotate me**

**Mukh'ānniḥ-sarante giraśh-ch'āpi chitram.**

(2)

*I know not the science of sound, nor the meanings thereof, I know not the forms of poems or prose! But in my heart shines the one light with six faces, and so, from my mouth, these phrases with tone and meaning pour out.*

Salutation to Shri Subrahmanya:

**Mayūr'ādhi-rūḍham mahāvākya gūḍham**

**Manohāri-deham mahat-chitta-geham,**

**Mahideva-devam mahāveda-bhāvam**

**Mahādeva-bālam bhaje loka-pālam.**

(3)

*Mounted on a peacock, the hidden import of the great sayings,*

*The embodiment of beauty, dwelling in the meditation of great sages,*

*Lord of the Mother Earth, the Essence of Sacred Knowledge,*

*I worship the Son of Shri Shiva, the Protector of the Universe.*

**Yadā sannidhānaṃ gatā mānavā me  
Bhav'āmbhodhi-pāraṃ gatāste tadaiva,  
Iti vyañjayan sindhu tīre ya āste  
Tam'īde pavitraṃ Parāśhakti-putram.**

(4)

*O Son of the Supreme Mother, You have taken Your abode by the sea shore to indicate that by taking refuge in You, devotees can cross this ocean of appearances and find the purity of Heaven!*

**Yath'ābdh'esta raṅgā layaṃ yānti tuṅgās  
Tath'aiv'āpadaḥ sannidhau sevataṃ me,  
It'iv'ormi-paṅktīr nṛiṇāṃ darśhayantaṃ  
Sadā bhāvaye hṛit-saroje Guhaṃ Tam.**

(5)

*The waves of worries in the mind dissolve like ocean waves reaching the shore, thus You stand by the sea-side exemplifying the cessation of mental undulations when we come in Your presence. O Hidden Lord residing in the cave of the heart, may I always meditate on You!*

**Girau man nivāse narā ye-'dhirūḍhā  
Stadā parvate rājate te-'dhirūḍhāḥ,  
It'iva bruvan gandha śhail'ādhirūḍhaḥ  
Sa devo mude me sadā Śhaṇmukho-'stu.**

(6)

*Standing on the Sugandha mount (behind the temple), the climbing of which is equivalent to reaching Mount Kailas, the King of Mountains, O Six-faced Lord! May You ever remain there to give me joy!*

**Mah'āmbhodhi-tīre mahāpāpa-chore  
Mun'īndr'ānukūle sugandh'ākhyā-śhaile,  
Guhāyāṃ vasantaṃ swabhāsā lasantaṃ  
Janārtiṃ harantaṃ śhrayāmo Guhaṃ Tam.**

(7)

*On the shores of the great ocean which removes even the greatest of sins, on the mountain called 'fragrant', where the sages and Lord Indra worship, You reside, destroying the people's suffering. O self-luminous Lord, present in the innermost chamber of the heart, I seek refuge in You!*

**Lasat swarṇa gehe nṛiṇām kāma dohe  
Suma-stoma sañchanna māṇikyā mañche,  
Samudyat sahasr'ārka tulya prakāśham  
Sadā bhāvaye Kārtikeyam sureśham.**

(8)

*In a shining golden house, on a throne of rubies covered with fragrant flowers,  
granting all desires, You are seated with the radiance of a thousand rising  
suns. O Kartikeya, Greatest of the Gods, may I contemplate You always!*

**Raṇad-dhamsake mañjule-'tyanta śhoṇe  
Manohāri lāvaṇya pīyūṣha pūrṇe,  
Manah ṣhaṭ-pado me bhava kleśha taptah  
Sadā modatām Skanda Te pāda-padme.**

(9)

*Let my mind, burdened with the six forms of trouble, ever rejoice, hovering  
like a bee around Your Lotus Feet adorned with jingling anklets, red-coloured  
with unending grace, of enchanting beauty and an ocean of nectar.*

**Suvarṇ'ābha divy'āmbar'airbhāsa māmām  
Kvaṇat kiṅkiṇī mekhalā śhobha māmām,  
Lasad dhema paṭṭena vidyota māmām  
Kaṭim bhāvaye Skanda Te dīpya māmām**

(10)

*O Skanda, shining with glory, I meditate on Your Divine waist adorned with a  
yellow dhoti, strings of tinkling bells and a self-resplendent gold belt.*

**Pulindeśha kany'āgha nābhoga tuṅga  
Stanā liṅgan'āsakta kāśhmīra rāgam,  
Namasyāmy'aham Tārakāre Tav'oraḥ  
Swa-bhakt'āvane sarvadā sānurāgam.**

(11)

*By embracing the well-endowed breast of Valli, the daughter of the tribal  
chief, adorned with saffron, Your chest became colored red, thereby  
symbolising Your eternal grace to devotees. I prostrate before that chest of  
the Enemy of Tarakasura!*

**Vidhau kṛipta daṇḍān swa-līlā dhṛitāṇḍān  
Niraste bhaśhuṇḍān dviṣhat kāla daṇḍān,  
Hat'endr'āri ṣhaṇḍāñ jagat-trāṇa śhaṇḍān  
Sadā Te prachaṇḍān śhraye bāhu-daṇḍān.**

(12)

*O Shanmukha! I eternally seek refuge in Your twelve arms which give justice to Brahma, directing Your dramas, killing the foes of Indra, protecting the Universe, and terrifying Your enemies.*

**Sadā śhāradāḥ ṣhaṇ mṛigāṅkā yadi syuḥ  
Samudyanta eva sthitāśh-chet-samantāt,  
Sadā pūrṇa bimbāḥ kalaṅk'aiśh cha hīnās  
Tadā Tvan mukhānām bruve Skanda sāmyam.** (13)

*To what can I compare Your six faces! If there were six autumn full moons free from blemishes and if those moons were ever shining on all sides, even then they would be no match to your effulgent faces.*

**Sphuran manda hāsaiḥ sahaṁ sāni chañchat  
Kaṭ'ākṣh'āvalī bhṛiṅga saṅgh'ojjvalāni,  
Sudh'āsyandi bimb'ādharāṇ'iśha-sūno  
Tavā lokaye Ṣhaṇ-mukh'āmbhoruhāṇi.** (14)

*O Son of Parameshwara, I see Your six smiling lotus faces shining like a flock of swans, with gleaming side glance ever moving like a row of bees and whose red lips are overflowing with nectar.*

**Viśhāl'eṣhu karṇ'ānta-dīrgh'eṣhva-jasraṁ  
Dayāsyān diṣhu dvādaśhas vīkṣhaṇeṣhu,  
May'iṣhat-kaṭ'ākṣhaḥ sakṛit pātitaśh-ched  
Bhavet Te dayā śhīlakān āmahāniḥ.** (15)

*O Compassionate Lord! With twelve large eyes extending to the ears, what will You lose by casting a momentary side glance on me?*

**Sut'āṅg'odbhavo me-'si jīveti ṣhaḍḍhā  
Japan mantram Īśho mudā jighrate yān,  
Jagad bhāra bhṛid-bhyo jagan-nātha tebhyaḥ  
Kirīṭ'ojjvalebhyo namo mastakebhyaḥ.** (16)

*O Lord of the Universe! I pay obeisance to Your six heads wearing crowns of brilliant rubies, supporting the welfare of the world, whose fragrance was imbibed by the Supreme Lord with joy uttering six times the mantra 'O Child born of me, may You live long.'*

**Sphurad ratna keyūra hār'ābhirāmaśh  
Chalat kuṇḍala śhrī lasad gaṇḍa bhāgaḥ,  
Kaṭau pīta-vāsāḥ kare chāru śhaktiḥ  
Puras tām mamāstām pur'āres-tanūjaḥ.**

(17)

*With garlands of brilliant rubies on Your chest, Your bright cheeks shining,  
with dangling ear-rings, a yellow silk dhoti around Your waist and a spear in  
Your hand, appear before me, O Son of the Enemy of Tripura.*

**Ihāyāhi vatseti hastān prasāryā  
Hvayat yādarāt Śhaṅkare māturaṅkāṭ,  
Samut patya tātaṁ śhrayantaṁ Kumāraṁ  
Harāśh liṣṭha gātraṁ bhaje bāla-mūrtim.**

(18)

*When Shri Shankara called You with open arms, You quickly rose from Mother's  
lap and Lord Shiva embraced You affectionately. I worship that child-formed Lord.*

*The Nine Names which confer protection:*

**Kumār'eśha-sūno Guha Skanda Senā-  
pate Śhakti-pāṇe Mayūr'ādhirūḍha,  
Pulind'ātmajā-kānta Bhakt'ārti-hārin  
Prabho Tārakāre sadā rakṣha mām Tvam.**

(19)

*O Ever-youthful Son of Lord Shiva, Hidden inside the heart-cave, Lord of the  
Devas' army, Wielding the Divine spear, Mounted on a peacock, Beloved of  
the tribal maiden, Remover of devotees' suffering, the Mighty Lord, the  
Enemy of Tarakasura! O Lord protect me!*

**Praśhānt'endriye naṣṭha saṁgñye vicheṣṭe  
Kaph'odgāri vaktre bhay'otkampī gātre,  
Prayāṇ'onmukhe mayya nāthe tadānīm  
Drutaṁ me dayālo bhavāgre Guha Tvam.**

(20)

*Hail, Compassionate Guha! At the final moments of my life, having lost my  
senses and my consciousness, unable to move my limbs, drooling saliva, with  
my body trembling with the fear of death, You must hasten to be with me.*

**Kṛit'āntasya dūteṣhu chaṇḍeṣhu kopād  
Dahat śhinddhi bhinddhīti mām tarjayatsu,  
Mayūraṁ samāruhya mā bhairiti Tvam  
Puraḥ śhakti-pāṇir mamā yāhi śhīghram.**

(21)

*O Lord, when the ferocious messengers of Death come to torture me angrily shouting: 'Burn him, kill him'. O Lord You must hasten to appear before me, riding on a peacock, carrying Your spear, to encourage me not to be afraid.*

**Praṇamyā sakṛit pāday'oste patitvā  
Prasādyā prabho prārthaye-'neka vāram,  
Na vaktum kṣhamo-'haṁ tadānīm kṛip'ābdhe  
Na kāry'āntakāle man'āgapy'upekṣhā.** (22)

*O Merciful Lord! I prostrate at Your Feet to secure Your blessings. O Treasure-house of Mercy! I offer prayers to please You. Do not forget me in my last moments, as I may not then have the power to invoke You!*

**Sahasr'āṇḍa-bhoktā Tvayā śhūran'āmā  
Hatas tārakaḥ simhavaktraśh cha daityaḥ,  
Mam'āntar hṛidi sthaṁ manaḥ kleśham ekaṁ  
Na haṁsi Prabho kiṁ karomi kva yāmi.** (23)

*O Possessor of a thousand universes! Your fiery and heroic nature destroyed the demons Tarakasura and Simhavaktra. But why, O Lord residing within my heart, have You not killed the demons which afflict my mind? Who else can I turn to for help but You, O Mighty Lord?*

**Ahaṁ sarvadā duḥkha-bhār'āvasanno  
Bhav'āndīna bandhus tvadanyaṁ na yāche,  
Bhavad bhakti rodhaṁ sadā kṛipta bādhaṁ  
Mam'ādhiṁ drutaṁ nāśhay'omā-suta Tvam.** (24)

*Oh Son of Uma! I am always troubled by sorrows. You are the friend of the helpless! I approach none but You to save me. Quickly destroy the distractions interfering with my devotion to You!*

**Apasmāra kuṣṭha kṣhay'ārśhaḥ prameha  
Jvar'onmāda gulm'ādi rogā mahāntaḥ,  
Piśhāchāśh-cha sarve bhavat patra bhūtim  
Vilokya Kṣhaṇāt-tārakāre dravante.** (25)

*O Conqueror of Taraka! Epilepsy, leprosy, consumption, lung diseases, fevers, mental diseases of all types, they run away the moment they see Your sacred ash.*

**Dṛiṣhi Skanda mūrṭiḥ śhrutau Skanda kīrtir  
Mukhe me pavitraṁ sadā tat-charitram,  
Kare tasya kṛityaṁ vapus tasya bhrītyaṁ  
Guhe santulīnā mamā śheṣha bhāvāḥ.**

(26)

*May I see always the form of Lord Skanda; my ears hear only the praises of Lord Skanda; in my mouth ever the glory of Lord Skanda. May my hands do Your work and my body be Your servant. May my emotions be ever in balance with You, O Secret Lord in my Heart!*

**Munīn'āmutāho nṛiṇāṁ bhakti bhājāṁ  
Abhīṣṭa pradāḥ santi sarvatra devāḥ,  
Nṛiṇāṁ antya jānāṁ api sw'ārtha dāne  
Guhād devam anyāṁ na jāne na jāne.**

(27)

*In all the worlds there are Gods to grant the boons of sages and great bhaktas. But for lowly and ordinary devotees like me, I know no other Deity to protect them except Guha!*

**Kalatraṁ sutā bandhu vargaḥ paśhurvā  
Naro vātha nāri gṛiḥ ye madīyāḥ,  
Yajanto namantaḥ stuvanto bhavantaṁ  
Smarantaś cha Te santu sarve Kumāra.**

(28)

*O Lord Kumara! Let my wife, children, relatives, friends, all men and women in our household, venerate and praise You and be always remembered by You!*

**Mṛigāḥ pakṣhiṇo daṁśhakā ye cha duṣṭā  
Stathā vyādhayo bādhakā ye madaṅge,  
Bhavat śhakti tīkṣhṇ'āgra bhinnāḥ sudūre  
Vinaśhyantu Te chūrṇita krauñcha śhaila.**

(29)

*O Destroyer of the Krauncha Mountain! Let anything troubling my body; birds, beasts, insects, diseases, be pierced by Your powerful spear, removed and destroyed.*

**Janitrī pitā cha swa-putr'āparādhāṁ  
Sahete na kiṁ deva sen'ādhi-nātha,  
Ahaṁ chāti bālo bhavān loka-tātaḥ  
Kṣhamasv'āparādhāṁ samastaṁ Maheśha.**

(30)

*Do not the parents overlook the faults of their children? O Chief of the army of the Devas! I am a small child, You are the Father of the Universe. Oh Great God, forgive all my faults.*

**Namaḥ kekine śhaktaye chāpi tubhyaṁ  
Namaśh chhāga tubhyaṁ namaḥ kukkuṭāya,  
Namaḥ sindhave sindhu deśhāya tubhyaṁ  
Punaḥ Skanda mūrte namaste namo-'stu.** (31)

*I bow to You, O Rider of the peacock and Bearer of the Shakti spear,  
I bow to You, with the sign of Aries and a cockerel on Your flag,  
I bow to You, O Ocean of compassion for humanity,  
Again and again I bow to You, O Lord Skanda!*

**Jay'ānanda bhūmañ jay'āpāra dhāman  
Jay'amogha kīrte jay'ānanda mūrte,  
Jay'ānanda sindho jay'āśheṣha bandho  
Jaya Tvaṁ sadā mukti dān'eśha-sūno.** (32)

*Victory to the Source of Joy, Victory to the Highest Abode!  
Victory to the Unfailing Greatness, Victory to the Embodiment of Bliss!  
Victory to the Ocean of Bliss, Victory to the Friend of all!  
Victory to You eternally, O Son of the Bestower of Liberation!*

**Bhujaṅg'ākhyā-vṛittena kṛiptaṁ stavāṁ yaḥ  
Paṭhed bhakti yukto guhaṁ sampraṇamya,  
Suputrān-kalatraṁ dhanāṁ dīrgham āyur  
Labhet Skanda sāyujyam-ante naraḥ saḥ.** (33)

*That devotee, who prostrates to Lord Guha, reciting the Bhujanga stotra daily with devotion, is blessed with good sons, good wife, wealth and long life, and at the end of life attains eternal bliss with Lord Skanda.*

**Iti Śhrīmat Śhaṅkara-bhagavataḥ kṛitau  
Śhrī Subrahmaṇya Bhujaṅgaṁ sampūrṇam.**

*Thus is the Bhujangam prayer to Shri Karttikeya by the revered Shri Shankaracharya fulfilled.*