

गङ्गास्तोत्रम् GĀṄGĀ-STOTRAM by Śankarācārya

Song to the River Goddess Gāṅgā

TRANSLATION BY VYAAS HOUSTON

देवि सुरेश्वरि भगवति गङ्गे त्रिभुवनतारिणि तरलतरङ्गे ।

शङ्करमौलिविहारिणि विमले मम मतिरास्तां तव पदकमले ॥ १ ॥

devi sureśvari bhagavati gange tribhuvana-tārini tarala-tarange

śankara-mauli-vihārīṇi vimale mama matir āstāṁ tava pada-kamale

O Devi, ruler of the gods, Bhagavatī, Gāṅgā, who has traversed the three worlds,
with tremulous waves; pure one playing on Śiva's head, may my mind rest at your lotus feet.

भागीरथि सुखदायिनि मातस्तव जलमहिमा निगमे ख्यातः ।

नाहं जाने तव महिमानं त्राहि कृपामयि मामज्ञानम् ॥ २ ॥

bhāgīrathi sukha-dāyīni mātā tava jala-mahimā nigame khyātaḥ

nāhaṁ jāne tava mahimānaṁ trāhi kṛpāmayi mām ajñānam

Daughter of the sage Bhagiratha (whose austerities brought Gāṅgā to earth),
granting pleasure, mother, the majesty of your waters is described in the Vedas;
I cannot comprehend your greatness. Full of compassion—protect me, lacking in wisdom.

हरिपदपद्मतरङ्गिणि गङ्गे हिमविधुमुक्ताधवलतरङ्गे ।

दूरीकुरु मम दूकृतिभारं कुरु कृपया भवसागरपारम् ॥ ३ ॥

hari-pada-padma-taraṅgiṇi gaṅge hima-vidhu-muktā-dhavalata-range

dūrīkuru mama dukṛtibhāraṁ kuru kṛpāyā bhava-sāgara-pāram

Whose waves break at the lotus feet of Hari; Gāṅgā, the white froth of your waves like
snowy moonlit pearls; carry the burden of my mistakes far away.

Take me, out of your compassion, to the far shore of the ocean of existence.

तव जलममलं येन निपीतं परमपदं खलु तेन गृहीतम् ।

मातर्गङ्गे त्वयि यो भक्तः किल तं द्रोतुं न यमः शक्तः ॥ ४ ॥

tava jalam amalāṁ yena nipītaṁ parama-padaṁ khalu tena grhītam

mātar gange tvayi yo bhaktaḥ kila taṁ draṣṭuṁ na yamaḥ śaktaḥ

By whomever your pure water is drunk - by that one the highest state is grasped;
Mother Gāṅgā, even death has no power to visit the one who is devoted to you.

पतितोद्धारिणि जाह्नवि गङ्गे खण्डितगिरिवरमण्डितभङ्गे ।

भीमजननि खलु मुनिवरकन्ये पतितनिवारिणि त्रिभुवनधन्ये ॥ ५ ॥

patitoddhārīṇi jāhnavi gange khaṇḍita-giri-vara-maṇḍita-bhaṅge

bhīṣṭma-janani khalu muni-vara-kanye patita-nivārīṇi tribhuvana-dhanye

Rescuing the troubled, Jāhnavī (daughter of Jahnu, the sage-king who drank
and then released Gāṅgā's- waters), Gāṅgā, whose chasms are decorated with the broken
fragments of great mountains; mother of Bhīṣma and daughter of the most illumined
of sages, diverting the troubles of those who are lost, blessing the three worlds.

कल्पलतामिव फलदां लोके प्रणमति यस्त्वां न पतति शोके ।

पारावारविहारिणि गङ्गे सुरवनिताकृततरलापाङ्गे ॥ ६ ॥

kalpalatām iva phala-dāṁ loke pranamati yas tvāṁ na patati śoke

pārāvāra-vihārīṇi gange –sura-vanitā-kṛta-taralāpāṅge

Whoever surrenders in devotion to you, who grant rewards like the wish-fulfilling tree,
does not fall into sorrow; frolicking into the ocean, Gāṅgā.

तव कृपया चेत् स्रोतःस्नातः पुनरपि जठरे सोऽपि न जातः ।

नरकनिवारिणि जाह्ववि गङ्गे क्लृप्तिविनाशिनि महिमोत्तुङ्गे ॥ ७ ॥

*tava kṛpayā cet srotah-snātaḥ punar api jaṭare ś'pi na jātaḥ
naraka-nivārin'jāhnavi gange kluṣṭa-vināśini mahimottuṅge*

If, by your kindness, one has bathed in your waters—that one is not born again in the womb;
warding off all suffering, Jāhnavī, Gangā, removing impurities, exalted in greatness.

परिलसदङ्गे पुण्यतरङ्गे जय जय जाह्ववि करुणापाङ्गे ।

इन्द्रमुकुटमणिराजितचरणे सुखदे शुभदे सेवकशरणे ॥ ८ ॥

*parilasad-ange puṇya-taraṅge jaya jaya jāhnavi karuṇāpāṅge
indra-mukuta-maṇi-rājita-carāṇe sukhade śubhade sevaka-śaraṇe*

Of radiant form, with blessed waves - victory, victory, O Jāhnavī with compassionate glances;
whose movement is like sparkling jewels in the crown of Indra,
giving happiness, giving goodness, refuge to those who attend to you.

रोगं शोकं तापं पापं हर मे भगवति कुमतिकलापम् ।

त्रिभुवनसारे वसुधाहारे त्वमसि गतिर्मम खलु संसारे ॥ ९ ॥

*rogam śokam tāpam pāpam hara me bhagavati kumati-kalāpam
tribhuvana-sāre vasudhā-hāre tvam asi gatir mama khalu sansāre*

Take away my whole accumulation of negative thoughts, sickness, sorrow,
suffering and wrong doing, O Bhagavatī; essence of the three worlds,
like a necklace encompassing the earth, you are truly my destination
in the midst of samsāra (the cycles of worldly changes).

अलकानन्दे परमानन्दे कुरु मयि करुणां कातरवन्द्ये ।

तव तटनिकटे यस्य हि वासः खलु वैकुण्ठे तस्य निवासः ॥ १० ॥

*alakānande paramānande kuru mayi karuṇām kātara-vandye
tava taṭa-nikaṭe yasya "hi vāsaḥ khalu vaikunṭhe tasya nivāsaḥ*

Alakānandā (joy-daughter of Alakā, Himālayan abode of Śiva),
supreme bliss, show me compassion, you who should be honored
by those in distress; whoever has a dwelling close to your banks
—that person's residence is truly in Vaikuṇṭha (the heaven of Viṣṇu).

वरमिह नीरे कमठो मीनः किं वा तीरे शरटः क्षीणः ।

अथवा श्वपचो गव्युतिदीना न च तव दूरे नृपतिकुलीनः ॥ ११ ॥

*varam iha nīre kamaṭo mīnaḥ kiṁ vā tīre śaraṭaḥ kṣīnaḥ
athavā śvapaco gavyuti-dīnā na ca tava dūre nṛpati-kulīnaḥ*

Better to be a turtle or fish here in your water, is it not,
or a small chameleon on your bank;
or else, impoverished outcastes, living within two miles—and
not born in a royal family at a distance from you.

भो भुवनेश्वरि पुण्ये धन्ये देवि द्रवमयि मुनिवरकन्ये ।

गङ्गास्तवमिदममलं नित्यं पठति नरो यः स जयति सत्यम् ॥ १२ ॥

*bho bhuvaneśvari puṇye dhanye devi dravamayi muni-vara-kanye
gangā-stavam idam amalam nityam paṭati naro yaḥ sa jayati satyam*

Bho! Bhuvaneśvarī, ruler of the worlds, virtuous, blessed, Devi, fluid,
the daughter of most illumined sages; whoever regularly reads this pure song
devoted to Gangā—that person wins truth.