

SHRI DATTASHTAKAM

(With English Meaning)



SHRI DATTA SWAMI

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by



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दत्ताष्टकम्-१

१) वाणीमानस बुद्धि तर्क समभिस्पृष्टाय नैव क्वचित्
 नोहयाय प्रतिपादिताय निगमैरेवं तथा गीतया
 मां जानाति न कश्चने त्यविदितं स्वं वेत्ति यः केवलम्
 दत्तात्रेययतीश्वराय गुरवे तस्मै नमो ब्रह्मणे ॥

My salutations to such Dattatreya, the Lord of sages and the absolute God about whom 'By words, mind, intelligence and logic, who is never touched' – like this the Vedas declare and 'nobody knows Me' – like this the Gita declares, who is never known by anybody and who is known to Himself alone.

२) आमन्नाया अपि नेति नेति वचसा सर्वेऽपि सर्गाशकाः
 न ब्रह्मेति निषेध मार्ग कलया यं बोधयन्त्यद्भुतम्
 प्रामाण्यच्युत मप्रमेय मुपधि द्वारैव दृग्गोचरम्
 दत्तात्रेययतीश्वराय गुरवे तस्मै नमो ब्रह्मणे ॥

My salutations to such Dattatreya, the Lord of sages and the absolute God about whom all the Vedas describe through negation by the words 'Not this, not this...' thereby meaning that no imaginable item of this imaginable creation is the wonderful, unimaginable and absolute God, who is called as Aprameeya meaning that He is not known by any instrument of knowledge (pramaana) and who can be even seen by eyes through an imaginable and visible medium in which such absolute God entered and identified with it.

३) आकाशस्य च कारणं कृति जनेः पूर्वं न तस्मिन्नयम्
 यस्मान्नो परिमाण मात्मनि ततो नोहयं धिया मेव यः
 ज्ञानं दातु मुपाधि मानुषतनु मूलं चिदित्युच्यते
 दत्तात्रेययतीश्वराय गुरवे तस्मै नमो ब्रह्मणे ॥

My salutations to such Dattatreya, the Lord of sages and the absolute God, who is the generator of space and hence, the space cannot exist in the generator before it is generated, due to this reason in whom the spatial dimensions cannot exist and therefore, who cannot be imagined by any intelligence, who enters always the medium of human being for preaching the knowledge to humanity and therefore, is denoted by the fundamental awareness that is the basic material of knowledge.

४) चैतन्याश्रय शेमुषीपर महाप्रज्ञान शब्दश्रुतो

यो वै मानवशेखरो गुरुवरो ज्ञानं न चित्केवला

दत्तो मानव सञ्चयाय जगते त्रैगुण्यचित्तेतरो

दत्तात्रेययतीश्वराय गुरवे तस्मै नमो ब्रह्मणे ॥

My salutations to such Dattatreya, the Lord of sages and the absolute God, who is declared as special knowledge that is generated from the awareness and by this you should not mistake that He is directly the special knowledge since you have to take Him as the possessor of the special knowledge (through Lakshanaa), who is identified as a special top most human being as Divine preacher and by this you should not mistake that the meaning of knowledge is mere awareness, who is donated to the world of humanity and He is different from not only awareness but also different from all the three categories of qualities which are the modes of awareness only.

५) तेजो देहवता ममुत्र सयुजे तेजशरीराय च

षट्पाणि त्रिमुखाय मानवकृते बाहुद्वयास्याय ते

नोहयाय प्रकृति स्वरूप लतिका दत्तात्म विद्युद्विदे

दत्तात्रेय यतीश्वराय गुरवे तस्मै नमो ब्रह्मणे ॥

My salutations to such Dattatreya, the Lord of sages and the absolute God, who is mediated by the energetic body for the sake of the souls existing in energetic bodies in the upper worlds and in such case He is three headed and six handed, but, for the sake of humanity on this earth He is single headed with two hands only and this is for the free

mixing with the devotees to be preached, Who still remains unimaginable but also becomes imaginable through identification with an imaginable natural medium - just like the invisible current becomes the visible electrified wire through identification with it.

६) ब्रह्मज्ञानविदां समन्वयकृते नोदयात्मनः केवलात्
नाना सृष्टि पदार्थ तर्क्य धिषणा नैकात्म वादच्छिदे
नानाविन्मत भेद नाश जगती शान्तिप्रदानाय ते
दत्तात्रेययतीश्वराय गुरवे तस्मै नमो ब्रह्मणे ॥

My salutations to such Dattatreya, the Lord of sages and the absolute God, who brings unity in the minds of learned people of various religions by the introduction of His unimaginable nature since such God can be only one, who condemns the difference between ignorant people of various religions since each one thinks a specific imaginable item of the imaginable creation as the absolute God and by such condemnation the difference is destroyed thereby establishes the world peace.

७) आचार्यत्रय गोचराय सुधियां मूर्तित्रयालम्बिने .
ज्ञानानन्तर भक्ति कर्म जनना त्पश्चा त्फला त्कर्मणः
सिद्धान्त प्रतिपादकाय जगते भाष्यत्रयाविर्भवात्
दत्तात्रेय यतीश्वराय गुरवे तस्मै नमो ब्रह्मणे ॥

My salutations to such Dattatreya, the Lord of sages and the absolute God, who is the source of the three divine forms called Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, who appeared as the three divine preachers called as Shankara, Ramanuja and Madhva stressing knowledge, devotion and service respectively and the fruit is linked to the final service only but still the service is effective from knowledge and devotion only and who established these three steps gradually through the three divine commentaries.

८) बोध्याबोध्य समन्वयाय सहसा बाह्यप्रकृत्यात्मना
 तादात्म्येन नसर्वजीव विषया त्सेव्याय न स्सर्वदा
 कैवल्यं ददते नकाम्यविदुषे मर्त्यावतारात्मने
 दत्तात्रेय यतीश्वराय गुरवे तस्मै नमो ब्रह्मणे ॥

My salutations to such Dattatreya, the Lord of sages and the absolute God, who is unimaginable by Himself and simultaneously imaginable by His identified external medium and thus the correlation between the two contradicting aspects is achieved and this concept is limited only to the case of human incarnation that is possible only if the specific human being is not aspiring for such fruit and this is not applied to the case of every human being and hence, the Lord is to be served by all the human beings.

९) औदुम्बर तरो मूले, काषायांशुकधारिणम्
 नरावतार चिन्मुद्रा –मौनानूहय वदं भजे ॥

I worship Lord Dattatreya, who is wearing the saffron cloth, sitting under the Audumbara tree, denoting the union of unimaginable God with the imaginable human being by showing the Chinmudra and denoting the unimaginable nature of the absolute God through silence.

१०) कर जपसर कुण्डी शङ्ख चक्र त्रिशूल-
 डमरुक परिपूर्ण त्र्याननै स्सुप्रसन्नम्
 श्रुतिशुनक समेतं धर्मधेन्वा च पृष्ठे
 मुनिकुलपति दत्तात्रेय देवं स्मरामि ॥

I recollect Lord Dattatreya, who is full by holding the garland of beads, Kamandalu, Shankha, Chakra, Trishuula and Damaruka, who is graceful in His three faces, who is surrounded by the four Vedas looking as Divine dogs, who is before the deity of justice looking as the Divine Cow and who is the Chancellor of the sages.

(Composed by Shri Datta Swami)

दत्ताष्टकम्- २

१) काषायवासः परिवेष्टिताय, महाकपर्द त्रय शोभिताय

ब्रह्माच्युतेशानवपुर्धराय, नमो नमो दत्तयतीश्वराय ॥

Salutation – Salutation to Lord Datta, who is the king of saints, who is covered by the Saffron cloth, who shines with three hair crowns and who has taken the forms of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.

२) महा श्वरूपैर्निगमैर्वृताय, धर्मेण धेन्वाकृतिना श्रिताय

नरावताराय गुरुत्तमाय, नमो नमो दत्त यतीश्वराय ॥

Salutation – Salutation to Lord Datta, who is the king of saints, who is surrounded by the four divine scriptures in the form of four big dogs, behind whom stands the deity of justice in the form of cow and who is the best spiritual preacher.

३) ज्ञानप्रबोधार्थं मुपागताय, नित्योपदेशैर्भुवि सञ्चराय

अत्यद्भुत श्री महिमाकराय, नमो नमो दत्तयतीश्वराय ॥

Salutation – Salutation to Lord Datta, who is the king of saints, who incarnates on this earth to preach spiritual knowledge, who moves on earth giving spiritual discourses and who performs divine miracles.

४) श्रीपाद नामादिम गोचराय, नृसिंहभारत्यभिधान्तराय

माणिक्य पूर्व प्रभु सम्भवाय, नमो नमो दत्त यतीश्वराय ॥

Salutation – Salutation to Lord Datta, who is the king of saints, who came first as Sripada Vallabha, then as Nrusimha Bharati (Narasimha Saraswathi) and then as Manikya Prabhu.

५) समर्थनाम्ना परमीक्षिताय, सायीति पश्चात्प्रथिताभिधाय

गजाननाद्यन्य गुरुद्भवाय, नमो नमो दत्त यतीश्वराय ॥

Salutation – Salutation to Lord Datta, who is the king of saints, who appeared as Swami Samartha, who came as famous Sai Baba and who took birth as other spiritual preachers like Gajaanana Maharaj etc.

६) आमन्नायतत्त्व प्रतिपादकाय, नवीनविज्ञानसमन्वयाय

भाष्यत्रयैकार्थ निरूपकाय, नमो नमो दत्त यतीश्वराय॥

Salutation – Salutation to Lord Datta, who is the king of saints, who established the essence of the Vedas, who correlated it with the modern science and who united all the three commentaries of Shankara, Ramanuja and Madhva into one commentary with unified single philosophy.

७) श्रुति स्मृति ज्ञान महार्णवाय , सत्तर्क मार्गार्थ समर्थकाय

तात्पर्य सिद्धानुभवप्रदाय, नमो नमो दत्त यतीश्वराय॥

Salutation – Salutation to Lord Datta, who is the king of saints, who is ocean of the Vedas and other divine scriptures, who supports the path of sharp analysis before concluding the truth and who finally brings the conclusions into experience.

८) प्रभात काशीविधि नैष्ठिकाय, मध्याह्न कोल्हापुर भिक्षुकाय

सायाह्न सह्याचल विश्रमाय, नमो नमो दत्त यतीश्वराय॥

Salutation – Salutation to Lord Datta, who is the king of saints, who takes bath and performs rituals in the morning at Kaashi, who begs for food in the afternoon at Kolhapur and who takes rest on the Sahya mountain in the evening.

९) अज हरि हर मूर्ति त्रैत वेषैर्नटन्तम्

जगदुदय सुरक्षा शिक्षया सद्विनोदम्

कथमपि नखलूह्यं तैजसैः पार्थिवैर्वा

स्पुरदुपधिभि रीक्ष्यं दत्त माराधयामि॥

I am worshipping Lord Datta, who is the single actor in the three roles of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, who is entertained by the creation, protection and destruction of the world, who is unimaginable by any means and who is seen by the eyes through clear energetic forms in the upper world and human forms on the earth.

(Composed by Shri Datta Swami)

दत्ताष्टकम्- ३

१) वेदान्तविद्या ममृतं हि दातुं, जगद्विशन्तं विबधत्रजाय
तं ज्ञानमोहिन्यवतारमेकं, दत्तं भजे सद्गुरु सार्वभौमम्॥

I worship Lord Datta, who is the monarch of spiritual preachers, who entered this world in order to distribute the divine nectar like spiritual knowledge to scholars and who alone is the incarnation of the spiritual knowledge that attracts like a divine beautiful lady (*Jnana Mohini*).

२) जीवं समुद्धर्तुं मपत्यरूपं, तत्रात्र तेजः पृथिवीतनुभ्याम्
धियाऽपि नोह्यं दययाऽवतीर्णं, दत्तं भजे सद्गुरु सार्वभौमम्॥

I worship Lord Datta, who is the monarch of spiritual preachers, who identifies with energetic forms in the upper world to uplift His children like divine and departed souls and enters the human forms on the earth to uplift His children like human beings and who is unimaginable by Himself, but, identifies with a medium and incarnates for the sake of souls due to His kind nature.

३) तंपंडितमन्य सहस्र बोधैः, पथः परिभ्रष्ट नरान् विलोक्य
मार्गप्रबोधाय सदा समेतं, दत्तं भजे सद्गुरु सार्वभौमम्॥

I worship Lord Datta, who is the monarch of spiritual preachers and who incarnates on the earth to preach the true spiritual path due to His kind nature after seeing the human beings misled by the false preachers thinking themselves as true scholars.

४) अध्यात्मविद्या पुरुषार्थविद्या - पयः पयो भेद विदं सुहंसम्
साक्षात्तमेकं परमं हि हंसं, दत्तं भजे सद्गुरु सार्वभौमम्॥

I worship Lord Datta, who is the monarch of spiritual preachers, who is capable of separating the spiritual knowledge from the worldly

knowledge like the swan that separates the milk from water and who alone is considered as the highest spiritual preacher (*Paramahansa*).

५) तं शङ्कराचार्य मपि स्खलन्तं, पृच्छन्त मन्त निहितात्मतत्त्वे
चण्डालरूपेण समेत्य काश्यां, दत्तं भजे सद्गुरु सार्वभौमम्॥

I worship Lord Datta, who is the monarch of spiritual preachers, and who came as a cobbler in Benaras to face and question Adi Shankara when he slipped in the knowledge of the soul.

६) धनेषणा मूललता लवित्र-श्रीयन्त्र विद्या परमार्थ विज्ञम्
कुर्वन्त माप्तं भृगुरामशिष्यं, दत्तं भजे सद्गुरु सार्वभौमम्॥

I worship Lord Datta, who is the monarch of spiritual preachers and who gave the correct interpretation of Shri Yantra as the technology of cutting the bond with money to His disciple Parashurama and made him scholar in that line.

७) सूते जगद्य स्सविता स देवो, गायन्त मारक्षति गीति रेषा
गायत्र्यपार्थं प्रहारन्त मित्थं , दत्तं भजे सद्गुरु सार्वभौमम्॥

I worship Lord Datta, who is the monarch of spiritual preachers and who gave the interpretation of Gayatri to remove the misinterpretation in the following way: Gayatri means any divine song that protects the singer. Gayatri is not the present Vedic hymn in which people are misled since the name of the meter of the hymn is Gayatri. There is no deity like Gayatri. The deity is only Savita meaning the God who created this World.

८) वैश्वानराग्नौ जठरे घृतान्नं, प्रदाय यज्ञे हवनं हि सत्यम्
न लौकिकाग्निति बोधयन्तं, दत्तं भजे सद्गुरु सार्वभौमम् ॥

I worship Lord Datta, who is the monarch of spiritual preachers and who gave the correct interpretation of Yajna in the following way: Yajna, the sacrifice means giving food along with ghee to the hungry

people. The hunger is the divine fire called Vaishwanaraagni or Devataagni. The misinterpretation is to pour ghee in the wood-fire or Loukikaagni.

९) त्रिमुख नयन षट्का लोक षट्पाद बृन्दैः
 मधु मुनिजनचेतो भक्तिमास्वादयन्तम्
 भज गुरु मनसूया गर्भं शुक्त्यात्त मुक्ता-
 फल मपफलसेवा ज्ञान हारस्थ दत्तम्॥

I worship Lord Datta, who is swallowing the nectar like devotion existing in the minds of sages through His six eyes existing in three faces and each eye is like a bee with six legs and who is the pearl generated from the womb of mother Anasuya to be present in the chain of knowledge that generates the service without any aspiration.

(Composed by Shri Datta Swami)

दत्ताष्टकम्- ४

१) आधारं सर्व सिद्धीना, माहारं भक्त जीविनाम्
आसारं करुणाब्दानां, दत्तात्रेय मुपास्महे ॥

We meditate upon Lord Dattatreya, who is the basis for the miraculous powers, who is very dear to devotees like delicious food to the human beings and who is like heavy rain pouring down from the clouds of kindness.

२) ब्रह्मज्ञान महापारा- वार वारिज मुत्थितम्
समन्वय सुगन्धेन, दत्तात्रेय मुपास्महे ॥

We meditate upon Lord Dattatreya, who is blooming like a divine lotus flower that arose from the ocean of spiritual knowledge sprinkling the divine scent, which is the correlation between religions.

३) वेदान्तार्णव दुर्बुद्धि - लवणाम्भो विषात्परं
सत्यज्ञान सुधोद्धारं, दत्तात्रेय मुपास्महे ॥

We meditate upon Lord Dattatreya, who uplifted the divine nectar like true spiritual knowledge after eliminating the poison that arose from the salt water, which is the ignorance of false spiritual preachers.

४) भक्त जीवैक तादात्म्या , दवतीर्ण नराकृतिम्
नरलोकं समुद्धर्तु , दत्तात्रेय मुपास्महे ॥

We meditate upon Lord Dattatreya, who identifies Himself with an excellent devotee to appear as human incarnation in order to uplift the human beings on this earth.

५) अज्ञानिगुरुभि वेदे , दैत्यैरपहृते सति
अक्षिसद्दर्शनं मत्स्यं, दत्तात्रेय मुपास्महे ॥

We meditate upon Lord Dattatreya, who restored the true spiritual knowledge through His knowledge-eye appearing like the fish-incarnation after condemning the false preachers who are like the demon called as Somakaasura, the thief of the divine scriptures.

६) ऐकमत्याय विदुषां, मतत्रय विवादिनाम्
एकार्थ भाष्य वक्तारं , दत्तात्रेय मुपास्महे ॥

We meditate upon Lord Dattatreya, who unified the three commentaries of the Hindu religion in order to bring unity among those by removing the differences between the quarrelling scholars.

७) नवकोटि स्मराकारं, वैराग्यारुण वाससम्
कालाञ्जन जटाबन्धं , दत्तात्रेय मुपास्महे ॥

We meditate upon Lord Dattatreya, who is as beautiful as nine crores of cupids united, who is indicating His complete detachment through the saffron cloth and whose hair crown is of the color of the lamp black applied to the eyes.

८) बोधयन्तं च वेदान्ते , वृद्धशिष्य मुनीन् मुहुः
नित्य षोडश वर्षाङ्गं , दत्तात्रेय मुपास्महे ॥

We meditate upon Lord Dattatreya, who preaches spiritual knowledge to hundred year old sages and who is always like a beautiful boy of the age of sixteen years.

९) स्मरशतकमनीयं विद्युदुद्द्योतकायम्
त्रि तिलक रुचि फालं बद्ध काषाय चेलम्
करकृत परमुद्रं ज्ञान बोधै रनिद्रम्
यति तति पति दत्तात्रेय माराधयामि ॥

I worship Lord Dattatreya, whose beauty is equal to the beauty of hundred Cupids put together, whose body dazzles with lightening,

whose forehead shines with the three specified marks of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, who always wears saffron cloth, who shows Chinmudra with the fingers of the hand indicating the union of the God with soul during the process of incarnation, who lacks sleep through continuous spiritual discourses and who is the Lord of the saints.

(Composed by Shri Datta Swami)