

गुरुवन्दनम्

Guruvandanam – Salutations to the Guru

श्रुतिस्मृतिपुराणानामालयं करुणालयम् ।

नमामि भगवत्पादशङ्करं लोकशङ्करम् ॥

śrutismṛtipurāṇānāmālayam karuṇālayam ।
namāmi bhagavatpādaśaṅkaram lokaśaṅkaram ॥

I salute Śaṅkarabhagavatpāda, the abode of śruti (Vedas), smṛti (Gītā), and purāṇānas (epics like the Rāmāyaṇa Mahābhārata), the abode of compassion, the one who bestows happiness on the world.

सदाशिवसमारम्भां शङ्कराचार्यमध्यमाम् ।

अस्मदाचार्यपर्यन्तां वन्दे गुरुपरम्पराम् ॥

sadāśivasamārambhām śaṅkarācāryamadhyamām ।
asmadācāryaparyantām vande guruparamparām ॥

I salute the lineage of teachers, beginning with Sadāśiva, having Śaṅkarācārya in the middle, and extending to my teacher.

शङ्करं शङ्कराचार्यं केशवं बादरायणम् ।

सूत्रभाष्यकृतौ वन्दे भगवन्तौ पुनः पुनः ॥

śaṅkaram śaṅkarācāryam keśavam bādarāyaṇam ।
sūtrabhāṣyakṛtau vande bhagavantau punaḥ punaḥ ॥

I salute, again and again, Śaṅkarācārya, who is Lord Siva, and Bādārāyaṇa (Vyāsa) who is Lord Viṣṇu, the venerable ones who wrote the aphorisms (Brahmasūtras) and commentary (Brahmasūtrabhāṣya).

ईश्वरो गुरुरात्मेति मूर्तिभेदविभागिने ।

व्योमवद्व्याप्तदेहाय दक्षिणामूर्तये नमः ॥

īśvaro gururātmeti mūrtibhedavibhāgine ।
vyomavadvyāptadehāya dakṣiṇāmūrtaye namaḥ ॥

Salutations to the Lord Dakṣiṇāmūrti, who is all-pervasive like space, who is differentiated into the three different forms of Lord, Guru, and Self.

गुकारस्त्वन्धकारश्च रुकारस्तन्निवर्तकः ।

अन्धकारनिरोधित्वाद् गुरुरित्यभिधीयते ॥

gukārastvandhakāraśca rukārastannivartakaḥ ।
andhakāranirodhitvād gururityabhidhīyate ॥

The letter “gu” stands for the darkness (of ignorance) and “ru” represent its destruction. A guru is so called because he destroys the darkness (of ignorance).

*Translations with some minor revisions are from Vedic Chanting:
Self Study, by Swami Vagisananda.*