

Notes on Sanskrit transliteration

by Vyaas Houston - AmericanSanskrit.com

Sanskrit is the language of mantra, words of power subtly attuned to the unseen harmonies of the matrix of creation. Its effectiveness as a language of meditation and yoga relies largely on correct pronunciation, and the attention given to it. Sanskrit's power is also greatly enhanced by a direct understanding of its words and meanings.

Vowels:

a ā i ī u ū
e ai o au aṁ aḥ
ṛ ḷ

Consonants:

ka kha ga gha ṅa
ca cha ja jha ṅa
ṭa ṭha ḍa ḍha ṇa
ta tha da dha na
pa pha ba bha ma

Semi-vowels:

ya ra la va

Sibilants:

śa ṣa sa ha

1) k g c j ṭ ḍ t d p b (all consonants) are pronounced with minimal breath, much less than is used in the release in English.

2) The 'h' which follows the same consonants (kh, gh, etc...) designates additional breath released simultaneous to the consonant.

3) ṭ ṭh ḍ ḍh ṇ – are cerebral – pronounced by turning the tip of the tongue up towards the very front of the upper roof of the mouth (not on the slope down to the teeth as in English).

4) t th d dh n – are dental – pronounced with the tip of the tongue at the back of the upper teeth.

5) r and ṛ – are cerebral (same as note 3) and are created by lightly touching the tip of the tongue, rather than by shaping the mouth as in the English 'r'.

6) ś – is palatal – pronounced as 'shh' as in shine with the tongue at the same position as 'ch'.

7) ṣ – is cerebral (same as note 3) pronounced like 'sh' with the tongue the same as in r and ṛ (note 5).

8) ṁ can be pronounced simply as m. The dot above indicates the option of pronouncing an 'n' to blend easier with the first letter of the following word. (eg. nilaṁ kamalam could optionally be pronounced as nilan kamalam)

Simple pronunciation guide:

a as in *but*, *cup*
i as in *bit*, *sit*
u as in *put*, *foot*
e as in *sleigh*
o as in *bow*
ph is an aspirated p as in *push*

ā as in *calm*, *father*
ī as in *seen*, *mean*
ū as in *room*, *mood*
ai as in *Hawaii*
au as in *owl*
c as in *such*

Experience the Joy of chanting



ॐ नमः शिवाय

with Rick Roberts
and friends

Chants

- 2) *Govinda jaya jaya Gopala jaya jaya
Radha-Ramana Hari Govinda jaya jaya*
- 3) *Om Bhagavan Om Bhagavan
Om Bhagavan Nityananda Bhagavan*
- 4) *Nārāyana Nārāyana jaya Govinda Hare
Nārāyana Nārāyana jaya Gopala Hare*
- 5) *Gopala Gopala
Devaki-nandana Gopala
Devaki-nandana Gopala
Devaki-nandana Gopala*
- 6) *Śivāya namaḥ Om Śivāya namaḥ
Śivāya namaḥ Om namaḥ Śivāya
Om namaḥ Śivāya*
- 7) *Hara Hara Gurudeva
Parabrahma Parameśvara*
- 8) *jay jay Ram Kṛṣṇa Hari
raja Ram Kṛṣṇa Hari*
- 9) *Rama Kṛṣṇa Hari Mukunda Murari
Panduranga Panduranga
Panduranga Panduranga
Panduranga Hari (1x)*
- 10) *Om namo Bhagavate Nityanandaya
Om namo Bhagavate Nityanandaya*
- 11) *Hare Rama Hare Rama
Rama Rama Hare Hare
Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Kṛṣṇa
Kṛṣṇa Kṛṣṇa Hare Hare*
- 12) *Om guru jaya guru
satchidananda guru
satchidananda guru
Nityananda sadaguru*
- 13) *Vitthale Vitthale Vitthale Vitthale
jay jay Vitthale jay jay Vitthale
jay jay Vitthale jay jay Vitthale*
- 14) *Om guru Om guru Om gurudev
jaya guru jaya guru jaya gurudev*
- 15) *Nityananda mahan
jaya sadaguru Bhagavan
jaya sadaguru Bhagavan*
- 16) *Om Śiva Om Śiva paratpara Śiva
Om Paraśiva tava caranam
namami Śankara bhavani Śankara
Uma Maheśvara tava caranam*
- 17) *Nityanandam Brahmanandam
Brahmasvarupam neelavarnam
trilokanatham śri gurudevam
Om namo Nityanandam*
- Om namo Nityanandam (6x)*

Hymn to Mahālakṣmī

Salutations to the Guru; salutations to Ganesha, the auspicious one.

Salutations to you, Mahāmāyā, abode of fortune, worshipped by gods, wielder of conch and mace, Mahālakṣmī obeisance to you.

Salutations, O rider of Garuda, terror of the demon Kola, remover of sins, beloved goddess, Mahālakṣmī obeisance to you.

Knower of all, giver of all boons, a terror to the wicked, remover of all sorrows, beloved goddess, Mahālakṣmī obeisance to you.

Bestower of intelligence and success, O goddess, bestower of worldly enjoyment and liberation, with the mantra always as your form, goddess Mahālakṣmī obeisance to you.

Without beginning or end, O goddess, primordial energy, great mistress born of yoga, Mahālakṣmī obeisance to you.

In the form of the gross and subtle bodies, Rudra's Shakti, source of all, remover of great sins, beloved goddess, Mahālakṣmī obeisance to you.

Seated on a lotus, O goddess, true Self of the supreme Brahman, O supreme mistress, universal mother, Mahālakṣmī obeisance to you.

Clad in white apparel, O goddess, bedecked with a variety of jewels, supporter of the universe, universal mother, Mahālakṣmī obeisance to you.

This hymn to the great goddess of wealth, if read with devotion, will bestow all success, will grant all worldly position.

If always read once a day, great sins will be destroyed. If always read twice a day, wealth and prosperity will ensue.

If always read three times a day, the great enemy (ego) will be destroyed. Mahālakṣmī will be ever pleased with that auspicious one.

Śrī Mahālakṣmyaṣṭakam
from Padma Purana

śrī gurubhyo namaḥ
śrī lābh śrī śubh śrī gaṇeśāya namaḥ
Mahālakṣmyaṣṭakam Stotram

1) namaste'stu mahāmāye
śrīpīṭhe surapūjite
śaṅkha-cakra-gadā-haste
mahālakṣmi namo'stute

2) namaste garuḍārūḍhe
kolāsura-bhayaṅakari
sarva-pāpa-hare devi
mahālakṣmi namo'stute

3) sarvajñe sarvavarade
sarva-duṣṭa-bhayaṅakari
sarva-duḥkha-hare devi
mahālakṣmi namo'stute

4) siddhi-buddhi-prade devi
bhukti-mukti-pradāyini
mantra-mūrte sadā devi
mahālakṣmi namo'stute

5) ādyanta-rahite-devi
ādyāśakti maheśvari
yogaje yogasambhūte
mahālakṣmi namo'stute

6) sthūla-sūkṣma-maharaudre
mahaśakti mahodare
mahā-pāpa-hare devi
mahālakṣmi namo'stute

7) padmāsana-sthiti devi
parabrahma-svarūpiṇi
parameśi jagan-mātar
mahālakṣmi namo'stute

8) śvetāambaradhare devi
nānālaṅkāra-bhūṣite
jagat-sthite jagan-mātar
mahālakṣmi namo'stute

9) mahālakṣmyaṣṭakam stotram
yaḥ paṭhed bhaktimān naraḥ
sarva-siddhim avāpnoti
rājyam prāpnoti sarvadā

eka-kāle paṭhen nityam
mahā-pāpa-vināsanam
dvi-kālam yaḥ paṭhen nityam
dhana-dhānya-samanvitah

tri-kālam yaḥ paṭhen nityam
mahāśatru-vināsanam
mahālakṣmīr bhaven nityam
prasannā varadā śubhā

Chants continued...

18) Chitchora Yashoda ke bal
Govardhana dhara Gopal
Gopal Gopal Gopal Gopal
Govardhana dhara Gopal

19) Om namaḥ Śivāya Om namaḥ Śivāya
Om namaḥ Śivāya Om namaḥ Śivāya
Om namaḥ Śivāya Om namaḥ Śivāya
Om namaḥ Śivāya Om namaḥ Śivāya

20) Śrī Kṛṣṇa Chaitanya prabhu Nityananda
Hare Kṛṣṇa Hare Ram Radhe Govinda

21) jaya Sita Ram jaya jaya Hanuman
Śrī gurudev-ananda Bhagavan
Śrī Ram jay Ram jay jay Ram
Śrī Ram jay Ram jay jay Ram

22) Nataraja Nataraja
Nartana Sundara Nataraja
Śivaraja Śivaraja
Śivakami priya Śivaraja
Chidambaresha - Nataraja
Parthipuresha - Śivaraja
Prem Svarupa - Nataraja
Praśanthi Vāsa - Śivaraja

23) Śrī Kṛṣṇa Govinda Hare Murare
he natha Nārāyana Vasudeva
he natha Nārāyana Vasudeva
he natha Nārāyana Vasudeva

24) Govinda Hare Gopala Hare
He Prabhu dīna-dayala Hare

25) Kṛṣṇa Govinda Govinda Gopala
Kṛṣṇa Govinda Govinda Gopala
Kṛṣṇa Muralī Manohar-ananda lala

26) Gaṇeśa Śaraṇam Śaraṇam Gaṇeśa
Sāīśa Śaraṇam Śaraṇam Sāīśa

27) jaya jaya Śiva Śambho
jaya jaya Śiva Śambho
Mahadeva Śambho
Mahadeva Śambho

28) Kali Durge namo namaḥ
Kali Durge namo namaḥ

Uma Parvati namo namaḥ
Kali Durga namo namaḥ

Citti Kundalini namo namaḥ
Kali Durga namo namaḥ

Lakṣmi Annapurna namo namaḥ
Kali Durga namo namaḥ

Girija Śankari namo namaḥ
Kali Durga namo namaḥ

Sundari Sarasvati namo namaḥ
Kali Durga namo namaḥ

Opening mantras

saha nāvavatu
saha nau bhunaktu
saha vīryam karavāvahai
tejasvi nāvadhītamastu
mā vidviṣāvahai

om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ

Taittirīyopaniṣad
Śanti Path of Yajur Veda

Hariḥ Om

śam no mitrah śam varuṇah
śam no bhavatvāryamā
śam na indro bṛhaspatiḥ
śam no viṣṇururukramah
namo brahmaṇe
namaste vāyo
tvameva pratyakṣam brahmāsi
tvāmeva pratyakṣam brahma vadiṣyāmi
ṛtam vadiṣyāmi
satyam vadiṣyāmi
tanmāmāvatu
tadvaktāramāvatu
āvatu mām
āvatu vaktāram

om śantiḥ śantiḥ śantiḥ

Taittirīyopaniṣad
Ch. 1, Anuvāka 1

Closing mantras

om pūrṇamadah pūrṇamidam
pūrṇāt pūrṇamudacyate
pūrṇasya pūrṇamādāya
pūrṇamevāvāśiṣyate

om śantiḥ śantiḥ śantiḥ

Bṛhadāranyaka Upaniṣad
5th Adhyaya, 1st Brahmana, 1st Mantra

Hariḥ Om

śam no mitrah śam varuṇah
śam no bhavatvāryamā
śam na indro bṛhaspatiḥ
śam no viṣṇururukramah
namo brahmaṇe
namaste vāyo
tvameva pratyakṣam brahmāsi
tvāmeva pratyakṣam brahma vadiṣyam
ṛtam vadiṣam
satyam vadiṣam
tanmāmāvīt
tadvaktāramāvīt
āvīn mām
āvīd vaktāram

om śantiḥ śantiḥ śantiḥ

Taittirīyopaniṣad
Ch. 1, Anuvāka 12

Śivaṣaḍakṣara Stotram

Six Sacred Syllables of Śiva - Śrī Rudrayāmala

1) *omkāraṁ bindu-sanyuktam
nityaṁ dhyāyanti yoginaḥ
kāmadarṁ mokṣadarṁ caiva
om-kārāya namo namaḥ*

2) *namanti ṛṣayo devāḥ
namantyaḥ-sarasām gaṇāḥ
narā namanti deveśam
na-kārāya namo namaḥ*

3) *mahādevaṁ mahāt-mānaṁ
mahādhyāna-parāyaṇam
mahā-pāpa-haraṁ devaṁ
ma-kārāya namo namaḥ*

4) *śivaṁ śāntaṁ jagan-nāthaṁ
lokānu-graha-kāraḥ
śiva-meka-padaṁ nityaṁ
śi-kārāya namo namaḥ*

5) *vāhanaṁ vṛṣabho yasya
vāsukiḥ kaṅṭha-bhūṣaṇam
vāme śakti-dharaṁ devaṁ
va-kārāya namo namaḥ*

6) *yatra yatra sthito devaḥ
sarva-vyāpī maheśvaraḥ
yo guruḥ sarva-devānāṁ
ya-kārāya namo namaḥ*

*ṣaḍakṣaramidaṁ stotraṁ
yaḥ paṭhecchiva-sannidhau
śivaloka-mavāpnoti
śivena saha modate*

Hymn to the Six Sacred Syllables of Śiva
from the Śrī Rudrayāmala

Yogis meditate on the eternal Om, united with its point (bindu); granting desires, giving liberation-salutation, salutation to the syllable Om

The rishis, the gods bow, groups of apsaras (celestial dancers) bow; men bow to the God of gods (Śiva) - salutation, salutation to the syllable Na

They bow to the great God, the great Self, the ultimate way of the great meditation; remover of the great sin - salutation, salutation to the syllable Ma

They bow to the auspicious one, peaceful, lord of the universe creating kindness in the world; Śiva, the one state which is eternal - salutation, salutation to the syllable Śi

Whose vehicle is the bull (Nandī); whos neck adornment is Vāsuki, king of serpents; they bow to God, supporting Śakti on his left - salutation, salutation to the syllable Va

Wherever God abides, it is the all-pervading Great Lord (Maheśvara); who is the guru of all the gods - salutation, salutation to the syllable Ya

Whoever reads this hymn of six syllables, in the presence of Śiva, attains the realm of Śiva - is happy with Śiva.

Opening mantras

May both of us together be protected. May both of us together be nourished. May we work together with great energy. May our study together be brilliant and effective. May we not hate or dispute with each other.

May Mitra give us bliss. May Varuna give us bliss. May Aryaman give us bliss. May Indra and Brhaspati give us bliss. May all-pervading Vishnu give us bliss. I honor Brahman. I honor you Vayu (Wind God, Prana, Breath). You are certainly the perceivable Brahman. You are the perceptible God, I will declare. I will declare the right. I will speak the truth. May that truth protect me. May it protect the Chanter. May it protect me. May it protect the Chanter.

Translation by Richard Freeman - YogaWorkshop.com

Universal prayer

Swami Muktananda

*durjanaḥ sajjano bhūyāt
sajjanaḥ śāntim āpnuyāt
śānto mucyeta bandhebhyo
muktaś cānyān vimocayet*

*sarve bavantu sukhinaḥ
sarve santu nirāmayāḥ
sarve bhadrāṇi paśyantū
mā kaścid-duḥkha-bhāg-bhavet*

*sarvas taratu durgāṇi
sarvo bhadrāṇi paśyatu
sarvaḥ kāmān avāpnotu
sarvaḥ sarvatra nandatu*

Closing mantras

That is the perfect whole, this is the perfect whole. If from the whole the whole is taken, still the whole remains.

May Mitra give us bliss. May Varuna give us bliss. May Aryaman give us bliss. May Indra and Brhaspati give us bliss. May all-pervading Vishnu give us bliss. I honor Brahman. I honor you Vayu (Wind God, Prana, Breath). You are certainly the perceivable Brahman. You are the perceptible God, I have declared. I have declared the right. I have spoken the truth. That truth has protected me. It has protected the Chanter. It has protected me. It has protected the Chanter.

*svasti mātra uta pitre no astu
svasti gobhyo jagate puruṣebhyaḥ
viśvaṁ subhūtaṁ suvidatraṁ no astu
jyogeva dṛṣyema sūryam*

May the wicked become good. May the good obtain peace. May the peaceful be freed from bonds. May the freed set others free.

May all be happy. May all be healthy. May all see only auspicious sights. May no one have a share in sorrow.

May everyone surmount his difficulties. May everyone see only auspicious sights. May everyone have his desires fulfilled. May everyone everywhere be glad.

May blessings fall on our mother and father; blessings on the cows, the fields, the workers. May everything of ours flourish and be an aid to knowledge. And long may we see the sun.

Śivāmānasa pūjā - Inner Offering to Śiva
by Shankaracharya

1) ratnaiḥ kalpitamāsanam himajalaih
snānam ca divyāmbaram
nānāratna-vibhūṣitam mṛgamadā-
modān-kitam candanam
jātī-campaka-bilva-patra-racitam
puṣpaṁ ca dhūpaṁ tathā
dīpaṁ deva dayā-nidhe paśupate
hr̥tkal-pitam gr̥hyatām

2) sauvarṇe nava-ratna-khaṇḍa-racite
pātre ghṛtam pāyasam
bhakṣyam panca-vidham payo-dadhi-yutam
rambhā-phalam pānakam
śākānāma-yutam jalam-rucikaram
karpūra-khaṇḍojjvalam
tāmbūlaṁ manasā mayā viracitam
bhaktyā prabho svīkuru

3) chatraṁ cāmara-yoryugaṁ vyajanakam
cādarśakam nirmalam
vīṇā-bheri-mṛdaṅga-kāhalakalā-
gītam ca nṛtyam tathā
sāṣṭāṅgam praṇatīḥ stutir-bahuvidhā
hyetat-samastam mayā
saṅkalpena samarpitam tava vibho
pūjām gr̥hāṇa prabho

4) ātmā tvam girijā matiḥ sahararāḥ
prāṇāḥ śarīram gr̥ham
pūjā te viśayo-pabhoga-racanā
nidrā samādhi-sthitiḥ
sancārah padayoh pradākṣiṇavidhiḥ
stotrāṇi sarvā giro
yad-yat-karma karomi tatta-dakhilam
śambho tavā-rādhanam

5) kara-carāṇa-kṛtam vāk-
kāyajam karmajam vā
śravaṇa-nayanajam vā
mānasam vāparādham
vihitam-avihitam vā
sarvametat-kṣamasva
jaya jaya karu-ṇābdhe
śrī-mahādeva śambho

Inner Offering (Pūjā) to Śiva
by Shankaracharya

An āsana (seat) conceived with precious jewels, a bath with cool waters, and splendid garment adorned with various jewels; sandalwood laced with the fragrance of musk; a flower decoration arranged with jasmine (jāti), campaka (yellow flowers of the campaka tree) and the leaves of the bilva (wood apple) and incense and ceremonial lamp as well; O God, ocean of compassion, lord of creatures, accept (this offering) conceived in my mind.

In a golden vessel, made with an assemblage of the nine precious jewels, ghee, and a sweet pudding of milk and rice; the five kinds of food, a drink of plantain fruit, mixed with milk and yoghurt; innumerable kinds of vegetables, taste-pleasing water, the burning of pieces of camphor, betal leaf with digestive nuts and spices; what has been prepared mentally by me with devotion - O Supreme Being, accept.

An umbrella, fans and a flawless mirror; singing with the skillful playing of veena, kettledrum, mṛdaṅga (drum) and horn and dancing as well; prostration with eight parts of the body (hands, forehead, breast, knees, feet), praise (songs) of various kinds - indeed, all this, by me, through visualization is offered to you, All-pervading one. Accept this pūjā, O Supreme Being.

You are my ātman (Self), Girijā (Pārvatī) is my mind, your attendants are my prāṇas (vital energies), my body is your house; your pūjā is attending to the enjoyments of the senses, my sleep is the meditative state of samādhi; moving about on foot is the act of pradākṣiṇa (walking around a diety), all spoken words are hymns; Whatever action I perform, that entirely, O Śambhu, is the worship of you.

Whatever has taken me away from (your) propitiation, whether done by the hands or feet, speech, the body, or action, arising from hearing or seeing, or of the mind, committed or omitted - all this forgive. Be victorious, be victorious, O ocean of compassion, glorious Mahādeva, Śambhu.