

मीनाक्षी पञ्चरत्नम्

ಮೀನಾಕ್ಷೀ ಪಂಚರತ್ನಮ್

Mīnākṣī Pañcaratnam

Introduction:

The Divine Mother, referred to as Mother Meenakshi here, is the Mother of the entire creation, the entire Universe! To use the terms from the Upanishads, She is the material cause, prakruti, who is also referred to as Shakti or Maya. She is the reason that creation is made possible. She is the reason that the appearance of plurality is made possible. She is the embodiment of beauty, compassion, love, Supreme and material Knowledge. Yet, She is never apart from the Parabrahman and hence is in essence the Supreme Reality alone! The creation is represented as being made by Shiva-Shakti or Ardhanaareeshwara. Thus, She is never apart from Lord Shiva, who is in essence, the Supreme Reality alone!

In this Stuti, it is repeatedly mentioned that She is adored by Lord Narayana to whom She is the younger sister. Lord Narayana, when seen as one of the Trimurties, is the sustainer, nourisher and protector of the creation, the universe. The Divine Mother too nourishes and protects the Universe! Thus, it is with the help of His younger sister, the Divine Mother alone, Lord Narayana is able to protect the Universe!

The Divine Mother Meenakshi, in this Stuti is referred to as the One with eyes shaped like the beautiful curve of the fish! Every stanza ends with the prayer where the devotee feels blessed to be able to bow to her at all times and feel Her immense compassion in his life! This hymn is to be picturised with all the descriptions it provides, to be in the Divine presence of the Mother!

उद्यद्भानु-सहस्रकोटि-सदृशां केयूरहारोज्वलां
बिम्बोष्ठीं स्मितदन्तपङ्क्तिरुचिरां पीताम्बरालङ्कृताम् ।
विष्णु-ब्रह्म-सुरेन्द्र-सेवितपदां तत्त्वस्वरूपां शिवां
मीनाक्षीं प्रणतोऽस्मि सन्ततमहं कारुण्यवारां निधिम् ॥ १ ॥

ಉದ್ಯದ್ಭಾನುಸಹಸ್ರಕೋಟಿ-ಸದೃಶಾಂ ಕೇಯೂರಹಾರೋಜ್ವಲಾಂ
ಬಿಂಬೋಷ್ಠೀಂ ಸ್ಮಿತದಂತಪಂಕ್ತಿರುಚಿರಾಂ ಪೀತಾಂಬರಾಲಂಕೃತಾಮ್ ।
ವಿಷ್ಣು-ಬ್ರಹ್ಮ-ಸುರೇಂದ್ರ-ಸೇವಿತಪದಾಂ ತತ್ತ್ವ-ಸ್ವರೂಪಾಂ ಶಿವಾಂ
ಮೀನಾಕ್ಷೀಂ ಪ್ರಣತೋಽಸ್ಮಿ ಸಂತತಮಹಂ ಕಾರುಣ್ಯವಾರಾಂ ನಿಧಿಮ್ ॥ 1 ॥

Udyadbhanu-sahasrakoṭi-sadrśāṃ Keyūrahārojvalām
Bimboṣṭhīm Smitadantapaṅktirucirām Pītāambarālaṅkṛtām ।
Viṣṇu-Brahma-Surendra-sevitapadām Tattvasvarūpām Śivām
Mīnākṣīm Praṇato'smi Santatamaham Kāruṇyavārām Nidhim ॥ 1 ॥

उद्यद्-भानु - Rising suns

सहस्र-कोटि - thousand crore

सदृशाम् - just like

केयूर-हार-उज्वलाम् - resplendent with beautiful bracelets and necklaces

बिम्बोष्ठीम् - lips beautiful as the Bimba fruit

स्मित-दन्त-पङ्क्ति - rows of beautiful teeth

रुचिराम् - smiling

पीताम्बर-अलङ्कृताम् - adorned with golden yellow clothes

विष्णु-ब्रह्म-सुर-इन्द्र - Vishnu, Brahma, Devas such as Indra

सेवित-पदाम् - feet that are worshipped by

तत्त्व-स्वरूपाम् - nature of Absolute Reality

शिवाम् - Beloved of Lord Shiva

मीनाक्षीम् - To Minaskshi

प्रणतः अस्मि - bow down

सन्ततम् अहम् - I always

कारुण्य-वाराम् निधिम् - Ocean of compassion

I ever bow down to Mother Meenakshi, the fish-eyed Goddess, who is the ocean of compassion. She shines with beautiful bracelets and necklaces and is resplendent like a thousand crore rising suns! She has a charming smile with lips beautiful as the Bimba fruit and rows of beautiful teeth. She is decked up in yellow clothes. With Lord Vishnu, Brahma and Indra serving her feet and being the beloved of Lord Shiva, She is of the nature of Absolute Reality!

Reflections:

Devi, when seen in Her True nature, is essentially Parabrahman alone! When seen as prakruti, She enables the beautiful universe to manifest. Thus, being the cause of the beautiful Universe, She is beauty itself! She is also, thus the resplendent One who is adored by Her Lord, Lord Shiva! In Devi Purana it is described that all the Gods, including Brahma, Vishnu and Indra served Her feet after She had killed the Asura, Mahishasura.

मुक्ताहार-लसत्किरीट-रुचिरां पूर्णेन्दु-वक्रप्रभां

शिञ्जन्नूपुर-किङ्किणी-मणिधरां पद्मप्रभा-भासुराम् ।

सर्वाभीष्ट-फलप्रदां गिरिसुतां वाणीरमा-सेवितां

मीनाक्षीं प्रणतोऽस्मि सन्ततमहं कारुण्यवारां निधिम् ॥ २ ॥

ಮುಕ್ತಾಹಾರ-ಲಸತ್ಕಿರಿಟ-ರುಚಿರಾಂ ಪೂರ್ಣೇಂದುವಕ್ರಪ್ರಭಾಂ

ಶಿಂಜನ್ನೂಪುರ-ಕಿಂಕಿಣೀ-ಮಣಿಧರಾಂ ಪದ್ಮಪ್ರಭಾ-ಭಾಸುರಾಮ್ ।

ಸರ್ವಾಭೀಷ್ಟ-ಫಲಪ್ರದಾಂ ಗಿರಿಸುತಾಂ ವಾನೀರಮಾ-ಸೇವಿತಾಂ

ಮೀನಾಕ್ಷೀಂ ಪ್ರಣತೋಽಸ್ಮಿ ಸಂತತಮಹಂ ಕಾರುಣ್ಯವಾರಾಂ ನಿಧಿಮ್ ॥ 2 ॥

muktāhāra-lasatkirīṭa-rucirām pūrṇendu-vaktraprabhām

śiñjannūpura-kiṅkiṇī-maṇidharām padmaprabhā-bhāsurām ।

sarvābhīṣṭa-phalapradām girisutām vāṇīramā-sevitām

Mīnākṣīm Praṇato'smi Santatamaham Kāruṇyavārām Nidhim ॥ 2 ॥

मुक्ताहार - pearl necklaces

लसत् किरीट - Resplendent crown

रुचिराम् - Ornamented with

पूर्णन्दुवक्र-प्रभाम् - face radiates the delightfulness of the full moon

शिञ्जन्नूपुर - of her anklets

किङ्किणी - मणि - धराम् - jingling bells of

पद्म प्रभा - brightness of the fully bloomed Lotus

भासुराम् - luminous

सर्व अभीष्ट - all desires

फल - प्रदाम् - bestower of the fruits

गिरि - सुताम् - the Daughter of Himavan

वाणी - रमा - Saraswati and Lakshmi

सेविताम् - served by

मीनाक्षीं प्रणतोऽस्मि सन्ततमहं कारुण्यवारां निधिम् - I ever bow down to Mother Meenakshi, the fish-eyed Goddess, who is the ocean of compassion.

I ever bow down to Mother Meenakshi, the fish-eyed Goddess, who is the ocean of compassion. Ornamented with pearl necklaces and a radiant crown, her face radiates the delightfulness of the full moon. She adorns anklets whose bells jingle. She shines like the fully bloomed lotus. This daughter of the Himalayas, adored by Sarasvati and Lakshmi, grants her devotees their wishes.

Reflections:

While in the first verse Devi's brilliance was compared to a thousand crore suns, here the brilliance of Her smiling face is compared to the moon. Her brilliance is delightful, caring and compassionate. She beckons her devotees towards Her by the jingling of her anklets and grants them their desires. Although Devi is a single power manifesting as Sarasvati, Lakshmi and Parvati, when Mother Meenakshi is seen as the Divine Mother, Goddess Sarasvati (knowledge) and Goddess Lakshmi (wealth) adore and worship Her offering Her all their strengths. However,

She remains completely detached by all this, as symbolized by the comparison that She shines like the fully bloomed lotus.

श्रीविद्यां शिववाम-भागनिलयां हीङ्कार-मन्त्रोज्वलां
श्रीचक्राङ्कित-बिन्दु-मध्य-वसतिं श्रीमत्सभा-नायिकाम् ।
श्रीमत्षण्मुख-विघ्नराजजननीं श्रीमज्जगन्मोहिनीं
मीनाक्षीं प्रणतोऽस्मि सन्ततमहं कारुण्यवारां निधिम् ॥ ३ ॥

श्रीविद्यां शिववाम-भाग-निलयां ह्रींकार-मन्त्रोज्ज्वलां
श्री चक्राङ्कित-बिन्दु-मध्य-वसतिं श्रीमत्सभानायिकाम् ।
श्रीमत् षण्मुख-विघ्नराज-जननीं श्रीमज्जगन्मोहिनीं
मीनाक्षीं प्रणतोऽस्मि सन्ततमहं कारुण्यवारां निधिम् ॥ 3 ॥

śrīvidyām śivavāma-bhāganilayām hrīṅkāra-mantrojvalām
śrīcakrāṅkita-bindu-madhya-vasatiṁ śrīmatsabhā-nāyikām ।
śrīmatṣaṇmukha-vighnarājajanānīm śrīmajjaganmohinīm
Mīnākṣīm Praṇato'smi Santatamaham Kāruṇyavārām Nidhim ॥ 3 ॥

श्रीविद्याम् :- embodiment of knowledge of SriChakra

शिव-वाम-भाग-निलयाम् :- who is on the left side of Lord Shiva

हीङ्कार - मन्त्र - उज्वलाम् - luminous beeja mantra Hreem

श्रीचक्र - अङ्कित - In the SriChakra

बिन्दु - मध्य - वसतिम् - resides in the middle dot, the Bindu

श्रीमत्- सभा - नायिकाम् - leader of the Divine Assembly held by the Divine Goddess Herself

श्रीमत् - Divine

षण्मुख - Skanda

विघ्न - राज - Ganesha

जननीम् - Mother

श्रीमत् जगन् - मोहिनीम् - The Divine deluder of the Universe

मीनाक्षीं प्रणतोऽस्मि सन्ततमहं कारुण्यवारां निधिम् - I ever bow down to Mother Meenakshi, the fish-eyed Goddess, who is the ocean of compassion.

I ever bow down to Mother Meenakshi, the fish-eyed Goddess, who is the ocean of compassion. She is on the left side of Lord Shiva. Being the embodiment of the knowledge of the Sri Chakra, she is invoked by the luminous beeja mantra Hreem. She resides in the bindu (dot) which is in the centre of the Sri Chakra and is the leader of the Divine Assembly held by the Divine Goddess Herself! She is, Jaganmohini, who deludes the Universe with Her beauty. At the same time, She is the mother of Shanmukha and Ganesha!

Reflections:

The Sri Chakra is represents Divine Mother in the form of the Primordial energy which is the cause of creation. It represents the combination of the masculine energy, Shiva and the feminine energy Shakti. The bindu, dot in the middle of the Sri Chakra represents the source from where all expansion begins. That is where our Divine Mother resides, it is from Her that the Universe expands into multiplicity. Hreem is the beeja mantra for Mahamaya, the Divine Mother. She is invoked by the chanting of this beeja mantra. While Maya is said to be the obstacle between us and the Lord, it is only with the help and grace of Maya that we can reach the Lord. Hence, it is important for all sadhakas to invoke the grace of the Divine Mother in their spiritual journey.

The significance of Divine Mother being described in this context as the mother of Ganesha and Skanda, both being Commanders of the Ganas, could be that She is the force behind all our thoughts (the ganas) encouraging and energizing us to constantly eradicate all the negatives in us!

श्रीमत्सुन्दर-नायिकां भयहरां ज्ञानप्रदां निर्मलां
श्यामाभां कमलासनार्चित-पदां नारायणस्यानुजाम् ।
वीणा-वेणु-मृदङ्ग-वाद्य-रसिकां नानाविधामम्बिकां
मीनाक्षीं प्रणतोऽस्मि सन्ततमहं कारुण्यवारां निधिम् ॥ ४ ॥

ಶ್ರೀಮತ್ಸುಂದರನಾಯಿಕಾಂ ಭಯಹರಾಂ ಜ್ಞಾನಪ್ರದಾಂ ನಿರ್ಮಲಾಂ
ಶ್ಯಾಮಾಭಾಂ ಕಮಲಾಸನಾರ್ಚಿತಪದಾಂ ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ಯಾನುಜಾಮ್ ।
ವೀಣಾ-ವೇಣು-ಮೃದಂಗ-ವಾದ್ಯ-ರಸಿಕಾಂ ನಾನಾವಿಧಾಮಂಬಿಕಾಂ
ಮೀನಾಕ್ಷೀಂ ಪ್ರಣತೋಽಸ್ಮಿ ಸಂತತಮಹಂ ಕಾರುಣ್ಯವಾರಾಂ ನಿಧಿಮ್ ॥ 4 ॥

śrīmatsundara-nāyikāṁ bhayaharāṁ jñānapradāṁ nirmalāṁ
śyāmābhāṁ kamalāsanārcita-padāṁ nārāyaṇasyānujām ।
vīṇā-veṇu-mṛdaṅga-vādyā-rasikāṁ nānāvidhāmambikāṁ
Mīnākṣīm Praṇato'smi Santatamaham Kāruṇyavārāṁ Nidhim ॥ 4 ॥

श्रीमत् - सुन्दर - नायिकाम् - Beloved of the Most Handsome Lord

भय - हराम् - Remover of fears

ज्ञान - प्रदाम् - Bestower of knowledge

निर्मलाम् - Ever Pure One

श्यामाभाम् The Dark-complexioned One

कमल आसन - (Lord Brahma), One seated on a Lotus

अर्चित - पदाम् - The feet worshipped by

नारयणस्य - अनुजाम् - Younger sister of Lord Narayana

वीणा - वेणु - मृदङ्ग - वाद्य - रसिकाम् - Enjoyer of Veena, Flute and Mridanga

नाना विध - Varieties

अम्बिकाम् - Divine Mother

मीनाक्षीं प्रणतोऽस्मि सन्ततमहं कारुण्यवारां निधिम् - I ever bow down to Mother Meenakshi, the fish-eyed Goddess, who is the ocean of compassion.

I ever bow down to Mother Meenakshi, the fish-eyed Goddess, who is the ocean of compassion. She, the Pure One is the resplendent, dark complexioned Beloved of the Most Handsome Lord, who destroys all fears and bestows the Supreme Knowledge. She is the younger sister of Lord Narayana and Her feet are worshipped by Lord Brahma, seated on the Lotus. She, the Divine Mother Ambika, delights in the music of a variety of instruments such as Veena, Flute, and Mridanga.

Reflections:

The Divine Mother is seen sometimes as Maha Gowri (fair complexioned One) and sometimes as the dark complexioned One, Maha Kali! Whatever may be the description, She is the ever luminous, resplendent One, Her brilliance being the brilliance of Self Knowledge! It is this Self-knowledge alone that can destroy all fears and sorrows of the mortals. Only when we, in complete devotion, surrender to the Divine, this knowledge is bestowed upon us and we are freed from the clutches of samsara. She, the powerhouse of all shaktis, enjoys special love and affection from the Nourisher of the creation, Lord Narayana as She is His younger sister! She is

also worshipped by the creator, Lord Brahma, as without the Divine Mother no creation is possible! As the Goddess of all capabilities, all siddhis, She is also the connoisseur of all fine arts. In fact, the entire Universe is all music and gracious movements of the Divine Mother alone!

नानायोगि-मुनीद्र-हृत्सुवसतिं नानार्थ-सिद्धि-प्रदां
नानापुष्प-विराजिताङ्घ्रि-युगलां नारायणेनार्चिताम् ।
नाद-ब्रह्ममयीं परात्परतरां नानार्थ-तत्त्वात्मिकां
मीनाक्षीं प्रणतोऽस्मि सन्ततमहं कारुण्यवारां निधिम् ॥ ५ ॥

ನಾನಾಯೋಗಿಮುನೀಂದ್ರ-ಹೃತ್ಸುವಸತಿಂ ನಾನಾರ್ಥ-ಸಿದ್ಧಿಪ್ರದಾಂ
ನಾನಾಪುಷ್ಪ-ವಿರಾಜಿತಾಂಘ್ರಿ-ಯುಗಲಾಂ ನಾರಾಯಣೇನಾರ್ಚಿತಾಮ್ ।
ನಾದ-ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಮಯೀಂ ಪರಾತ್ಪರತರಾಂ ನಾನಾರ್ಥ-ತತ್ತ್ವಾತ್ಮಿಕಾಂ
ಮೀನಾಕ್ಷೀಂ ಪ್ರಣತೋಽಸ್ಮಿ ಸಂತತಮಹಂ ಕಾರುಣ್ಯವಾರಾಂ ನಿಧಿಮ್ ॥ 5 ॥

nānāyogi-munīdra-hṛtsuvasatiṁ nānārtha-siddhi-pradāṁ
nānāpuṣpa-virājitaṅghri-yugalāṁ nārāyaṇenārcitāṁ ।
nāda-brahmamayīṁ parātparatarāṁ nānārtha-tattvātmikāṁ
Mīnākṣīṁ Praṇato'smi Santatamahāṁ Kāruṇyavārāṁ Nidhim ॥ 5 ॥

नाना योगि - मुनीन्द्र ,हृत्सु - hearts of the various yogis and sages

वसतिम् - Lives in

नाना अर्थ - सिद्धि - प्रदाम् - bestows various accomplishments and capabilities

नाना पुष्प - विराजित - अङ्घ्रि - युगलाम् - feet are adorned with variety of flowers

नारायणेन - अर्चिताम् - Adored by Lord Narayana

नाद - ब्रह्ममयीम् expressed as the primordial sound

परात्परतराम् - Supreme Reality

नाना - अर्थ - तत्त्व - आत्मिकाम् - is the essence of the various desires.

मीनाक्षीं प्रणतोऽस्मि सन्ततमहं कारुण्यवारां निधिम् - I ever bow down to Mother Meenakshi, the fish-eyed Goddess, who is the ocean of compassion.

I ever bow down to Mother Meenakshi, the fish-eyed Goddess, who is the ocean of compassion. She resides in the heart of the various yogis and munis (sages) and bestows various accomplishments and capabilities to Her devotees. Lord Narayana adores the Divine mother whose feet are adorned with variety of flowers. Her soaropa is the Reality expressed as the primordial sound. She being the Supreme, is the essence of the various desires.

Reflections:

All yogis and mystics worship the Diviner Mother who manifests as the various energy aspects such as the Kundalini energy. She guides the yogis and sages on their chosen path to reach Her by bringing to them the fruits of their efforts, enhancing their siddhis and bestowing upon them the Supreme Knowledge. She is in essence this Supreme Knowledge itself and it is in this Supreme knowledge that all desires find their fulfillment!

Conclusion:

May we constantly invoke the Grace of Mother Meenakshi, to go through our sadhana under her protective guidance and reach the goal of this blessing called human life, thus fulfilling the purpose of our birth!