

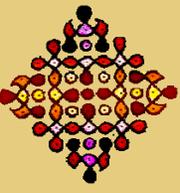
Sri ashTalakshmi stotram

(Composed by MukkUr Srinivasa Varadachar)



'Sri nrusimha sevA rasikan'

Oppiliappan Koil Sri VaradAchAri SaThakopan



Sincere Thanks To:

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NOTE: Please enjoy the following YouTube videos on SrI Mahalakshmi by Sangeetha KalAnidhi MahArAjapuram SrI Santhanam.

1) Ksheerabdi kannike

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hKheNw2EEk&feature=related>

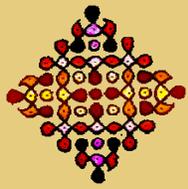
2) Ksheerabdi kanyaku

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-faNEW_EF0&feature=related

3) Ashtalakshmi stotra (Video upload by Shanguchakra)

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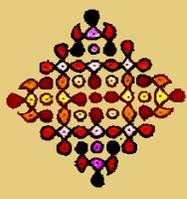
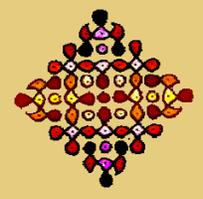




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*SrI lakshmi yantra
(Image of VimAna lakshmi from Tirukkacchi SrI Perundeivi tAyAr vimAnam)
Vimana Lakshmi picture courtesy SrI Kausik Sarathy*

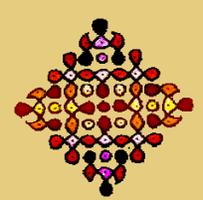


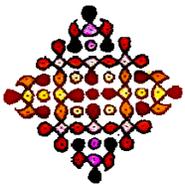
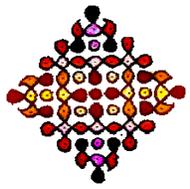


Sloka-s & Meanings



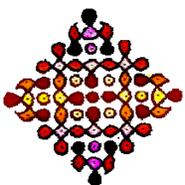
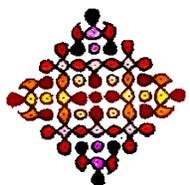
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SrI Adilakshmi (Artwork courtesy Sou R Chitralekha)



॥ श्रीः ॥

॥ श्री अष्टलक्ष्मीस्तोत्रम् ॥

SRI ASHTALAKSHMI STOTRAM

(Composed by MukkUr Srinivasa Varadachar)

आदिलक्ष्मी

सुमनसवन्दित सुन्दरि माधवि चन्द्र सहोदरि हेममये

मुनिगणमण्डित मोक्षप्रदायिनि मञ्जुलभाषिणि वेदनुते ।

पङ्कजवासिनि देवसुपूजित सद्गुणवर्षिणि शान्तियुते

जयजय हे मधुसूदन कामिनि आदिलक्ष्मि सदा पालय माम् ॥

Adilakshmi

sumanasavandita sundari mAdhavi candra sahodari hemamaye

munigaNamaNDita mokshapradAyini manjuLabhAshiNi vedanute |

pankajavAsini devasupUjita sadguNavarshiNi SAntiyute

jayajaya he madhusUdana kAmini Adilakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm || 1 ||

Word by word meaning:

sumanasavandita Adilakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm - Oh Adilakshmi worshipped by all AstikAs and righteous-minded people (sumanasa janam)! Please protect me always!

sundari mAdhavi candra sahodari hemamaye Adilakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm - Oh Adilakshmi adored as vernal beauty, sister of Candra, embodiment of gold (resembling a svarNa vighram)! Please protect me always!

munigaNa-maNDita mokshapradAyini Adilakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm - Oh Adilakshmi surrounded by the assembly of sages rich in their tapo balam! Oh Devi



who confers the supreme boon of Moksham on those who seek Your protection!
Please protect me always!

manjuLabhAshiNi vedanute Adilakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm - Oh Adi Lakshmi who speaks softly and utters sweet words! Oh devi eulogized by the eternal vedAs!
Please protect me always!

pankajavAsini deva-supUjita Adilakshmi, SAntiyute! sadA mAm pAlaya - Oh devi who has the abode of lotus and worshipped by all the devAs very well! Oh Adi Lakshmi, who is the embodiment of tranquility! Please protect me always!

jaya jaya he madhusUdana kAmini sadguNavarshiNi, Adilakshmi! sadA pAlaya mAm - Multifold Victory to You, Oh Adi Lakshmi very dear to Lord MadhusUdanan and showering auspicious attributes on Your bhaktAs! Please protect me always!

This refrain will form the last pAdam of the dhyAna Slokam in all of the ashTa lakshmi dhyAna Slokams. PerumAL's name is MadhusUdanan since He killed the two asurAs by the name of Madhu and KaiTabhA taking the form of Lord HayagrIvan.

Comments:

Adi Lakshmi is primordial Lakshmi, who resides in the Supreme Abode of Her Lord, SrI VaikuNTham. She is the VaikuNThanAyaki saluted in the First CUrNikai of AcArya RaamAnuja's SaraNagati gadyam (e-book # 30 in Sri Hayagrivan series, <http://www.srihayagrivan.org>). She is served and worshipped by the eternally liberated jIvans and nitya sUris there (sumanasa vanditai). She is PumpradAneSvareSvari (Empress of jIvan, mUla prakrti and Her Lord). She is the One with no beginning and end . She is sarvAnga sundari (beautiful in all limbs with perfect sAmudriKA lakshaNam). She is HiraNya VarNai (with the hue of molten gold/tapta kAncana rUpiNi). She showers Her AsritALs with kalyANa guNams



(kalyANa dhAyini/ sadguNa VarshiNi).

She has Her home in a MahA Padmam (Padma grham) in a lotus forest. Her abode in the lotus flower and Her many links to the lotus is saluted by SrI sUktam:

पद्मप्रिये पद्मिनि पद्महस्ते पद्मालये पद्मदळायताक्षि ।

विश्वप्रिये विष्णुमनोऽनुकूले त्वत्पादपद्मं मयि सन्निधत्स्व ॥

padmapriye padmini padmahaste padmAlaye padma-daLayatAkshi |

viSvapriye vishNumanonukUle tvatpAdapadmam mayi sannidhatsva ||

She is sarva pAlini (protector of all). During the churning of the Milky Ocean, Candran arose first and MahA Lakshmi incarnated from that Ocean thereafter and hence She is recognized as the sister of Candran (candra sahodari). She is HiraNmayi, who is saluted by SrI sUktam as:

हिरण्यवर्णा हरिणीं सुवर्णरजतस्रजाम् ।

चन्द्रां हिरण्मयीं लक्ष्मीं जातवेदो मा आवह ॥

hiraNyavarNAh hariNIh suvarNarajatasrajAm |

candrAm hiraNmayiM lakshmiM jAtavedo ma Avaha ||

On the banks of the Milky Ocean, sages with great tapas assembled to enjoy the svayamvaram of MahA Lakshmi with Her Lord and recited Veda Mantrams as the dig gajams performed tirumanjanam for Her (munigaNa maNDita mokshapradAyini). She is saluted by the VedAs as MangaLa devatai and sarva loka priyankari. MadhusUdanan, Her Lord is thoroughly overcome by Her saundaryam, soft speech and MangaLAKaram. He is always under Her enchantment (vaSIkaraNam). Our Lord is Adi Lakshmi-lolan and She is therefore recognized as madhusUdana kAmini.

Each of the ashTalakshmi-s have their own dhyAna Slokam, rUpa varNanam, Mantram with unique bIjAksharam(s) and ashTottara Sata nAmAvaliH for



ArAdhanam and arcanai.

Adi Lakshmi is visualized with two hands, one displaying abhaya mudrA and the other Varada mudrA. She is seen seated on a lotus flower (ambujAsana samstItAm) and adorning many kinds of AbharaNams (sarvAbharaNa bhUshitAm). She has perfect sAmudriKA lakshaNams (sarva lakshaNa samyuktAm) and is adorning a pItAmbharam on Her waist. She is saluted as "saundaryanilayAm SaktIm AdilakshIm aham bhaje". There is an ashTa lakshmi mAla mantram for Her. It has rshi, chandas and devatA besides anganyAsa, karanyAsam, bIjam, Sakti, kIlakam and bIjAksharam(s).

Her arcana starts with akAram and progress to the nAmAs with other letters of the alphabet. Some of the nAmAs starting with akAram with a few other nAmAs are:

akArAyai nama:

avyayAyai nama:

acyutAyai nama:

arcitAyai nama:

anantAyai nama:

amrtAyai nama:

AnandAyai nama:

gambhIra vadanAyai nama:

jagajjananyai nama:

jAgrtAyai nama:

mahA SriyAyai nama:

mahA lakshmyai nama:

trailokya mohinyai nama:

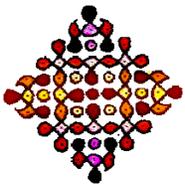
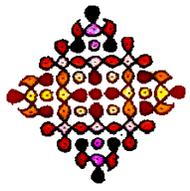




Adi Lakshmi is worshipped for sarva loka, sarva jana, sarva rAja vaSIkaraNam, sarva kArya siddhi, sarvArishTa nivAraNam, and sakala saubhAgyams. There is a mUla mantram for Adi Lakshmi. ParamaikAntis worship Her without seeking any specific phalans.



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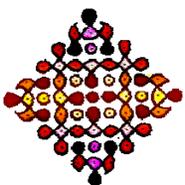
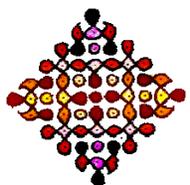


Shri Dhanya Lakshmi .



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SrI dhAnyalakshmi (Artwork Courtesy Sou R Chitrālekha)



धान्यलक्ष्मी

अहिकलि कल्मषनाशिनि कामिनि वैदिकरूपिणि वेदमये

क्षीरसमुद्भव मङ्गलरूपिणि मन्त्रनिवासिनि मन्त्रनुते ।

मङ्गलदायिनि अम्बुजवासिनि देवगणाश्रित पादयुते

जयजय हे मधुसूदन कामिनि धान्यलक्ष्मि सदा पालय माम् ॥

dhAnyalakshmi (Lakshmi of Grains and essential nutrients)

ahikali kalmashanASini kAmini vaidikarUpiNi vedamaye

kshIrasamudbhava mangaLarUpiNi mantranivAsini mantranute |

mangaLadAyini ambujavAsini devagaNASrita pAdayute

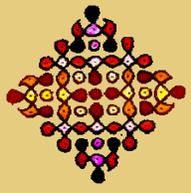
jayaJaya he madhusUdana kAmini dhAnyalakshmi sada pAlaya mAm || 2||

Word by word meaning:

ahikali kalmasha nASini kAmini dhAnyalakshmi sada pAlaya mAm - Oh dhAnya Lakshmi who is very much desired by the Lord and who destroys the ills of Kali yugam (Kali doshams)! Please protect me always from famines and bless me with good crops!

kshIrasamudbhava mangaLarUpiNi mantranivAsini mantranute, dhAnya lakshmi sada mAm pAlaya- Oh dhAnya Lakshmi who arose from the Milky Ocean, when it was churned for nectar! Oh devi of auspicious form! Oh Lady who lives in mantras and is pervaded by the sacred mantras as well as saluted by these mantras! Please protect me always!

mangaLadAyini ambujavAsini devagaNASrita pAdayute! dhAnya lakshmi sada mAm pAlaya - Oh dhAnya Lakshmi who blesses us with all auspiciousness, who resides on the lotus flower and whose feet are sought as protection by the assembly of devAs! Please protect me always!



jaya jaya he madhusUdana kAmini dhAnyalakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm - Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee! dhAnya lakshmi, who is the object of adoration of Lord MadhusUdana!

Comments:

The importance of subhiksham with dhAnyam for human beings and the cattle are linked to dhAnya Lakshmi ArAdhanam. The mantram for Her has Parabrahma Rshi, anushTup chandas and dhAnya lakshmi as devata. mUla mantram for Her has PraNavam followed by MahA Lakshmi bIja mantram and continues with "dhAnya lakshmyai nama:"

In dhAnya lakshmi ashTottara nAmAs, PraNavam, SrI bIjam and sakti bIjam are placed before individual nAmAs. We will illustrate the dhAnya lakshmi ashTottarams with the kakAra prayogam:

kASmIra vAsinyai nama:

kAdambaryai nama:

kauSikyai nama:

krta mAlAyai nama:,

koSa vardhinyai nama:

khanaye nama:,

khasthAyai nama:

gItyai nama:

gItAya nama:

and

gAyatryai nama:

dhAnya Lakshmi is indeed the remover of Kali doshams, which cause anAvritti (droughts), ativrshTi (excessive rains/floods), which interfere with the





successful harvest and harmony among men and society. The other Kali doshams like aj~nAnam, viparIta j~nAnam, which are also removed through Her anugraham.

The concept of samAja (society) is quite different from the concept of ethnic, sectarian groups (samaja) with narrow visions. Great civilizations on the Indus and Ganges valley arose from the riparian culture benefiting from agricultural developments that produced abundant dhAnyams, cattle due to the blessings of dhAnya Lakshmi. Among the five kinds of "cattle" including man with two rows of teeth are : the horse (aSva), the cow (go), the goat (aja), the ewe (avi) and man (manushya). From that cosmic sacrifice arose other domesticated animals (grAmya paSu) and flying animals (vAyavya) and wild (AraNya paSu) animals. Men born out of that cosmic sacrifice were grouped under the four varNAS with individual dharmams. There is a paSu samvardhana sUktam in atharva Vedam (atharva veda II.26) for animal husbandry in view of the importance of "paSus" and "dhAnyam" in the chain of men and society adhering to dharmic values (atharva veda II.26.3): "Together, let cattle flow, together horses and together men, together the fatness that is of grain; I offer with an oblation of confluence:

सं सं स्रवन्तु पशवः समश्वाः समु पूरुषाः ।

सं धान्यस्य या स्फातिः संस्राव्येण हविषा जुहोमि ॥

sam sam sravantu paSava: samaSvA: samu pUrushA: |

sam dhAnyasya yA sphAti: samsrAvyena havishA juhomi ||

From paSus thriving on grassland and forests (vanam) to men cultivating grains, fruits and herbs (ओषधि oshadhi-s) like Soma plant arises the yAga-yaj~nams for the well being of the society. The performer of those yAgams like the recent one performed at KeraLa (atirAtram) salute the Supreme Being and thank Him as in the HiraNyagarbha hymn of the Rg Veda (X.121.4):

"By Him, the heavens are strong and earth is steadfast; by Him light's realm and sky-vault are supported; by Him the regions in mid-air are measured. To that Lord

alone, May we offer our adorations".

dhAnyA Lakshmi acts as His KriyA Sakti; abundant and timely rains fall as envisaged by GodA PirATTi in Her third pAsuram of TiruppAvai (Ongi ulakaLanta uttaman pEr pADi) to observe the pAvai nOnbu.

dhAnyA Lakshmi is saluted in this dhyAna Slokam with eleven more nAmAs besides kali kalmasha nASini such as:

kAmini, vaidika rUpiNi, vedamayI, kshIrasamudbhavA, mangaLa rUpiNi, mantra-nivAsini, mantranute, mangaLa dAyini, ambuja vAsini, devagaNASrita padA and madhusUdana kAmini

This Lakshmi, who arose out of the Milky Ocean (kshIra samudra udbhavA) sits on a lotus flower (ambuja vAsini) and is a conferrer of all kinds of auspiciousness (mangaLa dAyini). Her sacred feet are resorted to as the means for Moksham by the devAs (devagaNASrita pAdA). She is the darling of MadhusUdana (madhusUdana kAmini), who can not reject Her recommendations to grant Moksham to those who approached Her. She is therefore the most desired goddess for men and the devAs (kAmini). She is of auspicious form (mangaLa rUpiNi) and is the embodiment of AcAram and anushThAnam needed for successful conclusion of yAgams and yaj~nams (vaidika rUpiNi). She resides inside mantrAs (mantra nivAsini) and therefore pervades the Veda mantrAs (vedamayI).

She is eulogized by Her mUla mantrAs and bIjAksharams and mAIA mantrams (mantranute). The prayer by the sAdhaka is for Her protection always (dhAnyA lakshmi sada pAlaya)!



धैर्यलक्ष्मी

जयवरवर्णिनि वैष्णवि भार्गवि मन्त्रस्वरूपिणि मन्त्रमये

सुरगणपूजित शीघ्रफलप्रद ज्ञानविकासिनि शास्त्रनुते ।

भवभयहारिणि पापविमोचनि साधुजनाश्रित पादयुते

जयजय हे मधुसूदन कामिनि धैर्यलक्ष्मि सदा पालय माम् ॥

dhairyalakshmi

jayavaravarNini vaishNavi bhArgavi mantrasvarUpiNi mantramaye

suragaNapUjita SIghraphalaprada j~nAnavikAsini SAstranute |

bhavabhaya-hAriNi pApavimocani sAdhujanASrita pAdayute

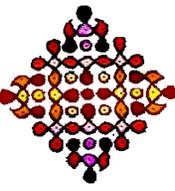
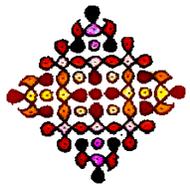
jayaJaya he madhusUdana kAmini dhairyalakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm || 3||

Word by word meaning:

jayavaravarNini vaishNavi bhArgavi dhairyalakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm - Oh dhairya Lakshmi (the Lakshmi of Courage/Valor)! The best among the beautiful women! Oh VishNu Sakti svarUpiNi! Oh One who incarnated as the daughter of Bhrgu Maharshi in response to His penance! Please protect me always!

suragaNa-pUjita j~nAnavikAsini SIghraphalaprada SAstranute dhairya lakshmi mAm sadA pAlaya - Oh dhairya Lakshmi eulogized by the SAstrAS and worshipped by the assembly of devAS! Oh devi! You expand the j~nAnam of those who worship You and grant them the desired boons very quickly! Please protect me always!

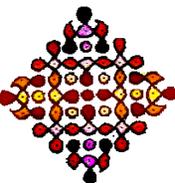
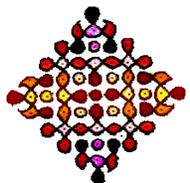
bhavabhaya-hAriNi pApa-vimocani sAdhujanASrita pAdayute! dhairya lakshmi! sadA mAm pAlaya! - Oh dhairya Lakshmi who destroys our fears about samsAric afflictions! Oh devi who liberates us from our crushing sins! Oh devi with the (sacred) pair of feet held by the holy people as their means and goal for moksham! Please protect me always!



Shri Veera Lakshmi or Dhairya Lakshmi



SrI dhairyalakshmi (Artwork courtesy Sou R Chitralkha)





jaya jaya he madhusUdana kAmini dhairya lakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm - Oh dhairya Lakshmi, the darling of MadhusUdanan! Hail unto Thee! May Thou be victorious! Please protect me always!

Comments:

VaishNavi means the worshipper of VishNu. Here dhairya Lakshmi is the Parama VaishNavi, who worships MahA VishNu, the Parama VaishNavan, Her AcAryan and divine consort. She is a Sakti who emanated from Lord VishNu. Her famous temple is near Jammu in a mountainous cave. She is of exquisite beauty and has a young bewitching form. Her other famous temple is at Avadi near Chennai and was built by "Saadhu" PaarthasArati Swamy. He is one of the sAdhu janams referred to in this dhyAna Slokam.

vara varNini - There are many meanings for the word "vara" (viz.), the best, most beautiful or precious. Vara yuvati for instance means a beautiful young woman. VarNini means woman. dhairya Lakshmi is the vara varNini (beautiful yuvati). She is sarva mantra svarUpiNi. She is sarva tantra svarUpiNi (vide: SrI Lakshmi tantram, ebook # 72 in Sri Hayagrivan series , <http://www.srihayagrivan.org>). She is mantra mayi. Her SarIram is mantramayam like that of Lord HayagrIvan.

SIghraphalaprada - She grants the boons desired by Her devotees very quickly and has hence been saluted in Her sahasra nAmAvali as:

kshipra prasAdini,

vAncitArtha pradAyini

and

drshTAdrshTa phala pradai

The prayer in SrI sUktam, a khila rk of Rg Vedam for desired boons is:

मनसः काममाकूर्तिं वाचः सत्यमशीमहि ।

पशूनां रूपमन्नस्य मयि श्रीः श्रयतां यशः ॥



manasa: kAmamAKUtim vAca: satyamaSImahi |

paSUnAgum rUpamannasya mayi SrI: SrayatAm yaSa: ||

Meaning:

May MahA Lakshmi bless me always with all auspicious things that my mind desires and what is sought with my speech organ along with cattle (cows), food and drinks! May that MahA Lakshmi bless me, Her servant, with the fame (yaSas) as Her SreshTa bhaktan!

j~nAna vikAsini - For a Lakshmi upAsakan, SaraNAgati at Her sacred feet expands His j~nAnam about tattva trayam and Moksha Virodhis and leads to the state of immortality (state of freedom from the cycles of births and deaths) as revealed by SrI sUktam:

श्रियं वसाना अमृतत्वमायन् भजन्ति सद्यः सविधा वितद्यून् (सद्यः समिधा मितद्यून्)

Sriyam vasAnA amrtatvamAyan bhajanti sadya: savidhA vitadyUn (sadya: samidhA mitadyUn)

She is worshipped by the SAstrAs for this reasons (SAstranute).

dhairya /Veera Lakshmi has eight arms holding Sankhu, cakram, bow, arrow and other weapons. Some of the cakAra prayogam in Her ashTottara Sata nAmAvali are:

cityai nama:

candraprAbhAyai nama:

cArave nama:

and

caturASrama pUjitAyai nama:

(One who is worshipped by BrahmaCAris, GrhastAs, vAnaprastAs and sanyAsis)



गजलक्ष्मी

जयजय दुर्गतिनाशिनि कामिनि सर्वफलप्रद शास्त्रमये

रथगज तुरगपदादि समावृत परिजनमण्डित लोकनुते ।

हरिहर ब्रह्म सुपूजित सेवित तापनिवारिणि पादयुते

जयजय हे मधुसूदन कामिनि गजलक्ष्मि रूपेण पालय माम् ॥

gajalakshmi

jaya jaya durgatinASini kAmini sarvaphalaprada SAstramaye

rathagaja turagapadAdi samAvrta parijanamaNDita lokanute |

harihara brahma supUjita sevita tApanivAriNi pAdayute

jaya jaya he madhusUdana kAmini gajalakshmi rUpeNa pAlaya mAm || 4||

Word by word meaning:

jaya jaya durgatinASini - Hail Oh Gaja Lakshmi, who destroys our misfortunes and grants Sreyas!

kAmini - In general, kAmini means a beautiful and affectionate woman. Here, it refers to Gaja Lakshmi, who after arising from the Milky Ocean cast Her glances on Her Lord, SrIman nArayaNan with great affection.

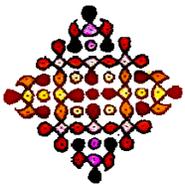
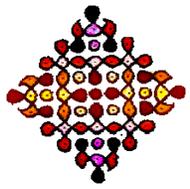
SrI nArayaNIyam describes Gaja Lakshmi's great love for Her Lord this way:

जगधीश भवत्परा तदानीं कमनीया कमला बभूव देवि

jagadhISa bhavatparA tadAnIm kamanIyA kamalA babhUva devi

Her Lord is JagadhISan, the Lord of all universes. She was totally engaged in locking Her eyes on Him since She sought refuge in Him as Her Lord (bhavatparA)

Gaja Lakshmi is indeed Raaja Lakshmi and is surrounded by retinue of elephants,

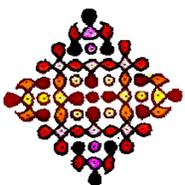
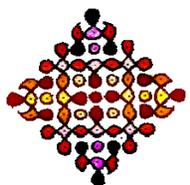


Shri Gaja Lakshmi



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SrI Gajalakshmi (Artwork Courtesy Sou R Chitralkha)





horses and foot soldiers (ratha gaja turaga padAdi samAvrta parijanamaNDita lokanute). She is worshiped by the entire world.

harihara brahma supUjita sevita tApanivArIni pAdayute - She is worshiped by Hari, Haran and Brahma and She has the sacred feet that removes the three kinds of tApams (AdhyAtmika, Adhibhautika and Adhidaivika).

jaya jaya he madhusUdana kAmini gajalakshmi rUpeNa pAlaya mAm - Victory unto You, Oh Gaja Lakshmi, the darling of Lord MadhusUdana, please protect me always through Your Gaja Lakshmi form!

Gajalakshmi - This particular form of Lakshmi seated on the throne of lotus and the dig gajams (eight elephants of the directions) pouring abhisheka water from gold kalasams on Her to celebrate Her coronation as sarveSvari is described in the 13th Slokam of SrI stuti (First e-book of Sundarasimham series, <http://www.sundarasimham.org>) She has four arms and has a white dress (Subra vastra uttarIyaka). There are four praNavams before and after each of Her ashTottara sata nAmAs. Some of the ashTottara nAmams for Her are:

kAmadhenave nama:

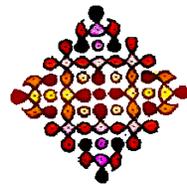
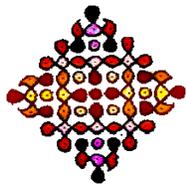
kumkumAngita dehAyai nama:

kulotbhavAyai nama:

shashTi SrI tantra pUjanIyai nama:

geya-vidya viSAradAyai nama:



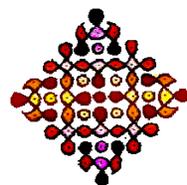
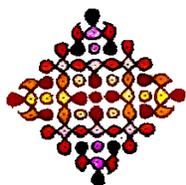


Shri Santhana Lakshmi



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SrI SantAnalakshmi (Artwork Courtesy Sou R Chitralkha)



सन्तानलक्ष्मी

अहिखग वाहिनि मोहिनि चक्रिणि रागविवर्धिनि ज्ञानमये

गुणगणवारिधि लोकहितैषिणि स्वरसप्त भूषित गाननुते ।

सकल सुरासुर देवमुनीश्वर मानववन्दित पादयुते

जयजय हे मधुसूदन कामिनि सन्तानलक्ष्मि त्वं पालय माम् ॥

SantAnalakshmi (The Lakshmi of Progeny)

ahikhaga vAhini mohini cakriNi rAgavivardhini j~nAnamaye

guNagaNavAridhi lokahitaishiNi svarasapta bhUshita gAnanute |

sakala surAsura devamunISvara mAnava-vandita pAdayute

jayaJaya he madhusUdana kAmini santAnalakshmi tvam pAlaya mAm || 5||

Word By word meaning:

ahikhaga vAhini mohini cakriNi j~nAnamaye tvam pAlaya mAm - Oh santAna Lakshmi riding Garuda holding cakram in Your hand! Oh the enchantress of the world and the embodiment of j~nAnam! Please protect me.

rAgavivardhini svara sapta bhUshita gAnanute tvam pAlaya mAm- Oh devi worshipped by the sangItam with its assembly of seven svarAs and who quenches our attachments to worldly things! Please protect aDiyEn always!

guNagaNa vAridhi lokahitaishiNi mAm pAlaya- Oh devi who is the assembly of all auspicious attributes and with caring love towards the hitam of all the world and its beings! Please protect me!

sakala surAsura deva munISvara mAnava vandita pAdayute tvam pAlaya mAm Oh SantAna Lakshmi with the sacred feet worshiped by all devAs, asurAs, sages and humans! Please protect me!



jaya jaya he madhusUdana kAmini santAna lakshmi tvam pAlaya mAm - Hail to Thee! SantAna Lakshmi, the dearest to MadhusUdanan! Please protect aDiyEn!

SantAna Lakshmi has close connections to SantAna gopAla mantram. Two of Her ashTottara Sata nAmAs are:

gopAla rUpiNyai nama:

yadu vamSa jAyayai nama:

Some of the other revelatory nAmAs are:

jagadbIjAyai nama:

amrta prasave nama:

and

mahepsita pradAnyai nama:

Sections of Her dhyAna Slokams are:

BAIAm senAdi samkASAm karuNA pUritAnanAm

mahA raj~nIm ca santAna lakshIm ishTArtha siddhaye

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विजयलक्ष्मी

जय कमलासनि सद्गतिदायिनि ज्ञानविकासिनि गानमये ।

अनुदिनमर्चित कुङ्कुमधूसरभूषित वासित वाद्यनुते ॥

कनकधरास्तुति वैभव वन्दित शङ्कर देशिक मान्य पदे ।

जयजय हे मधुसूदन कामिनि विजयलक्ष्मि सदा पालय माम् ॥

Vijayalakshmi (Lakshmi of Victory)

jaya kamalAsani sadgatidAyini j~nAnavikAsini gAnamaye

anudinamarcita kunkumadhUsara bhUshita vAsita vAdyanute |

kanakadharAstuti vaibhava vandita Sankara deSika mAnyA pade

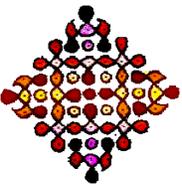
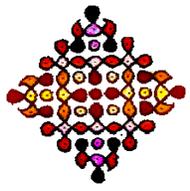
jaya jaya he madhusUdana kAMini vijayalakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm || 6||

Word by word meaning:

jaya kamalAsani sadgatidAyini j~nAnavikAsanai gAnamaye vijaya lakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm - Victory to Thee Vijayalakshmi seated on a lotus, who grants sadgati to Her devotees and expands their Brahma j~nAnam! Oh devi! Thou art pervaded by music from mangala vAdhyams.

anudinamarcita kunkumadhUsara bhUshita vAsita vAdyanute sadA pAlaya mAm - You are covered with kumkumam from the daily kumkumArcanais. You are worshipped with the auspicious sounds emanating from MangaLa vAdhyams such as VeNu, VeeNA and Mrdhangam. Please protect me always!

kanakadhArA stuti vaibhava vandita Sankara deSika mAnyA pade! sadA pAlaya mAm - Oh devi of sacred feet pleased with the stotram of golden rain by the great SankarAcArya and Swamy Desikan! Please protect me always!

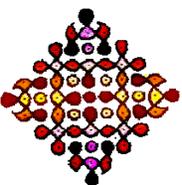
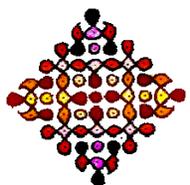


Sri Vijaya Lakshmi



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SrI Vijayalakshmi (Artwork Courtesy Sou R Chitraklekha)



Comments:

The reference here is to Adi Sankara as a BALa sanyAsi when He went around the streets of KaalaDi for His daily bhiksha. He stopped before an old lady's house and requested bhiksha. She was so poor that she did not have any food in the house except a single nelli fruit (Amalakam). She presented to the young sanyAsi that single fruit with devotion. Adi Sankara was so moved by this devout samarpaNam that He sang KanakadhAra stotram to MahA Lakshmi right in front of the old lady and prayed to MahA Lakshmi to remove the poverty of this lady. MahA Lakshmi responded with a shower of gold in front of the old lady's house.

Four hundred plus years later, Swamy Desikan took a poor BrahmaCari to Kaancipuram Perumdevi tAyAr sannidhi and composed SrI stuti in front of Her to alleviate his poverty and make it possible for him to enter in to GrhastASramam. The most merciful tAyAr responded to Swamy Desikan's appeal and showered gold coins in front of the delighted BrahmaCari. SrI stuti is the first e-book in Sundarasimham e-book series at: <http://www.sundarasimham.org>

jaya jaya he madhusUdana kAmini vijayalakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm - Victory to Thee! Vijaya Lakshmi, the dearest One to Lord MadhusUdana! Please protect me always!

Sections of the dhyAna Slokams give a clear description of the royal form of Vijaya Lakshmi seated in Her royal court (darbAr) are:

ashTa BAhuyutAm vijayalakshmiI simhAsana vara sthitAm |

sukhAsanAm sukeSIm ca kirITa makuTojjvalAm ||

SyAmAngIm komalAKArAm sarvAbharaNa bhUshitAm |

khaDkam pASAm tathA cakram abhayam savya hastake ||

rAja-rUpadharAm Saktim prabhA saundarya SobhitAm |

hamsArUDhAm smaret devIm vijayAm vijayAptaye ||

Meaning:

Vijaya Lakshmi with eight hands is seated in sukhAsanam on a beautiful throne. She has beautiful tresses of hair She has a radiant crown on those tresses and has a darkish green complexion. She is adorned with all types of beautiful jewelry. She has in Her hands a sword, noose, cakram and abhaya mudra. Vijaya Lakshmi has royal rUpam and is resplendent with Her beauty. One desiring victory should worship this devi, who travels on the back of a hamsam.

She should be worshiped with NandyAvarta flower (**nandyAvarta priyAyai nama:**) as per the ashTottara Sata nAmAvali. The two other names of Vijaya Lakshmi worth reflecting on are:

caturvarga phalapradAyai nama:

salutations to the One who can grant the four kinds of ultimate goals of life/ PurushArthams)

and

yaj~na vardhinyai nama:

(salutations to the One who nourishes and grows yaj~nams)



विद्यालक्ष्मी

प्रणत सुरेश्वरि भारति भार्गवि शोकविनाशिनि रत्नमये ।

मणिमयभूषित कर्णविभूषण शान्तिसमावृत हास्यमुखे ॥

नवनिधिदायिनि कलिमलहारिणि कामित फलप्रद हस्तयुते ।

जयजय हे मधुसूदन कामिनि विद्यालक्ष्मि सदा पालय माम् ॥

VidyAlakshmi (Lakshmi of Knowledge)

praNata sureSvari bhArati bhArgavi SokavinASini ratnamaye |

maNimayabhUshita karNavibhUshaNa SAntisamAvrta hAsyamukhe ||

navanidhidAyini kalimalahAriNi kAmita phalaprada hastayute |

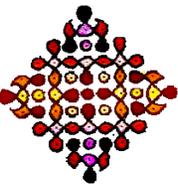
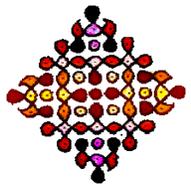
jayaJaya he madhusUana kAmini vidyAlakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm ||7||

Word by word meaning:

praNata sureSvari bhArati bhArgavi SokavinASini ratnamaye - People! Please prostrate before the cherished goddess of the devAs who is the daughter of Bhrgu maharshi and is of the form of Sarasvati! She chases away our sorrows with Her anugraha Balam. She is radiant with all the AbharaNams containing many precious gem stones.

maNimaya bhUshita karNa vibhUshaNa SAnti samAvrta hasyamukhe sadA pAlaya mAm - Oh devi whose ears are adorned with tATangam enmeshed with many precious gems! Oh VidyA Lakshmi with tranquil mien and smiling face! Please protect me always!

navanidhi dAyini kalimalahAriNi kAmita phalaprada hastayute sadA mAm pAlaya - Oh devi who blesses one with nine kinds of wealth, destroys the blemishes of Kali purushan and grants the desired boons with Your Varada hastam! Please protect me always!

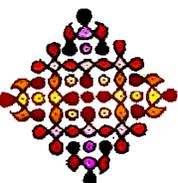
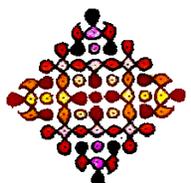


Sri Vidya Lakshmi



SrI VidyAlakshmi (Artwork Courtesy Sou R Chitraklekh)

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jaya jaya he madhusUdana kAmini vidyA lakshmi sadA pAlaya mAm - Victory to Thee, VidyA Lakshmi, the darling of Lord MadhusUdana! Please bless me with Your protection always!

Comments:

Just as SantAna Lakshmi is close to KrshNa, VidyA Lakshmi is close to Lord HayagrIvan and Sarasvati devi as indicated by the following ashTottara Sata nAmAs of Hers:

vAgdevyai nama:

pustaka hastAyai nama:

j~nAna mudrAyai nama:

SAstra nirUpiNyai nama:

sarasvatyai nama:

vANi Sriyai nama:

parA vidyAyai nama:

kavitAyai nama:

nitya j~nAyai nama:

Sabda SarIrAyai nama:

sacchidhAnandAyai nama:

nikhila vedyAyai nama:

bhAshAyai nama:

SabdAyai nama:

gAyatryai nama:

vidyA vidyAyai nama:

Sabda kAriNyai nama:



Sabda baNDArAyai nama:

vINA pustaka dhAriNyai nama:

guru jana vanditAyai nama:

praNava lakshmyai nama:

One of the nAmAs for VidyA Lakshmi is GaayatrI. An atharva Veda mantram (19.71.1) sheds more light on this relationship with its prayer for granting the boon of splendid Knowledge:

स्तुता मया वरदा वेदमाता प्रचोदयन्तां पावमानी द्विजानाम् ।

आयुः प्राणं प्रजां पशुं कीर्तिं द्रविणं ब्रह्मवर्चसम् ।

मह्यं दत्त्वा व्रजत ब्रह्मलोकम् ॥

stutA mayA varadA vedamAtA pracodayantAm pAvamAnI dvijAnAm |

Ayu: prANam prajAm paSum kIrtim draviNam brahmavarcasam |

mahyam datvA vrajata brahmalokam ||

Meaning:

Praised by me is the boon-giving Veda-Mother. Let them sing the devotional hymn of the twice-born. May I attain thereby the life span, the vitality, progeny, cattle, fame, property, the splendor of knowledge; may you proceed to the world of knowledge.

VidyA Lakshmi is also saluted as Sarasvati in Her ashTottara Satam.

A Rg Veda mantram (RV. X.17.7):

सरस्वतीं देवयन्तो हवन्ते सरस्वतीमध्वरे तायमाने ।

सरस्वतीं सुकृतो अह्वयन्त सरस्वती दाशुषे वार्यं दात् ॥

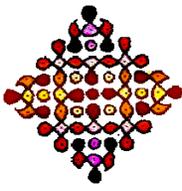
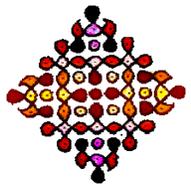


sarasvatIm devayanto havante sarasvatImadhvare tAyamAne |
sarasvatIm sukrto ahvayanta sarasvatI dASushe vAryam dAt ||

Meaning:

Men aspiring for transcendental knowledge invoke devi Sarasvati; when one aspires to undertake sacred works for the good of all (*adhvara*), they also invoke Sarasvati. This Sarasvati (VidyA Lakshmi) blesses all of them, who dedicate themselves for noble ends.



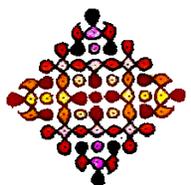


Shri Dhana Lakshmi



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SrI dhanalakshmi (Artwork Courtesy Sou R Chitralkha)



धनलक्ष्मी

धिमिधिमि धिंधिमि धिंधिमि धिंधिमि दुन्दुभि नाद सुपूर्णमये ।

घुमघुम घुङ्घुम घुङ्घुम घुङ्घुम शङ्ख निनाद सुवाचनुते ॥

वेदपुराणेतिहास सुपूजित वैदिकमार्ग प्रदर्शयुते ।

जयजय हे मधुसूदन कामिनि धनलक्ष्मि रूपेण पालय माम् ॥

dhanalakshmi (Lakshmi of Wealth)

dhimidhimi dhimdhimi dhimdhimi dhimdhimi dundubhi nAda supUrNamaye
ghumaghuma ghunghuma ghunghuma ghunghuma SankhaninAda suvAdyanute |

vedapurANetihAsa supUjita vaidikamArga pradarSayute

jaya jaya he madhusUdana kAmini dhanalakshmi rUpeNa pAlaya mAm || 8||

Word by word meaning:

jaya jaya dhimidhimi dhimdhimi dhimdhimi dhimdhimi dundubhi nAda
supUrNamaye, dhana lakshmi rUpeNa pAlaya mAm - Victory and Victory again to
You dhana Lakshmi! You are in full perfection with the dhimi dhimi sounds of big
dundubi drums. Please protect me in Your form as dhana Lakshmi!

ghumaghuma ghunghuma ghunghuma ghunghuma SankhaninAda suvAdyanute pAlaya
mAm - Oh dhana Lakshmi, at the height of ecstasy, as your ManagaLa hArati
proceeds, the sounds of auspicious Sankha nAdam reverberates all around with
the sound of ghumaghuma ghunghuma. Oh dhana Lakshmi rUpa MahA Lakshmi!
Please protect me always!

vedapurANetihAsa supUjita, vaidikamArga pradarSayute, he madhusUdana kAmini
jaya jaya! - Victory, Victory again to You, dhana Lakshmi worshipped by the
VedAs, PurANA-s and itihAsA-s! Hail to You! Oh darling of Lord MadhusUdana!



Hail to You, Oh devi, who reveals the path of the sadgati to the sAdakAs!

dhanalakshmi rUpeNa pAlaya mAm - Please protect me in the form of dhanalakshmi!

Comments:

dhanalakshmi is also referred to as aiSvarya Lakshmi. There are some beautiful nAmAs in Her ashTottara Satam:

gopicandana carcitAyai nama: (this nAma reminds one of Jayadeva's ashTapati: candana carcita nIlakaLebara pItavasana vanamAli).

capalAyai nama: (the nonstationary/capalA/sancala nature of material wealth is indicated by the Tamil word - selvam/selvOm).

nyAya Sriyai nama:

nyAya kovidAyai nama:

vashaT krtyai nama:

SAnti dAyinyai nama:

These have deep meanings that we can not go in to for reasons of expansion of this monograph.

Similar beautiful nAmAs are found in SrI Maha Lakshmi Rahasya nAmAvali ashTottaram used for Her arcanA. Examples of them are:

rUpa lakshmyai nama:

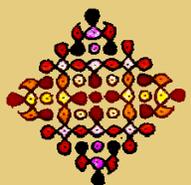
rAjya lakshmyai nama:

vara lakshmyai nama:

varNa laskshmyai nama:

Sourya lakshmyai nama:

sthira lakshmayai nama:





siddhi lakshmyai nama:

sainya lakshmyai nama:

satya lakshmyai nama:

sAma lakshmyai nama:

sasya lakshmyai nama:

mahA lakshmyai nama:

Concluding Remarks:

SrI MahA Lakshmi tattvam is vast. Great AcAryAs have eulogized Her and blessed us with many SrI sUktis. It is important for a SrI VaishNavan to understand clearly the Lakshmi tattvam and expand his awareness of Her Vaibhavam . ashTalakhmI stotram inspired a group of MahA Lakshmi bhaktAs to make the samarpaNam of ashTalakhmi svarNa hAram to Malolan, the ArAdhana deivam of the rAja SanyAsis of Ahobila MaTham, SrImat Azhagiya Singars. It is aDiyEn's bhAgyam to create this monograph to share the reflections of ashTa Lakshmi Vaibhavam with you.

Those who wish to go deeper in to the understanding of SrI tattvam and SrI sUktis extolling Her greatness as our compassionate Mother are referred to many e-books archived in the Sundarasimham, Ahobilavalli, Srihayagrivan, Alamelumanga e-book series. Here is a partial list for your enjoyment:

SrI sUktam (Rg Veda khila rk), e-book # 73, <http://www.ahobilavalli.org>.

Lakshmi tantram (pAncarAtra Agamam), e-books, Ahobilavalli series, ebooks # 82, 100; SrI Hayagrivan series (<http://www.srihayagrivan.org>), e-books #16, # 72

catussloki of Swamy AlavantAr, e-book # 95 of the Ahobilavalli series and e-book #7 of the Srihayagrivan e-book series.

KureSar's SrI stavam, e-book # 53 in the Sundarasimham series, <http://www.sundarasimham.org>



*SrI MAIOlan adorning Swarna ashtalakshmi hAram - SrI MaTham
(Pic Courtesy SrI V Srikanth)*

Swamy ParASara BhaTTar's SrI GuNaratna koSam e-book # 38 in the Sundarasimham e-book series.

SrI stuti by Swamy Desikan, e-book #1 in the Sundarasimham series.

Sri Lakshmi sahasram, full book with 1008 Slokams, meanings and audios of Swamy VenkatAdhvari Kavi's SrI sUkti (<http://www.alamelumanga.org>) as recited by Sri IVK Chari Swamy of ArasANippalai/West Mambalam.

MahA Lakshmi Kritis by SrI Mutthuswamy Deekshitar with audios, ebook # 49 in the Ahobilavalli series.

SrI ashTalakhmyai nama:

dAsan,

Oppiliappan Koil VaradAchAri Sadagopan

// ashTalakhmi stotram sampUrNam//



NOTE: Please enjoy the following Youtube Video of Ashtalakshmi stotra (Video upload by Shanguchakra)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_2Q0JHg63E&feature=related