

Shiva Tandava Stotram

Shiva Tandava Stotram (शिवताण्डवस्तोत्रम्) is a [stotra](#) ([Hindu](#) hymn) that describes the [Hindu](#) God [Shiva](#)'s power and beauty. It is traditionally attributed to [Ravana](#), the [rakshasa](#) (demon) king of [Lanka](#) and devotee of Shiva. Both the ninth and tenth [quatrains](#) of this hymn conclude with lists of Shiva's epithets as destroyer, even the destroyer of death itself. [Alliteration](#) and [onomatopoeia](#) create roiling waves of resounding beauty in this example of Hindu devotional poetry.

In the final quatrain of the poem, after tiring of rampaging across the Earth, Ravana asks, "When will I be happy?" Because of the intensity of his prayers and ascetic meditation, of which this hymn was an example, Ravana received from Shiva powers and a celestial sword.

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Ravana

When Ravana was tired of rampaging across the earth, Ravana returned to Lord [Shiva](#) to request [moksha](#), release from the bondage of endless rebirth. Lord Shiva replied that he had granted Ravana the boon of indestructibility.^{[\[citation needed\]](#)} Ravana's poignant cry in the final quatrain of poetry — "When will I be happy?" is echoed by modern man in his quest for earthly fulfillment and ultimate liberation from its bondage.

A compelling and complex personality, Ravana is for many Hindus a legendary hero, a scholar of immense intelligence and the devoted husband of one of traditional five perfect women, [Mandodari](#). Ravana married Maya's daughter, Mandodari, who was a very beautiful & righteous wife. He had a son by her, named Meghanaada (which means the 'sound of the clouds' or the 'sound of thunder'). Meghanaada defeated Indra, the king of Gods, and earned the title of 'Indrajit'. Ravana's great-grandfather was [Brahma](#) (God of Ultimate Knowledge). He had advanced knowledge of [mathematics](#), [science](#) and [Ayurveda](#).

He was obsessed with his powers and was egoistic, and to display and prove his powers he was about to move [Mount Kailash](#) (the abode of Shiva who was his ancestor God). He managed to lift the mountain but Shiva immediately placed it back just by pressing his toe crushing Ravana's fingers in the process. That is when Ravana sings "Tandav Stotra" and he was spared and blessed with [chandrahas](#) (moon sword by Lord Shiva) considered one of the most powerful weapons in Hindu Mythology.

Text

The [stotra](#) is in the Panchachaamara Chhanda. It has 16 syllables per line of the quatrain, with Laghu (short syllable) and Guru (long syllable) characters alternating; the [poetic meter](#) is [iambic octameter](#) by definition.

सार्थशिवताण्डवस्तोत्रम्
श्रीगणेशाय नमः

Devanagari

जटाटवीगलज्जलप्रवाहपावितस्थले
गलेऽवलम्ब्य लम्बितां
भुजङ्गतुङ्गमालिकाम् ।
डमड्डमड्डमड्डमन्निनादवड्डमर्वयं
चकार चण्डताण्डवं तनोतु नः शिवः शिवम्
॥१॥

Hunterian

Jata tavee gala jala pravaha pavithas thale
Galae..valambya lambitaam bhujanga tunga
malikaam
Damad damad damad daman ninaa davad damar
vayam
Chakara chanda tandavam tanotu naha shivaha
shivam. 1

With his neck, consecrated by the flow of water flowing from the thick forest-like locks of hair, and on the neck, where the lofty snake is hanging like a garland, and the Damaru

drum making the sound of Damat Damat Damat Damat, Lord Shiva did the auspicious dance of Tandava and may He shower prosperity on us all.

Devanagari

Hunterian

जटाकटाहसम्भ्रमभ्रमन्निलिम्पनिर्झरी
विलोलवीचिवल्लरीविराजमानमूर्धनि |
धगद्धगद्धगज्ज्वलललाटपट्टपावके
किशोरचन्द्रशेखरे रतिः प्रतिक्रिषणं मम ॥२॥

Jata kataha sambhrama bhraman nillimpa nirjharee,
Vilola veechi vallaree viraja mana moordhani,
Dhagad dhagad dhagaj jwalal lalaata patta pavake,
Kishora chandra shekare ratihi pratikshanam mama. 2

I have a very deep interest in Lord Shiva, whose head is glorified by the rows of moving waves of the celestial river Ganga, agitating in the deep well of his hair-locks, and who has the brilliant fire flaming on the surface of his forehead, and who has the crescent moon as a jewel on his head.

Devanagari

Hunterian

धराधरेन्द्रनंदिनीविलासबन्धुबन्धुर
स्फुरद्दिगन्तसन्ततिप्रमोदमानमानसे |
कृपाकटाक्षधोरणीनिरुद्धदुर्धरापदि
क्वचिद्दिगम्बरे(क्वचिच्चिदम्बरे) मनो
विनोदमेतु वस्तुनि ॥३॥

Dhara dharendra nandinee vilaasa bandu bandura,
Sphuraddigan tasantati pramoda maana maanase,
Krupaa kataaksha dhoranee niruddha
durdharaapadi,
Kwachid digambare (kwachicchidambare) mano
vinodametu vastuni. 3

May my mind seek happiness in the Lord Shiva, in whose mind all the living beings of the glorious universe exist, who is the sportive companion of Parvati (daughter of the mountain king), who controls invincible hardships with the flow of his compassionate look, who is all-persuasive (the directions are his clothes).

Devanagari

Hunterian

जटाभुजङ्गपिङ्गलस्फुरत्फणामणिप्रभा
कदम्बकुङ्कुमद्रवप्रलिप्तदिग्वधूमुखे |
मदान्धसिन्धुरस्फुरत्त्वगुत्तरीयमेदुरे
मनो विनोदमद्भुतं बिभर्तु भूतभर्तारि ॥
४॥

Jataa bhujanga pingala sphurat phana mani prabha,
Kadamba kum-kumadrava pralipta digwadhuu
mukhae,
Madaandha sindhu rasphurat waguttari yamedure,
Mano vinodamadbhutam bibhartu bhoota bhartari. 4

May I seek wonderful pleasure in Lord Shiva, who is supporter of all life, who with his creeping snake with reddish brown hood and with the luster of his gem on it spreading out variegated colors on the beautiful faces of the maidens of directions, who is covered with a glittering upper garment made of the skin of a huge intoxicated elephant.

Devanagari

सहस्रलोचनप्रभृत्यशेषलेखशेखर
 प्रसूनधूलिधोरणी विधूसराङ्घ्रिपीठभूः ।
 भुजङ्गराजमालया निबद्धजाटजूटक
 श्रियै चिराय जायतां चकोरबन्धुशेखरः ॥
 ५॥

Hunterian

Sahasra lochana prabhrut yashesha lekha shekhara,
 Prasoon dhooli dhoranee vidhuu sarandhri
 peethabhuhu,
 Bhujangaraja malaya nibaddha jaata jootaka,
 Shriyai chiraya jaayatam chakorabandhu shekharaha. 5

May Lord Shiva give us prosperity, who has the moon (relative of the Cakora bird) as his head-jewel, whose hair is tied by the red snake-garland, whose foot-stool is grayed by the flow of dust from the flowers from the rows of heads of all the Gods, Indra/Vishnu and others.

Devanagari

ललाटचत्वरज्वलद्धनञ्जयस्फुलिङ्गभा
 निपीतपञ्चसायकं नमन्निलिम्पनायकम्
 |
 सुधामयूखलेखया विराजमानशेखरं
 महाकपालिसम्पदेशिरोजटालमस्तु नः ॥
 ६॥

Hunterian

Lalaata chatwara jwalad dhananjaya sphulingabhaa,
 Nipeeta pancha saayakam naman nilimpa naayakam,
 Sudhaa mayookha lekhayaa viraajamana shekharam,
 Mahaa kapali sampade, shiro jataa lamastu naha. 6

May we get the wealth of Siddhis from Shiva's locks of hair, which devoured the God of Love with the sparks of the fire flaming in His forehead, who is bowed by all the celestial leaders, who is beautiful with a crescent moon

Devanagari

करालभालपट्टिकाधगद्धगद्धगज्ज्वल
 द्धनञ्जयाहुतीकृतप्रचण्डपञ्चसायके ।
 धराधरेन्द्रनन्दिनीकुचाग्रचित्रपत्रक
 प्रकल्पनैकशिल्पिनि त्रिलोचने रतिर्मम ॥
 ७॥

Hunterian

Karaala bhaala pattikaa dhagad dhagad dhagaj jwala-
 Ddhananjayaa hutee kruta prachanda pancha
 sayakae,
 Dharaa dharendra nandinee kuchagra chitrapatraka-
 -Prakalpanaika shilpini, trilochane ratir mama. 7

My interest is in Lord Shiva, who has three eyes, who has offered the powerful God of Love into the fire, flaming Dhagad Dhagad on the flat surface of his forehead, and who is the sole expert artist of drawing decorative lines on the tips of breasts of Parvati, the daughter of the mountain king.

Devanagari

नवीनमेघमण्डली निरुद्धदुर्धरस्फुरत्

Hunterian

कुहूनिशीथिनीतमः प्रबन्धबद्धकन्धरः

Naveena megha mandalee nirudha durdhara sphurat,

|

Kuhoo nisheethi neetamaha prabandha bandha

निलिम्पनिर्झरीधरस्तनोतु

kandharaha,

कृत्तिसिन्धुरः

Nilimpa nirjharee dharastanotu krutti sindhuraha,

कलानिधानबन्धुरः श्रियं जगद्धुरंधरः

Kalaa nidhaana bandhuraha shriyam jagat

॥८॥

durandharaha. 8

May Lord Shiva give us prosperity, who bears the burden of this universe, who is lovely with the moon, who is red wearing the skin, who has the celestial river Ganga, whose neck is dark as midnight of new moon night covered by many layers of clouds.

Devanagari

Hunterian

प्रफुल्लनीलपङ्कजप्रपञ्चकालिमप्रभा
वलम्बिकण्ठकन्दलीरुचिप्रबद्धकन्धरम्

Praphulla neela pankaja prapancha kaalima prabha-
-Valambi kanttha kandalee ruchhi prabaddha

|

kandharam,

स्मरच्छिदं पुरच्छिदं भवच्छिदं

Smarschidam puraschidham bhavaschidham

मखच्छिदं

makhachidham,

गजच्छिदांधकच्छिदं तमन्तकच्छिदं भजे Gajacchidandhakacchidaam tamantakacchidam bhaje.

॥९॥

9

I pray to Lord Shiva, whose neck is tied with the luster of the temples hanging on the neck with the glory of the fully bloomed blue lotuses which looked like the blackness (sins) of the universe, who is the killer of Manmatha, who destroyed Tripuras, who destroyed the bonds of worldly life, who destroyed the sacrifice, who destroyed the demon Andhaka, the destroyer of the elephants, and who controlled the God of death, Yama.

Devanagari

Hunterian

अखर्व(अगर्व)

Akharva (Agarva) sarva mangalaa kalaa kadamba
manjaree,

सर्वमङ्गलाकलाकदम्बमञ्जरी

Rasa pravaaha maadhuri vijrumbhanaa madhu

रसप्रवाहमाधुरी विजृम्भणामधुव्रतम् ।

vratam,

स्मरान्तकं पुरान्तकं भवान्तकं मखान्तकं

Smaraantakam, puraantakam, bhavaantakam,

गजान्तकान्धकान्तकं तमन्तकान्तकं

makhaantakam,

भजे ॥१०॥

Gajaantakaandhakaantakam tamantakaantakam

bhaje. 10

I pray to Lord Shiva, who has bees flying all over because of the sweet honey from the

beautiful bunch of auspicious Kadamba flowers, who is the killer of Manmatha, who destroyed Tripuras, who destroyed the bonds of worldly life, who destroyed the sacrifice, who destroyed the demon Andhaka, the killer of the elephants, and who controlled the God of death, Yama.

Hunterian

Devanagari

जयत्वदभ्रविभ्रमभ्रमद्भुजङ्गमश्वस
द्विनिर्गमत्क्रमस्फुरत्करालभालहव्यवाट् ।
धिमिद्धिमिद्धिमिध्वनन्मृदङ्गतुङ्गमङ्गल
ध्वनिक्रमप्रवर्तित प्रचण्डताण्डवः शिवः ॥११॥

Jayatvadabhra vibhrama bhrama dbujanga
mashvasa-
-dvinirgamatkramasphurat karaala bhaala havya
vaat,
Dhimid dhimid dhimi dhvananmrudanga tunga
mangala,
Dhwani krama pravartita prachanda taandavaha
shivaha. 11

Lord Shiva, whose dance of Tandava is in tune with the series of loud sounds of drum making Dhimid Dhimid sounds, who has the fire on the great forehead, the fire that is spreading out because of the breath of the snake wandering in whirling motion in the glorious sky.

Hunterian

Devanagari

दृषद्विचित्रतल्पयोर्भुजङ्गमौक्तिकस्रजोर्
गरिष्ठरत्नलोष्ठयोः सुहृद्विपक्षपक्षयोः ।
तृणारविन्दचक्षुषोः प्रजामहीमहेन्द्रयोः
समं प्रव्रित्तिकः कदा सदाशिवं भजम्यहम्
॥१२॥

Sprushad wichitra talpayorbhujanga mouktika srajor-
Garishtha ratna loshthayoho suhrudwi paksha
pakshayoho,
Trunaara vinda chakshushoho prajaamahee
mahendrayoho,
Samam pravartikaha kada sadaashivam
bhajamyaham. 12

When will I worship Lord Sadasiva (eternally auspicious) God, with equal vision towards the people and an emperor, and a blade of grass and lotus-like eye, towards both friends and enemies, towards the valuable gem and some lump of dirt, towards a snake and a garland and towards varied ways of the world.

Devanagari

कदा निलिम्पनिर्झरीनिकुञ्जकोटरे वसन्
विमुक्तदुर्मतिः सदा शिरः स्थमञ्जलिं वहन्
|

Hunterian

Kada nilimpa nirjari nikunja kotarae vasan,
Vimukta durmateehi sada shiraha sthamanjali
vahan,

विलोललोललोचनो ललामभाललग्नकः
शिवेति मंत्रमुच्चरन् कदा सुखी भवाम्यहम्
॥१३॥

Vilolalola lochano lalaama bhaala lagnakaha,
Shiveti mantramuccharan kada sukhee
bhavamyaham. 13

When will I be happy, living in the hallowed place near the celestial river, Ganga, carrying the folded hands on my head all the time, with my bad thinking washed away, and uttering the mantra of Lord Shiva and devoted in the God with glorious forehead with vibrating eyes.

Devanagari

इदम् हि नित्यमेवमुक्तमुत्तमोत्तमं स्तवं
पठन्स्मरन्ब्रुवन्नरो विशुद्धिमेतिसंततम् ।
हरे गुरौ सुभक्तिमाशु याति नान्यथा गतिं
विमोहनं हि देहिनां सुशङ्करस्य चिंतनम् ॥
१४॥

Hunterian

Idam hi nityameva mukta muttamottamam stavam,
Pathan smaran bruvaan naro vishuddhimeti
santatam,
Hare Gurau subhaktimashu yati naanyatha gatim,
Vimohanam hi dehinaam sushankarasya chintanam.

14

Whoever reads, remembers and says this best stotra as it is said here, gets purified for ever, and obtains devotion in the great Guru Shiva. For this devotion, there is no other way. Just the mere thought of Lord Shiva indeed removes the delusion.

Devanagari

पूजावसानसमये दशवक्त्रगीतं
यः शम्भुपूजनपरं पठति प्रदोषे ।
तस्य स्थिरां रथगजेन्द्रतुरङ्गयुक्तां
लक्ष्मीं सदैव सुमुखिं प्रददाति शम्भुः ॥
१५॥

Hunterian

Poojavasaanasamaye dashavaktrageetam,
Yaha shambhupoojanaparam pathati pradoshe,
Tasya sthiraam rath gajendra turanga yuktam,
Lakshmeem sadaiva sumukhim pradadaati shambhuhu.

15

In the evening, after sunset, at the end of Puja, whoever utters this stotra sung by the one with the ten heads (Ravana), which is dedicated to the worship of Shiva, Lord Shiva will indeed bless him with great Lakshmi (prosperity) with all the richness of chariots, elephants and horses.

Devanagari

इति श्रीरावण-कृतम्
शिव-ताण्डव-स्तोत्रम्
सम्पूर्णम्

Hunterian

Iti ShreeRavana-krutam,
Shiva-tandava-stotram,
Sampoornam,

Thus ends the Shiva-Tandava Stotra written by Shree 'Ravana'.

Media Adaptations

Parts of the stotra was recreated as a song in the 2015 Indian film [Baahubali: The Beginning](#) and Lingaa [Tamil Movie]

See Also

- [Shiva](#)
- [Ravana](#)
- [Panchakshara Stotra](#)

References

External links

- [Shiv Tandav Stotram Video \(With Writing\)](#)
- [in English rhyme](#)
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Read in another language

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