

## Need to use a proper script for Samskritam

Even though Bhagavan understands all languages, the power of our Bharatiya languages cannot be matched in expressing our cultural values especially when rising to the plane of conversing with Bhagavan. Of them, the Samskrita bhasha is special in that it is pan-Bharatiya. Hence our scriptures, anushtana paddhati-s and a lot of bhakti sahitya texts are in Samskrita only.

We know that in Samskritam, especially for anushtanam, sound/pronunciation is important. Therefore one should write and read sankalpa shloka-s etc for anushtanam in an appropriate script which is capable of distinguishing all the sounds of Samskritam.

Now the Latin (English) script was evolved for other languages, and we all know the difficulty of correlating spelling and pronunciation even in English. Further, more letters are required to write Samskritam than English as there are more sounds in it. However, since Latin script is widely known, scholars felt it useful to create a Latin-based transliteration system for Samskritam.

In such a system, Latin letters which may be casually applied to different sounds need to be differentiated. For instance in Rama the first or second “a” may denote a long sound. This is differentiated as Rāma or Ramā. Similarly, other marks called diacritics are used to differentiate sounds as in ā ī ū ṛ ṝ ḷ ḹ ṁ ṁ̄ ḥ ṇ ṇ̄ ṅ ṅ̄ ṭ ṭ̄ ḍ ḍ̄ ṣ ṣ̄. Aspirated (mahāprāna) sounds are denoted with an additional h as in k/kh, g/gh, c/ch, j/jh, ṭ/ṭh, ḍ/ḍh, t/th, d/dh, p/ph, b/bh.

However, a system is useful only if followed correctly. If diacritics or added h-s are ignored and we do not read with the intended pronunciation, then the transliteration is no longer useful for its intended purpose. It is very easy to ignore diacritics as they are not in daily use. It would then have altogether been better to use a script which actually has different symbols for the sounds.

Therefore **it is strongly recommended to learn a Bharatiya script like Devanagari, Grantha, Telugu, Kannada etc which has clearly different letters to denote the various sounds.** Our documents are published in many such scripts.

However, with a view to help people who are not able to immediately learn such scripts, we are now publishing documents in Latin transliteration as well as per the system called International Alphabet of Sanskrit Transliteration (IAST). For the above reasons, people should use these as a temporary measure till they learn a Bharatiya script.

The Samskrita varnamala in IAST is given below with Devanagari equivalents:

a अ, ā आ, i इ, ī ई, u उ, ū ऊ, r ऋ, ṛ ॠ, l ल, ḷ ॡ

e ए, ai ऐ, o ओ, au औ, am अं, ah अः

ka क, kha ख, ga ग, gha घ, ṇa ङ

ca च, cha छ, ja ज, jha झ, ña ञ

ta ट, tha ठ, da ड, dha ढ, na ण

ta त, tha थ, da द, dha ध, na न

pa प, pha फ, ba ब, bha भ, ma म

ya य, ra र, la ल, va व, śa श, ṣa ष, sa स, ha ह

hara hara śaṅkara

om

jaya jaya śaṅkara



śrī-vedavyāsāya namaḥ

śrīmad-ādyā-śaṅkara-bhagavatpāda-  
paramparāgata-mūlāmnāya-sarvajña-pīṭham  
śrī-kāñcī-kāmakoti-pīṭham  
jagadguru-śrī-śaṅkarācārya-svāmi-śrīmaṭha-  
samsthānam

## sūrya-arghya-pradānam

### Method of women offering Arghya to Surya

After bathing, wearing clean clothes, tilakam etc, taking clean water in a tirtha patram, this must be offered **thrice every day** with devotion.

It must be done facing **east** in the morning and facing **west** in the evening. For noon, east until midday, and west if it has elapsed.

Pray to Surya with the first shloka. Chanting the second shloka three times, offer arghyam for each repetition.

**Arghya** means to join the two hands joined together, cupped and palms facing up, taking water in them and give with devotion.

### Do-s and don't-s

Arghya must be offered in a waterbody such as a river or in a clean place. If that is not possible, it may be offered in a plate or vessel and then poured away in another clean place.

The water offered as arghya should not get mixed with dirty water. It should not be touched by feet. If it spills where feet might touch it, wipe it away.

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Not only for this, but for any anushthanam, vessels used must be made of traditional metals such as copper, brass etc. Stainless steel should not be used.

If one incurs an ashaucham, one can mentally pray to Surya but perform this only after it has elapsed and one acquires shuddhi.

### Meanings of the verses

**Prarthana:** Come O Surya! You are the thousand-rayed effulgence! You are the ruler of this world! Oh causer of daytime! Please accept my arghyam, showing compassion towards my devotion.

**Arghyam:** O supreme being who shine with many rays! Your brilliance pervades everywhere! You are the one who created this world. You are pure. You are the witness to all the happenings of this world. You are the one that gives the fruits of actions to beings! To you my prostrations!

### ||prārthanā||

ehi sūrya sahasrāṁśo tejorāśe jagatpate|  
anukampaya māṁ bhaktyā grhāṇārgghyaṁ divākara||

### ||arghya-pradānam||

namo vivasvate brahman bhāsvate viṣṇutejase|  
jagatsavitre śucaye savitre phaladāyine||  
(evaṁ triḥ)