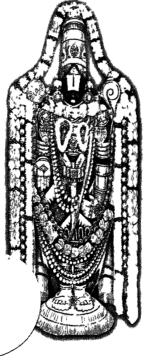


B.V.L. NARAYANAROW



Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Tirupati.

SRI VENKATESWARA SUPRABHATAM

Translated into English

By B.V.L. NARAYANAROW



Published by

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Tirupati.
1999

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T.T.D. Religious Publications Series No: 579

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First Edition: 1999

Copies: 5,000

Price : Rs. 5.00

CENTRAL LIBRARY &
RESEARCH CENTRE,
Acc. No.

Published by

Dr. I.V. Subba Rao, I.A.S., Executive Officer, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Tirupati.

Printed at

Adsprint, Chennai - 17.



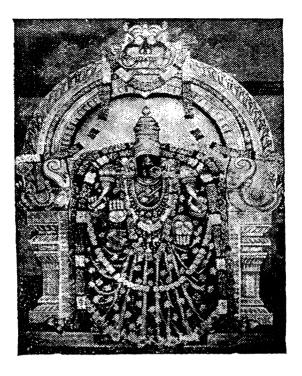
FOREWORD

Sri Venkateswara Suprabhatam along with Stotram, Prapathi and Mangala sasanam constitutes the morning prayer recited daily in the early hours in the sacred temple of Lord Venkateswara. This sublime, soul-inspiring panegyric on Lord Venkateswara is remarkable for its sweetness, subtlety of expression and devotional appeal. Composed by Prativadi Bhayankaran Anna, a contemporary of Sri Vedanta Desika, the Suprabhatam has become so much a part of our religious life that mere listening to its recital brings to our minds the beatific, ever blissful image of Lord Venkateswara.

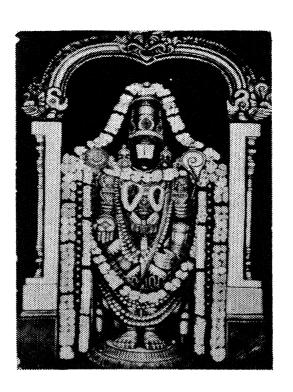
The first verse viz., the *Suprabhatam* is addressed to the Lord beseeching Him to wake up as the day has dawned and the daily ablutions and rituals are to be performed. In the next part, the *stotram*, the devotee submits himself to Srinivasa, seeking His benevolence. It concludes with an appeal for enlightenment, for forgiveness and for acceptance of worship. In third part, the poet upholds the uniqueness of *prapatti* and vouchsafes speedy fulfilment of prayers of those who surrendered at His lotus feet. 'Mangala sasanam', the last part, is an offering of salutations and felicitations to Lord Srinivasa describing His unblemished glories.

The present rendering of this exquisite hymn by Sri B.V.L. Narayanarow is mainly intended for English-knowing readers. His lucid translation and scholarly introduction enable the readers to enjoy the beauty and spiritual significance of this quartet of hymns.

It is fervently hoped that this translation of *Sri Venkateswara Suprabhatam* will help the readers to experience the poetic excellence and spiritual ecstacy of the original composition.



SRI PADMAVATHI AMMAVARU



INTRODUCTION

People all over the world pray, obviously because they believe there is someone who listens and acts. The ardent devotee believes that prayer connects the human and the divine. It establishes a relationship, even kinship with that kingship. It initiates a process by which the human is turned into the divine. Matter turns into spirit.

As he stands before the Lord, the devotee connects himself to a power-centre. That current of divine grace enters into him provided his system has no impurities. The condition of the three-fold purity of thought, word and deed has to be met. What is false cannot accept what is true. Truth can be housed only in what is true. A broken vow, for instance, is a violation of the principle of triple-purity and acts as a barrier to the flow of divine grace.

Who prays of what?

According to the Bhagavad Gita, there are four types of the blessed who pray. First, the man in anguish who finds every other agency he has turned to has failed him and there is no one else to turn to. Second, the seeker who wants to know God, himself and the world. Third, the seeker of wealth. Finally, the sage who knows (B.G.7.16) All the four of them turn to God, each with a different intention.

It is not only the mere mortals but even the heavenly beings pray to make the Lord assume an appropriate form every time to protect the good and punish the wicked. Interestingly, Rama and Krishna, incarnations as they are, also pray whenever they undertake to do great deeds.

Thus, from Avatara Purushas to orphans, from Mahatmas to godmen, from kings to commoners, from priests to politicians, from oppressed nations to harassed women, everyone finds it necessary to pray. They seek one thing or the other, make resolutions, promises and pledges, soliciting divine sympathy and support.

What is a proper mode of prayer?

Whatever the mode of prayer, it is all worship. It is meditation and affirmation. It is a process of purification. It is an attempt to improve one's concentration to enable the mind turn godward. It is an admission of one's own limitations and an acknowledgment of the power of a superior force. It is a display of humility. It is devotion. It is considered an easy path for the emancipation of the self and it is highly recommended by scholars and saints alike.

It is readily seen when the devotee listens to the story of the Lord, sings it, repeats the Lord's name, adores His feet, worships Him, salutes Him, serves Him, is friendly, or dedicates himself.

These nine, enumerated by that great devotee Prahlada in Srimad Bhagavatam (7.5.23) are equally effective ways of prayer since in all these states, the devotee's thoughts, words and deeds are totally God-oriented.

How is language related to prayer?.

Prayer uses language. If prayer is a miracle, language is yet another miracle. Human beings communicate with each other using language. Although it is claimed that language as we know it is used only by the humans, it ceases to be a miracle if it is so restricted. Only because it is a miracle, human beings use it to communicate with the divine.

Our scriptures, folk-tales and personal experiences of many great persons confirm that inter-species as well as intra-species communication through language is possible. When we bless or curse people, there is an implicit belief that language has that miraculous power to make our wish materialize and that our mere saying it is enough for the job to be done.

Why pray early in the morning?

An early morning prayer indirectly tells us that it is not a once-in-a-way activity but should become an everyday exercise. Also, a person can concentrate better early in the morning. The

day gets sanctified and assures the devotee that the rest of the day will go off well since it began with a good session of prayer. Later in the day, the daily chores are likely to be very distracting, making it difficult for the person to concentrate.

The prayer protects the individual from sliding into unsocial, sinful activity during the rest of the day. It reminds him of the need to be unselfish, and of his social responsibility thus awakening his conscience. He becomes a model and an example to others, too.

Where is the Suprabhatam recited?

The Suprabhatam is recited every morning in the famous temple of Sri Venkateswara at the pilgrim town of Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, and many other temples of Sri Venkateswara in India and other countries.

It is recited by devotess in many Indian homes. It is broadcast over All India Radio in its morning devotionals.

The main temple is located at Tirumala, uphill from Tirupati and attracts thousands of pilgrims daily. They come by rail, road and air

The Lord is also known as Balaji, Govinda, Srinivasa and Venkatesa. Pilgrims worship the Lord in various ways. They donate money, attend various daily pujas, roll around the temple to fulfil a vow, get their heads tonsured, and even perform the wedding of the Lord sometimes to redeem their pledges.

However, they prefer most to attend the early morning prayer session where the temple priests awaken the Lord chanting sonorously these slokas in Sanskrit.

How is the Suprabhatam organized?

The Suprabhatam is in for sections.

		Verses
Section - 1	Early morning prayer	1-29
Section - 2	In praise of the Lord	1-11
Section - 3	Supplication	1-16
Section - 4	Benediction	1-14

What is the theme of the Suprabhatam?

There are several themes and sub-themes in the text of Suprabhatam. It is reflective of the individual as well as the collective beliefs of the devotees.

It describes the Lord as the Formless Absolute Reality as well as the Formful, spectacular, benign, favorite, personal God. The devotee can choose whichever form he is comfortable with to meditate on the Supreme.

The first section is named Suprabhatam. But the entire prayer is known as Suprabhatam, too. It considers the Lord as King-emperor with all the royal prerogatives and privileges of the Ruler.

In fact, it equates Sri Venkatesa with the incarnation of Rama. The very first verse is from Valmiki's Ramayana wherein Sage Viswamitra awakens the young Rama, urges Him to be worthy of his parentage, announces the day-break and instructs Him to perform His daily spiritual routine. (1.1.)

Thus, Sri Venkatesa is seen as a variant and continuation of Rama, that is of Vishnu, and is not exempt from going through the daily spiritual exercises which He has to go through. The King as Guardian has to be active, free from sloth.

Since the Ramayana is entitled to the same respect as the Vedas, the Suprabhatam as an elaboration of a single sloka, awakens the Supreme here on earth, and is entitled to the same respect as the Ramayana.

Incidentally, Viswamitra establishes the Suprabhatam convention, of awakening the Lord in the morning.

Along with the Lord, His inseparable companion, His spouse Lakshmi is also urged to get up and assist the Lord in performing His duties.

The forms of the Lord and His spouse are described in great detail (1.3,4,13,23). They show the high degree of concentration the composer has and lead the devotee chanting these verses to focus on those forms and meditate. Such meditation eventually leads to his emancipation.

Early in the morning the other gods, the sages such as Narada, the priests, the saints and the yogis come to awaken the Lord and wait patiently for His darshan (1.5,6,9,14,16,25,27). His appointees then proceed to perform the duties He assigned them (1.17).

Every one is subordinate to Him and derives his power only through His power and authority and exercises it with His consent (1.18,19).

The Lord's devotee is considered superior in rank to the highest of the celestial rulers. (1.18) The Lord left Vaikuntha and made the hills of Tirupati His abode.

All heavenly glory is now in Tirupati so much so those proceeding to heaven change their mind, attracted by the location and the presence of Sri Venkatesa, decide to remain close to the Lord of Tirupati making the earth their new home. They worry that his eon may soon end. (1.19,20)

He is the Creator of this Creation. The parrots and the bees greet him musically (1.8,10). The living and the non-living are loyal to the Lord, glad that they could serve Him and adore His spectacular Form.

He excels Cupid (1.23). He loves His spouse dearly. He is fault-free (1.24). He assumed the ten incarnations (1.24).

The birds, the beasts, the insects and every living being admit his suzerainty. He helps His devotees escape the cycle of births and deaths. The Upanishads proclaim His glory (1.28).

He fulfills every wish of his devotees. The recitation of these verses is fruitful – the devotee is guaranteed self-realization (1.29).

The second section is in praise of the Lord and prays for His success. He is seen as a great romantic with Lakshmi for His permanent bosom companion. He is, therefore, the same as Vishnu (2.1).

No other god is a match to Him (2.9). The devotee can count on His compassion. He knows no other god (2.8,9). He is

Krishna who drew the milkmaids to him through his melodious music on the flute (2.5). He is Rama, the best of the Raghu clan and conqueror of Ravana, too. Sita cherishes His company (2.6).

The devotee praises His Form, His friendly nature, His very supportive brothers, and His skill in archery. And assures Him of his total devotion to Him (2.8).

The devotee bargains with Sri Venkatesa to give him the rewards of daily worship though he made the pilgrimage to Tirupati only once. Quickly, he realizes his error and begs for forgiveness for all his misdeeds (2.10,11).

The third section is supplication. It is surrender, total and irreversible. The devotee is engulfed by his worldly preoccupations. There are several factors, internal and external, that are inimical to his spiritual development. He needs to be rescued. He falls at the feet of the Lord and His spouse. The Lord's soles have distinctive features to confirm He is Vishnu (3.1.5).

His Feet are so sensitive that even the tender hand of His spouse hurts Him when she massages them. They confirm their description in the scriptures that they ooze honey. Scriptural testimony is indeed trustworthy (3.7,10).

It is impertinent to compare His Feet to lotuses because they are more tender. The glow of the Lord's Toe-nails outshines the moon (3.6)

Great gods fall at His Feet (3.9).

The very same Feet of the Lord the devotee carries on his head, and across time Sri Venkatesa's Feet were the same as Krishna's. This reiterates the findings of the Upanishads (3.11,12).

The Lord's Feet, like a mother's bosom, provide easy access and food-security to the child and help overcome the fear of death. They reassert that Sri Venkatesa is indeed Krishna, that is, Vishnu (3.14,12).

The Hand of Krishna pointed His feet to Arjuna asking him to surrender himself to the Lord. It continues now, as the Hand of Sri Venkatesa, to communicate the same message to the devotee (3.11).

This is to tell us that total surrender to the Lord for selfrealization is valid at all times and that Sri Venkatesa is the same as Sri Krishna, the incarnation of Vishnu.

The composer shows enormous respect for his Guru for without the Guru's blessings, nothing could be understood. The Guru could save his disciples from falling into the ocean of birth and death.

Such a great Guru recommended falling at the Lord's Feet to establish an unbreakable relationship that guaranteed salvation in the end (3.15).

The Lord is inseparable from His Spouse and She is as powerful as He is (3.16).

The fourth section is benediction, a ceremonial prayer seeking divine protection to the divine. The fear that something can go wrong makes the author invoke divine intervention. The evil-eye of someone may do damage even to the Lord because He is embodied. Again the devotee feels that by seeking the help of the heavenly forces, he can ward off the possible ill-effects of such evil eyes. Furthermore, there is the belief that there are the 'tathaa astu' celestials who keep saying 'may it be so' to every uttered wish.

As the Spouse of Lakshmi, the affluent Sri Venkatesa is the rescuer of the needy. His abode is well-known and the devotee can approach Him. He is the Eye of all the worlds (4.1,2).

His beautiful Form is enrapturing (4.34).

He is Formless, too. And in that mode, Sri Venkatesa is eternal, absolutely perfect, true, happy, omniscient and omnipotent (4.5).

Sri Venkatesa is the soul, the inner spirit of every being. He is the Supreme; He is Brahman. He has no wishes of His

own which need fulfillment. Devotees find Him so attractive that they want to remain in His presence all the time (4.6,7,8).

Just in case the devotee forgets himself in Sri Venkatesa's presence, there is the Lord's Hand showing him the Lord's Feet. Sri Venkatesa is prompting the devotee to give up and then turn godward (4.9).

The Lord's compassionate look sprinkles the universe, providing relief (4.10).

Vishnu, weary of Vaikuntha, moved over to Tirumala and is enjoying water-sports with His Spouse here in the Lord's pool (4.12).

May Sri Venkatesa, present everywhere, and who, more so is constantly in the thoughts of Saint Manavala, always succeed, is the prayer of the author (4.13).

Here, the composer ends the Suprabhatam by invoking divine blessings for his teacher and the many predecessor generations of teachers engaged in teaching self- realization to the devotees. The belief here is that great truths reveal themselves to a genuine devotee only with the help of a competent spiritual instructor (4.14).

Thus, the Suprabhatam is an attempt to awaken the Lord from His yoganidra, transcendental sleep. Reciting is bound to reduce and finally eliminate a person's ahamkara, egotism. It is said that ahamkara tends to make mountains of other people's mistakes and mole-hills of our own. The Suprabhatam initiates a process to turn matter into spirit. It makes the devotee ecologically aware of the beautiful world around him and how even gods are appreciative of it. It shows the importance of faith, the miraculous power of language to communicate, and the importance of everyday exercise for spiritual, mental and physical health. It shows the importance of the Guru who alone can show God. It is an aid to self-purification. That is a great reward.

My translation greatly profited from the suggestions made by Mahamahopadhyaya Pullela Sriramachandrudu, Sri Yellam-

raju Srinivasa Rao, Sri C. Ramabrahmam, Sri Kamisetty Srinivasulu and Sri Vakati Panduranga Rao, Sri B. Srinivas Rao and Smt. Vaagdevi. I found the Oxford Book of Prayer and the write-ups of of spiritual discourses published daily in The Hindu instructive. The shortcomings that remain are entirely mine.

I am grateful to Dr. I.V. Subba Rao, I.A.S., Executive Officer, TTD and the Publication Committee, TTD, for agreeing to publish this translation to enable the English knowing public all over the world appreciate the text and the tradition of Sri Venkateswara Suprabhatam.

> tvadiiyam vastu govinda. tubhyam eva samarpaye 'Lord. I am offering to you what, in fact, is yours'.

G-13 Gayatri Towers Street-1 Tarnaka, Hyderabad -17. March 31, 1999

B.V.L. Naravanarow.

śrirastu śri śrinivāsa parabrahmaņe namaḥ śriyai śri padmāvatyai namaḥ

Section – 1 Śrī Veṅkaṭeśa Suprabhātam

kausalyā suprajā rāma!	
pūrvā sandhyā pravartate,	
uttișțha nara śārdūla!	
kartavyam daivam āhnikam.	1
uttisthottistha govinda!	

uttiṣṭha garuḍadhvaja! uttiṣṭha kamalākānta! trailokyaṁ maṅgaḷaṁ kuru.

mātas samasta jagatām madhukaiṭabhāreḥ vakṣovihāriṇi manohara divyamūrte, śrisvāmini śritajanapriya dānaśile śrivenkateśa dayite tava suprabhātam.

Section – 1 Śrī Veńkateśa Suprabhātam EARLY MORNING PRAYER

Arise, Rama!	
Precious child	
of the noble Kausalya	
It's twilight in the East	
Wake up, Rama,	
The best among men!	
You should perform	
your morning ritual!	1
Get up, Govinda	
Get up, Govinda, get up,	
Lord of the eagle banner!	
Get up, the Spouse of Lakshmi	
Bestow the auspicious	
on all the three worlds.	2
Arise, Lakshmi	
Mother of all the worlds,	
Resident of Vishnu's Bosom	
Enchanting celestial Form	
Bright Chief,	
Benefactor of those seeking	
Your protection!	
Spouse of Lord Venkatesa	
Good morning!	3

tava suprabhātam aravinda locane bhavatu prasannamukha candra maṇḍale, vidhi śaṅkarendravanitābhir arcite vṛṣaśailanātha dayite dayānidhe.

4

atryādi sapta ṛṣayas samupāsya sandhyām ākāśa sindhu kamalāni manoharāṇi, ādāya pādayugam arcayitum prapannāḥ śeṣadri śekhara vibho! tava suprabhātam.

5

pañcānanābjabhava ṣaṇmukha vāsavādyāḥ traivikramādi caritam vibudhāḥ stuvanti, bhāṣāpatiḥ paṭhati vāsara śuddhim ārāt śeṣādri śekhara vibho tava suprabhātam.

б

Good morning,
Lotus-eyed Goddess
with a benevolent, bright Face
like the moonlight,
You are worshipped by the spouses
of Brahma, Sankara and Indra,
Spouse of the Lord
of the Vrisha Hill,
Ocean of Compassion!

4

The seven sages

Atri and the rest of the seven sages who sought Your refuge completed their twilight prayers, brought the lovely lotuses from the celestial cascade to worship at Your Feet!

Lord of the summit of Seshadri, Good morning to You!

5

Recitations

Maheswara, Brahma, Kumara, Indra and the rest are reciting the stories of Your many manifestations Brihaspati, close by, is reading out the star-chart. Lord of the summit of Seshadri, Good morning to You!

īṣat praphulla sarasīruha nārikeļa pūga drumādi sumanohara pāļikānām, āvāti mandam anilaḥ saha divyagandhaiḥ śeṣādri śekhara vibho tava suprabhātam.

7

unmilya netra yugam uttamapañjarasthāḥ pātrāvaśiṣṭa kadaļi phala pāyasāni, bhuktvā salilam atha keļiśukāḥ paṭhanti śeṣādri śekhara vibho tava suprabhātam.

8

tantrī prakarsa madhura svanayā vipaņcyā gāyaty ananta caritam tava nārado'pi, bhāsāsamagram asakṛtkaracāra ramyam śeṣādri śekhara vibho tava suprabhātam.

The breeze

The breeze carries gently with it the heavenly aroma of the just blooming lotuses, the coconuts and the other flowers Lord of the summit of Seshadri, Good morning to You!

7

The parrots sing

The playful parrots open their eyes wide, eat the banana-splits and the sweetened milk-dish in the bowls They greet you musically, Lord of the summit of Seshadri, Good morning to You!

8

Sage Narada

And the sage Narada, is here, too, playing on his veena melodiously, and reciting your endless legends, dramatically waving his hands again and yet again.

Lord of the summit of Seshadri, Good morning to You!

bhṛṇgāvaļi ca makaranda rasānuviddha jhankāra gita ninadaiḥ saha sevanāya, niryāty upānta sarasikamalodarebhyaḥ śeṣādri śekhara vibho tava suprabhātam.

10

yoṣāgaṇena vara dadhni vimathyamāne ghoṣālayeṣu dadhi manthana tivra ghoṣāḥ, roṣāt kaliṁ vidadhate kakubhaś ca kumbhāḥ śeṣādri śekhara vibho tava suprabhātam. 11

padmeśa mitra śatapatra gatālivargāh hartum śriyam kuvalayasya nijanga lakṣmyā, bheri ninadam iva bibhrati tivra nadam sesādri śekhara vibho tava suprabhātam. 12

The	hees	hum

The bees, honey-fed, hum their music and come out of the lotuses in the lake close by to worship you.

Lord of the summit of Seshadri, Good morning to You!

10

The pots compete with the quarters

The milkmaids churn the curd-pots in their homes.

The echo and the re-echo sound like an altercation between the quarters and the pots.

Lord of the summit of Seshadri, Good morning to You!

11

The bees compete with the drums

The clusters of bees resting in the sun-friendly lotuses with a hundred petals as if to drive out the gleam ensuing from the dark flowers with their own light, hum furiously like they are beating the wardrums Lord of the summit of Seshadri, Good morning to You!

srīmann abhīṣṭa varadākhila loka bandho śrī śrīnivāsa jagadeka dayaikasindho, śrī devatā gṛha bhujāntara divyamūrte! śrī veṅkaṭācalapate tava suprabhātam.

13

śri svāmi puṣkariṇikāplava nirmalāṅgāḥ śreyo'rthino hara viriñci sanandanādyāḥ, dvāre vasanti varavetra hatottamāṅgāḥ, śri veṅkaṭācalapate tava suprabhātam.

14

śrī śeṣaśaila garuḍācala veṅkaṭādri nārāyaṇādri vṛṣabhādri vṛṣādri mukhyām, ākhyāṁ tvadīya vasater aniśaṁ vadanti śrī veṅkaṭācalapate tava suprabhātam.

Rich, friendly, kind Lord

Lord. You grant our wishes

You are everybody's kinsman

You are the home

of the Goddess of Wealth

You are the one and only

Ocean of Compassion

You look splendid with Lakshmi, ever on Your bosom

Lord of Sri Venkatachala.

Good morning to You.

Important Gods awaiting

Brahma, Siva, Sanandana and many more bathed in the holy pond.

With purified bodies.

they are at Your door-step

eager to see You, for their own well-being, though hit with canes on their heads

by Your guards,

Lord of Sri Venkatachala, Good morning to You!

Mountain range

People call Your mountain home by several names such as Srisaila, Seshasaila, Garudachala. Venkatadri, Narayanadri, Vrishabhadri, Vrishadri

And so on, always

Lord of Sri Venkatachala.

Good morning to You!

13

15

sevāparāḥ śiva sureśa kṛśānu dḥarma rakṣo'mbunātha pavamāna dhanādhināthāḥ, baddhāñjali pravilasan nija śirṣa deśāḥ śri veṅkaṭācalapate tava suprabhātam. 16

dhāṭiṣu te vihagarāja mṛgādhirāja nāgādhirāja gajarāja hayādhirājāh, svasvādhikāra mahimādikam arṭhayante śri venkaṭācalapate tava suprabhātam.

17

sūryendu bhauma budha vākpati kāvya sauri svarbhānu ketu divisat parisat pradhānāh, tvaddāsa dāsa caramāvadhi dāsa dāsāḥ śrī venkaṭācalapate tava suprabhātam. 18

The Chiefs of the quarters await

Siva, Indra, Agni, Yama, Nirruti Varuna, Vayu, and Kubera, the eight chiefs of the quarters, their hands respectfully folded and held on their heads, are ready to serve You Lord of Sri Venkatachala, Good morning to You.

16

Your staff begs for privilege

When you go out,
Garuda, the king of birds,
Simha, the king of beasts,
Adisesha, the king of snakes,
Airavata, the king of elephants, and
Uccaisrava, the king of horses
beg of you the privilege,
power and authority
to carry you in parade
Lord of Sri Venkatachala
Good morning to You.

Planet Gods rank below

Surya, Chandra, Angaraka, Budha, Brihaspati, Sukra, Sani, Rahu, and Ketu, the nine prominent planet gods of the divine assembly remain subordinate to the humblest of the humble devotees of the devotees Lord of Sri Venkatachala Good morning to You!

tvat pādadhūļi bharita sphuritottamāṅgāḥ svargāpavarga nirapekṣa nijāntaraṅgāḥ, kalpāgamākalanayākulatāṁ labhante śrī veṅkaṭācalapate tava suprabhātam.

19

tvad gopurāgra śikharāṇi nirīkṣamāṇāḥ svargāpavarga padavīin paramām śrayantaḥ, martyā manuṣya bhuvane matim āśrayante śrī venkaṭācalapate tava suprabhātam. 20

śri bhūmi nāyaka dayādi guņāmṛtābdhe! devādhideva jagadekaśaraṇyamūrte, śrimann ananta garuḍādibhir arcitāṅghre! śri veṅkaṭācalapate tava suprabhātam.

Their worry	
A particle of dust	
off your feet adorns their heads	
and makes them glow.	
They do not care any more	
for heaven and salvation	
away from you.	
They worry about this eon	
coming to an end.	
Lord of Sri Venkatachala,	
Good morning to You!	19
Your place preferred	
People, eligible to go	
to heaven and for salvation,	
on their way	
notice the peaks	
of Your temple tower, change their mind	
and prefer to live on the earth.	
Lord of Sri Venkatachala	
Good morning to You!	20
•	20
Celebrity family and staff Spouse of Sri Devi and Bhudevi!	
Nectarine ocean of compassion	
and such other immortal qualities	
Chief of the celestials!	
The only Saviour for the entire world!	
Most Affluent!	
Ananta, the divine snake, Garuda, the divine bird,	
and many more fall at Your feet	
Lord of Sri Venkatachele	

21

Good morning to You!

22

kandarpa darpa hara sundara divya mūrte! kāntā kucāmburuha kuṭmala loladṛṣṭe, kalyāṇa nirmala guṇākara divyakirte! śri veṅkaṭācalapate tava suprabhātam.

23

mīnākṛte kamaṭha kola nṛsimha varṇin svāmin paraśvathatapodhana rāmacandra, śeṣāmśarāma yadunandana kalkirūpa śrī venkaṭācalapate tava suprabhātam.

Wish	ful	filler

You are Padmanabha, Purushottama, Vasudeva, Vaikuntha, Madhava, Janardana, Chakrapani!
You have the mole Srivatsa
On Your Chest
You fulfil every wish
of those who seek Your refuge
like the Parijata tree!
Lord of Sri Venkatachala.

22

Your form, concern and reputation

Good morning to You!

Your form is more beautiful than that of Manmatha, the God of Love

Your eyes are always on the lotus-bud like nipples of Your spouse!

Your divine distinction is that You are the Home for all those qualities, auspicious and unblemished!

Lord of Sri Venkatachala, Good morning to You!

23

Ten Avatars

You assumed the form of the Fish, the Tortoise, the Boar the Man-Lion, the Vamana, the Axe-wielding Ascetic, Rama, Balarama, Krishna, and Kalki!

Lord of Sri Venkatachala,

Good morning to You!

elā lavanga ghanasāra sugandhi tīrtham divyam viyat sariti hema ghaṭeṣu pūrṇam, dhṛṭvā'dya vaidika śikhāmaṇayaḥ prahṛṣṭāḥ tiṣṭhanti veṅkaṭapate tava suprabhātam. 25

bhāsvān udeti vikacāni saroruhāṇi sampūrayanti ninadaiḥ kakubho vihangāḥ, śrī vaiṣṇavāḥ satatam arthitamangaļās te dhāmāśrayanti tava venkaṭa suprabhātam. 26

brahmādayas suravarās samaharṣayas te santas sanandana mukliāstv atha yogivaryāḥ, dhāmāntike tava hi maṇgaļa vastu hastāḥ śrī venkaṭācalapate tava suprabhātam. 27

Priests await

The learned priests collected in gold-pitchers the holy water from the Ganga, cascading from the sky, and added fragrant spices, Cheerfully, they wait to worship You. Lord of Sri Venkatachala, Good morning to You!

25

The scene

The sun is up. The lotuses are in full bloom. The birds are filling the sky with their chirping.
Your ardent devotees, seek the auspicious, always, pray for Your presence.
Lord Venkateswara.

26

Gods, saints and yogis await

Good morning to You.

The creator Brahma and the others, the best of the celestials, along with the great rishis, holy men,
Sanandana, and other great yogis, are waiting at Your door-step carrying in their hands auspicious materials to worship You
Lord of Venkatachala!
Good morning to You!

lakṣmī nivāsa! niravadya guṇaika sindho! samsāra sāgara samuttaraṇaika seto! vedānta vedya nijavaibhava bhaktabhogya! śrī venkaṭācalapate tava suprabhātam. 28

ittham vṛṣācalapater iha suprabhātam ye mānavāḥ pratidinam paṭhitum pravṛttāḥ, teṣām prabhātasamaye smṛtir anga bhājām prajñām parārtha sulabhām paramām prasūte. 29

* * *

Attributes in a tribute

Home of Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth, the only Bridge enabling the people cross the ocean of samsara

Your glory can be realised only through the Upanishads!

You give Your devotees All that they enjoy Lord of Sri Venkatachala! Good morning to You!

28

Fruits of prayer recitation

People reciting this prayer to the Lord of Venkatachala everyday, early in the morning are surely blessed by remembering the Lord. The remembrance helps them gain The Supreme Understanding easily.

29

* * *

Section – 2 Śrī Veṅkaṭeśa Stotram

kamalā kuca cūcuka kunkumato niyatāruņitātula nīlatano! kamalāyata locana! lokapate! vijayī bhava! veņkaţa śailapate!

sacaturmukha şaṇmukha pañcamukha pramukhākhila daivata mauļimaņe! śaraṇāgatavatsala! sāranidhe! paripālaya māṁ vṛṣaśailapate!

ativelatayā tava durviṣahairanuvela kṛtair aparādha śataiḥ, bharitani tvaritani vṛṣa śailapate! parayā kṛpayā paripāhi hare!

Section – 2 Śrī Veṅkaṭeśa Stotram IN PRAISE OF THE LORD

Prayer	for	Your	trium	эħ
--------	-----	------	-------	----

The red powder on the nipples of Your spouse's bosom is now smeared on Your dark Body.

God of wide eyes, Ruler of all the worlds, Lord of the hill of Venkatasaila, May You always be victorious!

1

Your superiority

You are superior to all the important gods such as the four-faced Brahma, the five-faced Siva, and the six-faced Kumarasvami!
You protect affectionately those seeking Your refuge!
You are the Abode of Strength!
Save me, the Lord of Vrishasaila!

2

Save me, quick

I am full of many misdeeds committed all the time, intolerably and without limit.

Please save me, quickly, with utmost compassion

adhivenkaṭaśailam udāramater- janatābhimatādhika dānaratāt, paradevatayā gaditān nigamaiḥ	
kamalādayitān na param kalaye.	4
kalaveņuravāvaśa gopavadhū śatakoţi vṛtāt smarakoţisamāt, prati vallavikābhimatāt sukhadāt vasudeva sutān na paraṁ kalaye.	5
abhirāma guņākara! dāśarathe! jagadeka dhanurdhara! dhīramate! raghunāyaka! rāma! rameśa! vibho!	

6

varado bhava! deva! dayā jaladhe!

There's no other God

Residing on the Venkatasaila He loves to give generously More than the people ask for.

He has been proclaimed the Supreme by the Vedas.

I know of no other God than Him. The Spouse of Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth.

Magic melody God

Thousands of milkmaids, overwhelmed by the magic melody of His flute, surround Him who is more beautiful than a million Cupids.

He is the Darling of every milkmaid.

I know of no other God than Sri Krishna, son of Vasudeva.

Bestower of boons

Rama, Home of enchanting qualities!
Son of the king Dasaratha!
The finest archer in the world!
The Brave! The most famous of the Raghu clan!
The spouse of Lakshmi!
The All-pervasive!

The Ocean of compassion! Divinity! Please bestow on us Your boons!

6

5

avanī tanayā kamanīya karam rajanīkara cāru mukhāmburuham, rajanīcararāja tamo mihiram mahanīyam aham raghurāmam aye.

7

8

sumukham suhṛdam sulabham sukhadam svanujam ca sukāyam amoghaśaram, apahāya raghūdvaham anyam aham na kathamcana kamcana jātu bhaje.

vinā venkațeśam na nātho na nāthaḥ sadā venkațeśam smarāmi smarāmi, hare! venkațeśa! prasīda prasīda priyam venkateśa! prayaccha prayaccha.

Rama, the Great Soul

Sita, the daughter of the earth loves to hold His hand.

His face is pleasing like the moon and lovely like the lotus.

He conquered Ravana, the king of Demons like the sun dispels darkness.

I want to attain that Rama, the great soul of the Raghu clan.

Rama, the Favourite

He is lovely faced, friendly, easily accessible, joy-giving, blessed with good brothers, well-built, and user of arrows that never miss their target.

Giving up the God of the Raghu clan, I will never ever worship another God.

Very special

There is no other Master, none whatsoever, except Venkatesvara.

I will think of my Lord Venkatesa again and again Hari! Venkatesa! Show me Your beneficence! Give me, again and again

what is good.

9

7

aham dūratas te padāmbhoja yugma pranāmecchavāgatva sevām karomi, sakrt sevayā nitya sevāphalam tvam prayaccha prayaccha prabho venkateśa!

10

ajñāninā mayā dosān aśeṣān vihitān hare! kṣamasva tvam kṣamasva tvam śesaśaila śikhāmane!

A	little	favour
---	--------	--------

I came from far away to worship Your lotus-feet. Please give me the fruits of daily worship though this is a onetime worship

Lord Venkatesa!

10

Apology

I am ignorant, please forgive me again and yet again, the many mistakes I made, the Crest-jewel of the Seshasaila!

Section – 3 Śrī Veṅkaṭeśa Prapattiḥ

iśānām jagato 'sya venkaṭapater
viṣṇoḥ parām preyasim
tadvakṣassthala nityavāsa rasikām
tatkṣāntisamvardhinim,
padmālankṛta pāṇipallava yugām
padmāsanasthām śriyam
vātsalyādi guṇojjvalām bhagavatīm
vande jaganmātaram.

1

śriman! kṛpā jalanidhe! kṛta sarvaloka! sarvajña! śakta! nata vatsala! sarvaśeṣin! svāmin! suśila sulabhāśrita pārijāta! śri venkaṭeśa caraṇau śaraṇam prapadye.

Section – 3 Śrī Veńkateśa Prapattih SUPPLICATION

Controller

Mother, You are the Controller
Of this universe,
The Supreme Lover of Vishnu.
You delight in being His Bosom Companion
And make Him more tolerant always,
Your two tender hands
gracefully hold lotuses.
Seated in the lotus, Lakshmi,
You show fine qualities
such as affection, and so on

Wish-fulfilling Lord

The Ocean of compassion!
The Creator of all the worlds!
Auspicious Lord!
The Omniscient!
The most Competent!
The Protector of the devotees!
You are Sarvaseshin,
The Whole where everything rests!
The Master, the Good!
The most easily accessible God
The Parijata tree making the wishes of the devotees materialise,
Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your Feet!

gloriously, I salute You, Mother!

2

ānūpurārpita sujāta sugandhi puṣpa saurabhya saurabha karau sama sanniveśau, saumyau sadānubhavane 'pi navānubhāvyau śrī venkateśa caranau śaranam prapadye.

3

4

5

sadyo vikāsi samuditvara sāndrarāga saurabhya nirbhara saroruha sāmya vārtām, samyakṣu sāhasapadeṣu vilekhayantau śrī venkaṭeśa caranau śaraṇam prapadye.

rekhāmaya dhvaja sudhā kalašātapatra vajrānkušāmburuha kalpaka šankha cakraih, bhavyair alankṛta talau paratattva cihnaih śrī venkaṭeśa caraṇau śaraṇam prapadye.

tāmrodara dyuti parājita padmarāgau bāhyair mahobhir abhibhūta mahendra nīlau udyan nakhāmśubhir udasta śaśānka bhāsau śrī venkateśa caranau śaranam prapadye.

Your Feet

Your Feet are embedded in flowers. ankle-deep, bettering the fragrance of the blossomed flowers, well-set, benevolent, perceived and yet to be more perceived always.

Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your Feet!

3

Our insolence

Your fresh, fragrant, deep-red, incomparable Feet, make us write in insolent words that they are just like lotuses Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your feet!

4

Designs

The soles of Your Feet have lines specifying the staff, the kalasa of nectar, the umbrella, the diamond, the goad, the lotus, the magical kalpavriksha, the conch and the discusall signs of the Supreme.

Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your Feet!

Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your Feet!

5

Outshining Feet

The soles of Your Feet. outshine the redstone the shins of Your Legs outshine the sapphires the glitter of Your Nails shoots up, driving the moon beams away.

h

saprema bhīti kamalā karapallavābhyām samvāhane'pi sapadi klamam ādadhānau, kāntāv avān manasa gocara saukumāryau śrī venkațeśa caranau śaraṇam prapadye.

7

lakṣmi mahi tadanurūpa nijānubhāva niļādi divya mahiṣi kara pallavānām, āruṇya sankramanatah kila sāndıarāgau śri venkaṭeśa caraṇau śaraṇam prapadye.

8

nityānamad vidhi sivādi kiriṭakoṭi pratyupta dipta navaratna mahaḥ prarohaiḥ, nirājanāvidhim udāram upādadhānau śri venkaṭeśa caraṇau śaraṇam prapadye. 9

Sensitive Feet

When Lakshmi with fondness and fear massages Your Feet with Her tender hands, You find it hurts Your Feet are

Your Feet are so lovely and delicate that no thought and words can describe them well

Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your feet!

Added redness

Sri Devi, Bhu Devi, the equally great Nila and the rest of the heavenly queens with their slender hands massage Your Feet

They add on the redness of their hands to Your Feet making Them look, indeed, more red than they are

Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your Feet!

Offering of lights

Everyday when Brahma, Siva and the rest of the heavenly gods bow their heads reverently, the sparkle cast by the nine gems studded in their crowns, looks like an offering of light to Your Feet.

Sri Venkatesa! I fall at your feet!

9

8

"viṣṇoḥ pade parama" ity udita praśaṁsau yau "madhva utsa" iti bhogyatayāpy upāttau, bhūyas tatheti tava pāṇitala-pradiṣṭau śri veṅkaṭeśa caraṇau śaraṇaṁ prapadye. 10

pārthāya tatsadṛśa sārathinā tvayaiva yau darśitau svacaranau śaranam vrajeti, bhūyo'pi mahyam iha tau karadarśitau te śri venkaṭeśa caranau śaranam prapadye.

11

manmūrdhni kāļiyaphaņe vikaṭāṭavīṣu śrī venkaṭādri śikhare śirasi śrutīnām, cittepy ananya manasām samam āhitau te śrī venkaṭeśa caraṇau śaraṇam prapadye.

Scriptural i	testimony
--------------	-----------

The scriptures proclaim Your Feet the most supreme, that honey that can be relished oozes from Them.

Again, Your downward Palm indicates that it is indeed so, directing us to Your Feet.

Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your Feet!

10

Arjuna, the devotee

As the driver of his chariot You were as good as Arjuna. You showed him Your Feet

advising him to surrender himself to You totally.

Again, here and now, the same Hand is directing me to the same Feet.

Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your Feet!

Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your Feet!

11

Same Footprints

Your Feet grace my head, the hood of the serpent Kaliya, dense jungles, the peak of Sri Venkatadri, the Upanishads, and the thoughts of singleminded yogis, equally.

amlāna hṛṣyad avanītala kirṇa puṣpau śrivenkaṭādri śikharābharaṇāyamānau, ānanditākhila mano nayanau tavaitau śri venkaṭeśa caraṇau śaraṇam prapadye.

13

prāyah prapannajanatā prathamāvagāhyau mātuh stanāviva śiśor amṛtāyamānau, prāptau paraspara tulām atulāntarau te śrī venkaṭeśa caraṇau śaraṇam prapadye.

14

satvottarais satata sevya padāmbujena samsāra tāraka dayārdra drgañcalena, saumyopayantr muninā mama daršitau te śrī venkațeśa caranau śaranam prapadye.

Beautifying Feet

Your Feet have flowers strewn on the earth unfading, and always blooming.

They beautify, indeed the peak of Sri Venkatadri.

They please the eyes and the minds of all the people.

Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your Feet!

Incomparable Feet

Generally, your devotees' looks fall on Your Feet first, when they bend before You

They are ambrosial like the mother's breast sustains the life of her child.

Your Feet can be compared only to each other and to nothing else.

Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your Feet!

The spiritual guide

My Guru's feet were worshipped by the saintly, always.

He could help people cross the birth-and-death cycle, with compassion in his eyes.

He showed me Your Feet.

Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your Feet!

15

14

śriśa śriyā ghaţikayā tvadupāyabhāve prāpye tvayi svayam upeyatayā sphurantyā, nityāśritāya niravadya guṇāya tubhyam syām kinkaro vṛṣagiriśa na jātu mahyam. 16

* * *

Dedication

Laksmi's Master! When you are
The means to salvation,
She is the means, too.
When You are the goal,
She is the Goal, too.
You are inseparable from Her
And without a blemish.
I am in Your service, and never my own,
Lord of Vrishagiri
Sri Venkatesa! I fall at Your Feet!

* * *

Section – 4 Śrī Veṅkaṭeśa Maṅgaḷāśāsanam

,	
śriyaḥ kāntāya kalyāṇa	
nidhaye nidhaye'rthinām,	
śrī venkața nivāsāya	
śrinivāsāya mangaļam.	1
_	
lakṣmī savibhramāloka	
subhrū vibhrama cakṣuṣe,	
cakșușe sarvalokānām	
venkațeśāya mangalam.	2
śri venkatadri śrngagra	
mangaļābharaņānghraye,	
mangaļānām nivāsāya	
śrinivāsāya mangaļam.	3
•	
sarvāvayava saundarya	
sampadā sarva cetasām,	
sadā sammohanāyāstu	
venkațeśāya mangalam.	4

Section - 4

Śrī Veńkatésa Maṅgalāśāsanam BENEDICTION

Heralding

For the spouse of Lakshmi, who is the Abode of all that is auspicious, the Treasury for the needy, the Resident of Sri Venkatachala, Lord Srinivasa,

May it always be glorious!

The Eye

For Venkatesa who looks at Lakshmi with surprise writ large on His lovely Brows, For the Eye of all the worlds,
May it always be glorious!

Blessed Abode

For Srinivasa whose Feet adorn and bless the peak of Venkatadri, For the Abode of all that is auspicious

May it always be glorious!

Enchanting

For Venkatesa, who is beautiful in every limb, who enchants with His beauty all the living, all the time, May it always be glorious!

1

on ventures with our donathin	
nityāya niravadyāya	
satyānanda cidātmane,	
sarvāntarātmane śrīmad	
venkațeśāya mangaļam.	5
svatas sarvavide sarva	
śaktaye sarva śesine,	
sulabhāya suśīlāya	
venkațeśāya mangalam.	ϵ
parasmai brahmaņe pūrņa	
kāmāya paramātmane,	
prayuñje paratattvāya	
venkațeśāya mangaļam.	7
ākāla tattvam aśrāntam	
ātmanām anupaśyatām,	
atṛptyamṛta rūpāya	
venkațeśāya mangaļam.	8
prāyaḥ svacaraṇau puṁsāṁ	
śaranyat vena pāņinā,	
kṛpayā diśate śrimad	

9

venkațeśāya mangalam.

Ind	weller	
	For Venkatesa, who is eternal, Without a blemish,	
	For Sat, Cit and Ananda Existence, Consciousness and Bliss,	
	For the Indweller of every being	
	May it always be glorious!	5
Оm	niscient	
	For Venkatesa, who is Omniscient, the Omnipotent,	
	For Sarvaseshin.	
	the Whole where everything rests	
	May it always be glorious!	6
The	Supreme	
	For Venkatesa, who is the Supreme, Who has all His desires fulfilled,	
	for the Self, the Essence Beyond,	
	May it always be glorious!	7
The	: Ambrosia	
	For Venkatesa, whom people behold unaware of time and all the time,	
	For the Ambrosia such people	
	want more and more,	
	May it always be glorious!	8
Ind	icator	
	For Venkatesa who with His Hand	
	Frequently and compassionately	
	points to His Own Feet	
	as the Goal to people	
	May it always be glorious!	9

dayāmṛta taraṅgiṇyās	
tarangair iva śītalaiḥ,	
apāngais sincate viśvam	
venkațeśāya mangalam.	10
_	
srag bhūṣāmbara hetinām	
suṣamāvahamūrtaye,	
sarvārti śamanāyāstu	
venkațeśāya mangalam.	11
śri vaikuņțha viraktāya	
svāmipuṣkariṇī taṭe,	
ramayā ramamāṇāya	
venkațeśāya mangalam.	12
śrīmat sundara jāmātṛ	
munimānasa vāsine,	
sarvaloka nivāsāya	
śrinivāsāya mangaļam.	13

Cool Sprinkler	
For Venkatesa who sprinkles the universe with His soothing look	
like the cool waves of a cascade of compassion	
May it always be glorious!	10
Remover of difficulty	
For Venkatesa whose Body adds lustre to His garlands, jewels, costumes, and weapons and who removes all difficulties, May it always be glorious!	11
Earth better	
For Venkatesa who is fed up with Vaikuntha, and has come to be near the bank of the pond, and is sporting with His consort, May it always be glorious!	12
Dweller of all the worlds	
For Srinivasa who dwells in all the worlds, and is present in the thoughts of Saint Manavala all the time,	
May it always be glorious!	13

maigaļāsāsana parair madācārya purogamaiķ, sarvais ca pūrvair ācāryaiķ satkṛtāyāstu maṅgaļam.

14

śri padmavati sameta śri śrinivāsa parabrahmaņe namaļ

* * *

Adored by all the teachers

For the Lord worshipped avidly by the predecessor teachers of my teacher and all of their predecessor teachers, May it always be glorious!

14

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T.T.D. Religious Publications series No. 579

Price: Rs. 5.00

