

Sri Rudram

vēda mēka guṇam japtvā tadahnaiva viśudhyati
rudraikā daśinīm japtvā tatkṣaṇā dēva śudhyati

By reciting Veda once, he becomes pure on **that day**. But by reciting Rudra the **very next moment** he gets purified.

Sri Rudram, also called Sata Rudreeyam, is considered an Upanishad, one of 108 Upanishads. It is made up of two hymns, called Namaka and Chamaka. In the namaka hymn, every verse begins with "namo" or "salutation". In the chamaka hymn, every verse contains the phrases "chame", meaning 'and me'.

Sri Rudram occurs in the middle of the Taittiriya Samhita of Sri Krishna Yajur Veda with total of 169 mantras in the 4th Kanda, 5th Prasna, in 11 Anuvakas is always followed by the 11 Anuvakamas of Chamakam found in the 7th Prasna in 4th Kanda. Many times salutations are offered in Sri Rudram and God is always pleased with repeated namaskaras. **An analysis of Pada Paatha of 11 Anuvakas containing 1234 Padas are given in a separate table showing most repeated Pada and its occurrence in each anuvakas.** Rudra in these hymns is not a sectarian deity, but the supreme Lord in several forms enlightening, His omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscience and the Lord of evolution who continuously guides the universe from one level of perfection to the higher one.

It is the only hymn of its kind in the religious literature of the entire world which focuses on the idea of God, not only

associated with the ideas of pleasant and good, but also with the idea of dread and destruction. i.e., that the God permeates everything in manifestation, including aspects deemed not ethical by the purists and fault-finders.

Various meanings are given to Rudra, derived from the meanings of its roots namely "ru", to cry or to teach, "rud", to make a person weep, and "dra" to flow. Hence Rudra is considered as a deity who teaches the supreme knowledge to all; another meaning is, he whose energy flows in everything.

Sri Rudram is a solution or remedy for removal of the five maha pathaka (sins). Sri Rudram is great because it contains the holiest of the holy Panchakshara (five letter) Mantra "Nama : Sivaya." Thus Rudram and Chamakam leads one from Sakama to Nishkaama. Rudra is (Shiva), Agni Swarupa. It is stated that people desirous of all auspicious things have to worship the Agni Svarupa Rudra through Japa, Homa, Abhiseka and Archana.

By watering the tree at the base of the trunk all the parts of the tree including branches, leaves, fruits etc are strengthened. In the same way by worshipping Shiva (1) all his related Devas will be pleased and one will get both the earthly and heavenly benefits including liberation. (2) all the evil manifestations in the neighbourhood and in the village premises will be driven of, (3) all worries/ sorrows will be removed in the entire area.

Vedas, the source of learning is supreme. Next is Rudra Ekadasi in Vedas. "Namashivaya" in Rudram is supreme and in this, the two letter "Shiva" is par excellence. When Rudra is recited 121 times (11²) it is "Rudra Ekadasi", 1331 times (11³) it is "Maharudra", 14641 times (11⁴) it is "Athi Rudram". .

Benefits of Abhisheka and Rudra Japam

Rudram is to be repeated after performing the initial Sankalpa, Puja, Nyasa, Anga. Panchamruta snanam and Dhyanam. The Benefits of Rudra Japam are shown below:

No. of Japa	Benefits of Japa
1 Rudra	Freedom from Bala arishta (Childhood diseases)
3 Rudra	Freedom from imminent difficulties with which one is faced.
5 Rudra	Freedom from the evil effects of certain planets occupying unfavourable positions.
7 Rudra	Freedom from great fear.
9 Rudra	The fruit of one Vajapeya sacrifice; and also attainment of peace of mind.
11 Rudra	Getting the favour of kings and great wealth.
33 Rudra	Attainment of wishes for objects and having no enemies.
77 Rudra	Enjoyment of great happiness.
99 Rudra	Attainment of son, grandson, wealth, grain, Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha and freedom from death.
1 Maharudra	Attainment of the favour of kings and becoming the Lord of great wealth.
3 Maharudra	Fulfilment of impossible tasks.
5 Maharudra	Acquirement of vast lands.
7 Maharudra	Attainment of the seven worlds.
9	Freedom from births and deaths.

Maharudra

1 Atirudra Becoming God.

Materials for Abhisheka: Pure water, milk, sugarcane juice, ghee, honey, waters of sacred rivers, sea water.

For getting rain, Abhisheka should be done with pure water. For freedom from diseases, and for begetting a son, Abhisheka should be done with milk. If Abhisheka is done with milk, even a barren woman begets children. The person also attains plenty of cows. He who desires wealth, should perform Abhisheka with ghee, honey and sugarcane juice. He who desires Moksha, should do Abhisheka with sacred waters.

This book provides Samhita, Pada and Ghana Paatha of Shri Rudram. (Kindly read the note, about the Book) For the purpose of correct pronuonciation of letters/words, a table showing corresponding/ equivalent letters from different languages are given. I will be much obliged to the readers, for their valuable feed back, in rectifying the book, in case they find any errors. Though utmost care has been taken during preparation, I sincerely regret for any errors, that might have occurred or appearing in this book, and request the readers not to consider it seriously with their nobility.

Those who are learning with the help of this book, could approach the Vedic scholars for correct pronunciation, maatra, swaram etc. It is important to note, learning through Guru (teacher) with due respect would be permanent and good to us, as advised by our forefathers.

At this juncture, I would like to express my sincere **gratitude** to **Shri. R Swaminatha Ghanapatigal and Shri. V G Subramanya Ghanapatigal, Mylapore, Chennai** for their

utmost patience, time provided to me, devotion to Veda and sacrificing attitude as an adyapakar (teacher), under whom I am learning Ghana from Krishna Yajur Veda.

Further I would like to express my sincere gratitude and Namaskarams "salutation" to His Holinesses Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetadhipati Jagadguru Sri Jeyendra Saraswati Swamigal and Sri Vijayendra Saraswati Swamigal, Srimatam Samasthanam, Kanchipuram, not only for their gracious "Sri Mukham" to this Book Publication, but also, for their gracious consent to come to Chennai, on 20th June 2002, and Release/ Publish the Book. I think this is my luck, poorva punya and again wants to express my gratitude and namaskarams to them.

I would also like to thank the great people who have provided me with lot of technical, legal, financial and designing advice and more particularly to boys (Chi. R K Vishwanathan and Chi. V Shankar, Mylapore) for their help in Computer Animation, Graphics and Design even at late night during this project and more importantly, to Chi. R Shankar and Sri. S Venkatesan of Coimbatore for translating my introduction note in Tamil with their great efforts.

There is no need to say, the readers could realise, lot of man-hours and money have been deployed, to bring the book in shape. I would like to inform the readers, that this is my maiden publication in book form, that too the Sri Rudra Ghanam. Though other books on **Aasirwada Ghanam in Rig and Yajur Veda** are to be published in near future, I sincerely solicit your patronage to make this venture a success, which rest with the people like you, who are interested in learning Veda.

By learning Vedas, one will be able to discriminate between the permanent and the impermanent. Behold the Self in all beings, in all objects. To realise, that the names and forms are illusory. Fix the mind on the Self when at work. This is the essence of the teachings of the Vedas. Put these things in practice in the daily battle of life. You will shine as a dynamic person /Yogi or even a Jeevanmukta. There is no doubt about this. **Good Luck.**

yō rudrō - agnau yō - apsuya oṣadhīṣu yō rudō
viśvā bhuvanā viveśa tasmai rudrāya namō - astu

We bow to Sri Rudra who is present in fire, in water, in trees and plants and pervaded in the entire universe.

Mandavelipakkam
Chennai-28
Date: April, 4th, 2002

K Suresh
(Shri. Venkatrama Sarma)

Sri Rudram Pada - An Analysis

अनुवाक :	Frequently Repeated Padas											
	च	नमः	वः	नः	ते	पतये	मा	ये	उत	रुद्र	Others	Total
1	4	8		5	13		1	2	6	3	180	222
2	1	26				13					39	79
3	9	34	9			8					43	103
4	17	34	17								34	102
5	30	15									30	75
6	30	15									30	75
7	32	16									32	80
8	30	17									33	80
9	28	19	1								35	83
10	5	1		19	8		14		5	6	171	229
11	3	2	1	2				10			88	106
Total	189	187	28	26	21	21	15	12	11	9	715	1234