

## **a Hymn to Shiva – a Poem by Swami Vivekananda**

(Rendered from Bengali)

Salutation to Shiva! whose glory  
Is immeasurable, who resembles sky  
In clearness, to whom are attributed  
The phenomena of all creation,  
The preservation and dissolution  
Of the universe! May the devotion,  
The burning devotion of this my life  
Attach itself to Him, to Shiva, who,  
While being Lord of all, transcends Himself.

In whom Lordship is ever established,  
Who causes annihilation of delusion,  
Whose most surpassing love, made manifest,  
Has crowned Him with a name above all names,  
The name of "Mahadeva", the Great God!  
Whose warm embrace, of Love personified,  
Displays, within man's heart, that all power  
Is but a semblance and a passing show.

In which the tempest of the whole past blows,  
Past Samskaras, stirring the energies  
With violence, like water lashed to waves;  
In which the dual consciousness of "I" and "Thou"  
Plays on: I salute that mind unstable,  
Centred in Shiva, the abode of calm!

Where the ideas of parent and produced,  
Purified thoughts and endless varied forms,  
Merge in the Real one; where the existence ends  
Of such conceptions as "within", "without"--  
The wind of modification being stilled--  
That Hara I worship, the suppression  
Of movements of the mind. Shiva I hail!

From whom all gloom and darkness have dispersed;  
That radiant Light, white, beautiful  
As bloom of lotus white is beautiful;  
Whose laughter loud sheds knowledge luminous;

Who, by undivided meditation,  
Is realised in the self-controlled heart:  
May that Lordly Swan of the limpid lake  
Of my mind, guard me, prostrate before Him!

Him, the Master-remover of evil,  
Who wipes the dark stain of this Iron Age;  
Whom Daksha's Daughter gave Her coveted hand;  
Who, like the charming water-lily white,  
Is beautiful; who is ready ever  
To part with life for others' good, whose gaze  
Is on the humble fixed; whose neck is blue  
With the poison swallowed:  
Him, we salute!

- Swami Vivekananda