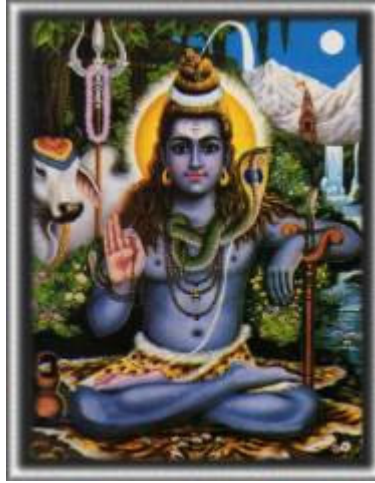


Shiv Chalisa



Lord Shiva is one of the Gods of the trinity of Gods which Hindus believe in, the other two being Brahma and Vishnu. He is known as the destroyer, and destroys the world and the end of all the four Yugs (the four yugs last for 6,480,000 years) for creation to start afresh. He is a unique god in the entire godheads of Hindu belief and is incomparable with any other God. He is moody, free of inhibitions, easy to please, protector of the down trodden, and has the power to alter the laws of destiny. He is Mahakaal, who destroys and dissolves everything into nothingness. But as Shankara, he also reproduces that which has been destroyed and dissolved. His symbol of phallus symbolises this reproductive power.

This prayer (chalisa) praises the Lord and asks for his help in removing all the problems from the devotees life. It is suggested that you focus your mind on Lord Shiva or his image and say this prayer.

*Jai Ganesh Girija suvan, mangal mool sujan,
Kahati Ayodhyadas tum, deu abhaya vardan.*

Hail Lord Ganesh, son of Girija, who is supremely wise and the start of all auspicious events. Ayodhyadas
to grant him the boon of safety and

*Jai Girijapati deen dayala,
Sada karat santan pratipala.*

Hail Girijapati (Shiv, husband of Girija. Girija means mountain, referring to Mt. Kailash, where Lord Shiva is supposed to reside.), the ever kind
Who always looks after and protects his

*Bhal chandrama sohati neeke,
Kanan kundal nag phani ke.*

He has the moon upon his forehead
and in his ears, instead of rings, he has the serpents coiling

*Ang gaur shiv ganga banai,
Mundamal tan kshar lagai.*

He is fair complexioned with the divine river, Ganga, flowing from his hair
Around his neck, he has a necklace of severed heads and his body is smeared

*Vastra khal baghambar sohe,
Chhavi ko dekh nag muni mohe.*

He wears the skin of a panther tied around his waist
Looking at his charming view, the serpents and high sages get enraptured

*Maina Matu ki priya dulari,
Bam ang rajat Shiv pyari.*

The beloved daughter (referring to Parvati) of Maina is sitting on his lap at his feet
She is supremely dear to Lord Shiva

*Kar men soha trishul ati bhari,
Karahi sada shatrun samhari.*

He carries a heavy trident in his right hand
with which he slays the enemies of the world

*Nandi Ganesh soh tanha kaise,
Manas madhya kamal hon jaise.*

With him are Nandi (the bull) and Lord Ganesha
Looking as beautiful as lotus flowers blooming in Mansarovar

*Kartik shyam aur gana rauo,
Ya chhavi barnat bane na kauo.*

He has with him dark complexioned Kartikeya and Ganesh (the elephant-headed)

*Devan jab hee aai pukara,
Tabahin dukh prabhu ap nivara.*

Whenever the celestials (devas) faced problems and came to him
You always solved the problems and provided succour

*Keen upadrava tarak bhari,
devan sab mili tumhari pukari.*

When the demon Tarak wrought havoc
The celestials all called to Lord Shiva

Turat shadanan ap pathayo,

Luv nimesh mahi mar girayo.

Then you immediately sent Sadanand (the six faced Ka
Who, within no time at all, destroyed the

*Ap Jalandhar asur sanhara,
Suyash tumhar vidit sansara.*

You also slayed the demon, Ja
Your glory is well known to th

*Tripurasur sang yuddha machayi,
sabahin kripa kari leen bachayi.*

By fighting and killing the Demon Tr
You forgave everybody and saved t

*Keenha tap Bhagirath bhari,
Purahi pratigya tasu purari.*

King Bhagirath ¹ had performed a rigorous
And by you grace, you fulfilled hi

*Darpa chhod Ganga tab ayee,
Sewak astuti karat sadaee.*

Because of this, Ganga (the river), left her abode and came
That is why your devotees always sing yo

*Ved naam mahima tav gayae,
akath anadi bhed nahin payee.*

The Vedas had tried to describe your glory but the same is beyond exp
It is impossible to fathom your f

*Pragati udadhi manthan te jwala,
Jare surasur bhaye bihala.*

The sea churning ² had produced such a dreadful poisono
Which scared both the Gods and

*Mahadeva tab kari sahayee,
Neelkantha tuv nam dharayee.*

The, Great God, you came to their rescue and drank th
Which stayed in your throat, making it blue, hence you are called Neelkanth (Blue thro

*Poojan Ramchandra jab keenha,
Lanka jeet Vibhishan deenha.*

When Lord Ram ³ worship
You gave him victory over Lanka and made Vibhishan

*Sahas kamal arpanahi vichari,
Keenha pareeksha tabahi purari.*

During this worship, Lord Ram decided to offer you a thousand lotus
Then to assess his firmness of faith, you decided to

*Ek kamal Prabhu rakheu goyee,
Kamal nayan poojan chahin soyee.*

Lord, you decided to hide one of the
Not finding it, Lord Ram substituted his lotus like e

*Kathin bhakti dekhi Prabhu Shankar,
Bhaye prasanna deya icchhit var.*

Lord Shanker was pleased with his (Ram's) steadfast
You granted him the desired boon (of slaying R

*Jai Jai Jai, Ananta Avinasi,
Karat kripa sab ke ghatvasi.*

Hail to thee, O Infinite and Indestructi
Shower your grace on everybody, O Omnisc

*Dushta sakal mohi nitya satavan,
Bharmita rahe man chain na aven.*

I am always troubled by wicked
This makes me distressed with no peace

*Trahi trahi main nath pukaro,
Yeh avasar mohi, ani ubaro.*

Getting distressed, I pray to you, Lord
O Lord, help me in these trouble

*Lai trishool shatrun ko marau,
Sankat se mohi ani unarau.*

Come with your trident and slay my
And free me from my p

*Mata pita bhrat sab hoi,
Sankat mein poonchat nahi koi.*

Although I have my mother, father, brothers an
Yet in times of trouble, nobody offers

*Swami ekahi aas tumhari,
Ai harahu sab sankat bhari.*

O Lord, you are my o

O Master, please come and take away this heavy burden (prayer)

*Dhan nirdhan kon det sadaee,
Arat jan ki peer mitaee.*

You give wealth to
And you wipe away their difficulties

*Astuti kehi vidhi karahu tumhari,
Shambunath ab tek hamari.*

I do not know of any other way to seek your help from my prayer
Hey, Shambunath, listen to my prayer

*Shanker ho sankat ke nashan,
Vighna vinasan mangal karan.*

Shankar, you are the destroyer of pain
Please be the root of my happiness and prosperity

*Yogi yathi muni dhyan lagaye,
Sharad Narad Sheesh navavahin.*

All the sages and yogis meditated
Saraswati (Goddess of Wisdom), Narad (son of Brahma) and the seers bow in reverence

*Namo namo jab namah Shivaye,
Sur brahmadik par na paye.*

I now chant your name, "Om Namah Shivaya"
Neither Brahma nor the Gods could fathom your entire greatness

*Jo yeh path kare man layee,
To kon hot hain shamboo sahayee.*

Whoever reads this prayer with utmost devotion
Shall definitely be helped by Lord Shamboo, without any delay

*Putra na ho, ichha kare koi,
Nishchaya Shiv prasad se hoi.*

Anybody without a son who prays
Will definitely be blessed with one by Lord Shiv

*Pandit triyodashi ko lave,
Dhyan poorvak hom karave.*

The devotees should get a priest to perform a yagna (prayer) on the 13th lunar day of the month
And with full attention and devotion, one must pray to Lord Shiv to get their wishes fulfilled

*Triyodashi vrita kare hamesha,
Tan nahi take rahe kalesha.*

Whoever fasts on the thirteenth day of the lunar month
Gets peace of mind and a healthy body.

*Dhoop deep naivedya chadhavahi,
Shanker sanmukha path karavahi.*

With a lighted lamp, incense and other payers
One should worship before an idol of Lord Shiva with full devotion.

*Janam Janam ki pap nasavahin,
Antawas shivpur men pavahin.*

A devotee of Shiv will have all the sins (karmas) of all his births wiped out
And in the end, he will live happily in the kingdom of Lord Shiva.

*Hey Shankar hai aas tumhari,
Dukh peera ab harahu hamari.*

O Lord Shanker, you are my only hope
Now please end all my pains and sorrows.

1. This refers to the time when the earth was faced with a severe drought. The then ruling king, Bhagirath performed a powerful penance for water to come to earth. The only hope was for the river Ganga to come down to earth from heaven. But the force of her was such that the realm would be destroyed. The only God who could control her descent was Lord Shiva, who trapped her in his hair. Hence in all images of Lord Shiva, we see the river Ganga flowing from his hair.
2. At the time of creation, certain powers were required by the Gods. The only way to get those powers was to churn the ocean of creation. As this churning was too great for even the Gods to perform, they enlisted the help of the demons. Before they could get the powers, the churning would release a poison that would destroy all the Gods, demons and the universe. Lord Shiv agreed to swallow this poison as only he had the power to do so. When the poison appeared, he swallowed the same. But his spouse, Goddess Parvati, fearing that her husband would die of the poison, held his throat, preventing the poison from going down any further. Hence, the poison stayed in his throat, making it the colour of dark blue.
3. Ravaana was a great devotee of Lord Shiva, and Shiva had blessed him that he could not be destroyed. Lord Ram knew of this, and he knew that the only solution was to pray to Lord Shiv to rescind that boon given to Ravaana so that Lord Ram could kill Ravaana. (This is from the Ramayana)