



**8**

## **SHRI SUKTAM**

This Shri is not only the material prosperity but both here and there prosperities - as contained in Shri Suktam of Rig-Veda. But, over a time this label has come to mean goddess Lakshmi, the consort of Narayana, who in turn is the anthropomorphized goddess presiding over every kind of prosperity, as has been adumbrated in canons like, saubhgya lakshmi upani Shad, lakshmi tantra etc.

Shri as contained in Rig-Veda Shi Suktam is primarily meant to mean - a non-deficient, non-exiguous, non-sparse - a want-less-syndrome; but not overabundance, hoarding, or amassing syndrome; a completeness, plenitude; Pashu Sampada - plenitude of cattle; Dhanya Sampada - of grain and cereals;



Note

Vidya Sampada - of education; Santana Sampada - of progeny; Vak Siddhi = of speech; Vak Shuddhi - expression; health, vigour, vitality - and what not. Ultimately – Bhoga and Bhagyam - living a self-sufficient life till its finish, of course, through all these want-less-syndromes.

To arrive at the concept of the syllable Shri, it is necessary to scribble the meanings of Shri Suktam on the above lines, because its etymological formation and derivation - the formation of a word and the development of its meaning - occurs in 3rd hymn of that Suktam.

To jot down the meaning of this Suktam, another deterrent is the word Jata-Veda, who in this Suktam is continuously propitiated to fetch that plenitude. Jata-Veda, the Ritual-Fire, is a lesser god in hierarchy of gods, when compared to the consort of all-powerful Narayana, and how can he fetch a superior god/goddess to the fire-oblator - will be the ensuing question. Then, will it be worthwhile to go on pouring costly cow-ghee into fire, wishing unknown prosperity or plenitude, or goddess Lakshmi herself - will be another question.



### OBJECTIVES

After reading this lesson you will be able to:

- recite the entire Shri Suktam;
- understand the meaning of Shri Suktam



Note

## 8.1 SRI SUKTAM

ॐ हिरण्यवर्णां हरिणीं सुवर्णरजतस्रजाम् ।

चन्द्रां हिरण्मयीं लक्ष्मीं जातवेदो म् आवह ॥१॥

om hirāṇyavarṇāṃ hariṇīm suvarṇa rajata-srājām |

caṇdrām hiraṇ-māyīm lakṣmīm jātavedo ma āvāha || 1 ||

O Jataveda! O Agni! Invite for my sake, the Goddess of good fortune and the luck golden-hued dame, the doe-like, moon-like maiden wreathed in gold and silver.

तां म् आवह जातवेदो लक्ष्मीमनपगामिनीम् ।

यस्यां हिरण्यं विन्देयं गामश्च पुरुषानहम् ॥२॥

tām ma āvāha jātā-vedo lakṣmīm anāpagāminīm |

yasyām hiraṇyam vindeyam gāmaśvaṃ puruṣān aham || 2 ||

O Knower-of-all-beings! Take me to the Goddess of Good Fortune - not a unstable deity, but one who is stable. May I obtain gold, cows, horses and men from her. May I be blessed with all the material needs, such as wealth, cattle, conveyances, friends, servants and children.



Note

अश्वपूर्वा रथमध्यां हस्तिनाद-प्रबोधिनीम् ।

श्रियं देवीमुपह्वये श्रीमाँ देवीर्जुषताम् ॥३॥

aśva-pūrvām rātha-madhyām hasti-nāda prabodhinīm |  
śrīyām devīm upāhvaye śrīr-mā devī jūṣatām || 3 ||

I invoke Mother goddess Lakshmi to approach me with horses ahead and chariots in the middle and tumultuous sounds of elephants.

कां सोस्मितां हिरण्यप्राकारामार्द्रां ज्वलन्तीं तृप्तां तर्पयन्तीम् ।

पद्मे स्थितां पद्मवर्णां तामिहोपह्वये श्रियम् ॥४॥

kām sōsmitām hiraṇya prākārām ārdhrām jvalāntīm tṛptām tarpayāntīm |  
padme sthitām padma-varṇām tām ihopāhvaye śrīyam || 4 ||

I invoke the smiling Goddess of prosperity, lotus-like in colour, beaming, content, satisfying, seated on a lotus, in a rampart of gold. She transcends all sense perception. She is the ultimate one.

चन्द्रां प्रभासां यशसा ज्वलन्तीं श्रियं लोके देवजुष्टामुदाराम् ।

तां पद्मिनीमीं शरणमहं प्रपद्येऽलक्ष्मीर्मे नश्यतां त्वां वृणे ॥५॥

candrām prābhāsām yaśasā jvalāntīm śriyām loke deva juṣṭām udārām |  
tām padminīmīṁ śaraṇam ahaṁ prapadye'lakṣmīr me naśyatām tvām vṛṇe || 5 ||

## Class-IV



Note

I seek refuge in the brilliant Goddess who is generous and delightful and bright like moon. This Goddess of prosperity is assiduously sought after by devas. May her opposite - alakshmi- denoted by desire, anger, greed, penury, unhappiness and misfortune be utterly destroyed of mine.

आदित्यवर्णे तपसोऽधिजातो वनस्पतिस्तव वृक्षोऽथ बिल्वः ।

तस्य फलानि तपसा नुदन्तु मायान्तरायाश्च बाह्या अलक्ष्मीः ॥६॥

āditya varṇe tapaso'dhijāto vanaspatiṣ tavā vṛkṣo'tha bilvaḥ |

tasya phalāni tapasā nūdantu māyāntārā yāścā bāhyā ālakṣmīḥ || 6 ||

O Deity, dazzling like the Sun's orb! The bilva tree which comes to fruition without flowering has sprung from your austerity. It's fruits are the result of your penance. May the bilva fruit dispel any ignorance and impediments, inner and outer. May they destroy my misfortune.

उपैतु मां देवसखः कीर्तिश्च मणिना सह ।

प्रादुर्भूतोऽस्मि राष्ट्रेऽस्मिन् कीर्तिमृद्धिं ददातु मे ॥७॥

upaitu mām deva-sakhaḥ kīrtiśca maṇinā saha |

prādurbhūto'smi rāṣṭre'smin kīrtim ṛddhiṁ dadātu me || 7 ||

May the friends of the Deva approach me with fame and precious stones. I am born in this country bless me with prosperity and celebrity.



Note

क्षुत्पिपासामलां ज्येष्ठामलक्ष्मीं नाशयाम्यहम् ।

अभूतिमसमृद्धिं च सर्वां निर्णुद मे गृहात् ॥८॥

kṣut-pipāsām malām jyeṣṭhām ālakṣmīm nāśayāmyaham |

abhūtiṃ asamṛddhiṃ ca sarvān nirṇuda me gṛhāt || 8 ||

I shall drive away from myself impurities, hunger and thirst.  
O Goddess banish from my home all mis-fortune, calamities  
and poverty.

गन्धद्वारां दुराधर्षां नित्यपुष्टां करीषिणीम् ।

ईश्वरीं सर्वभूतानां तामिहोपह्वये श्रियम् ॥९॥

gandha-dvārām durādharṣām nitya puṣṭām karīṣiṇīm |

īśvarīgum sarvā bhūtānām tām ihopahvaye śriyam || 9 ||

I invoke here in this world the Goddess of prosperity, the  
Mother Earth, who is inviolable to us. She is of exhaustable  
nourishment, representing wealth of cattle. She is the mistress  
of all creatures of this universe.

मनसुः काममाकूतिं वाचः सत्यमशीमहि ।

पशूनां रूपमन्नस्य मयि श्रीः श्रयतां यशः ॥१०॥

manasaḥ kāmam ākūtiṃ vācas satyam āśimahi |

paśūnāgum rūpam-annasya mayi śrīś śrayatām yaśaḥ || 10 ||



Note

May all my pure desires be fulfilled. May all my positive intentions come true and my utterances by truthful. May the Goddess be with me for ever in the form of abundant food, increased fame, fine form all all kinds of domestic animals.

कर्दमेन प्रजाभूता मयि सम्भव कर्दम ।

श्रियं वासय मे कुले मातरं पद्ममालिनीम् ॥११॥

kardamēna prajā-bhūtā mayi sambhava kardama |

śriyaṁ vāsayā me kuḷe mātaraṁ padma mālinīm || 11 ||

O Kardama! By your advent, the Goddess has become a Mother, do reside with me. Establish the Mother, the Goddess of prosperity and wealth, wreathed with garlands of lotuses, in my habitation.

आपः सृजन्तु स्निग्धानि चिक्रीत वस मे गृहे ।

नि च देवीं मातरं श्रियं वासय मे कुले ॥१२॥

āpās sṛjantū snigdhāni cikrīta vasa me grhe |

nicā devīm mātaraḡgaś śriyaṁ vāsayā me kuḷe || 12 ||

Let the waters produce friendly results. Lord Kamadeva Come and stay with me. Make your Mother, the Goddess of plenty, abide in my abode.



Note

आर्द्रा पुष्करिणीं पुष्टिं पिङ्गलां पद्ममालिनीम् ।

चन्द्रां हिरण्मयीं लक्ष्मीं जातवेदो म् आवह ॥१३॥

ārdrām puṣkariṇīm puṣṭim piṅgalāṃ padma mālinīm |  
sūryām hiraṇmayīm lakṣmīm jātavedo ma āvaha || 13 ||

O! Jataveda, the Divine Pure Fire! Bring me the universal golden Lakshmi, moist with compassion. Endowed with tawny colour, she nourishes the worlds. She is attended by elephants. She wears a garland of beautiful flowers and is bedecked in gold.

आर्द्रा यः करिणीं यष्टिं सुवर्णां हेममालिनीम् ।

सूर्या हिरण्मयीं लक्ष्मीं जातवेदो म् आवह ॥१४॥

ārdrām yaḥ kariṇīm yaṣṭim piṅgalāṃ padma mālinīm |  
candrām hiraṇmayīm lakṣmīm jātavedo ma āvaha || 14 ||

O! Jataveda, the universal Divine Fire! Bring me the annointed Lakshmi of golden hue. Bring the Mother goddess who holds the mace in her hand. Lead the Deity of prosperity to my dwelling.



## Class-IV



Note

तां म् आवह् जातवेदो लक्ष्मीमनपगामिनीम् ।

यस्यां हिरण्यं प्रभूतं गावो दास्योऽश्वान्, विन्देयं पुरुषानहम् ॥१५॥

tām ma āvaha jātavedo lakṣmīm ānapagāminīm |

yasyām hiraṇyaṁ prabhūtaṁ gāvō dāsyo'śvān vindeyaṁ puruṣān aham || 15 ||

O! Mystic Fire! Bring me gracefull lakshmi who will always stay with me. May I be endowed by her grace, wealth in plenty, horses and cattle, maids and servants, friends and companions.

यः शुचिः प्रयतोभूत्वा जुहुयादाज्यमन्वहम्।

सूक्तं पञ्चदशर्चं च श्रीकामः सततं जपेत् ॥१६॥

yaś śuciḥ prayāto bhūtvā juhuyād ājyaṁ anvāham |

sūktaṁ pañca daśarcaṁ ca śrī kāmā satataṁ japet || 16 ||

Whoever desire to obtain Lakshmi, should having purified himself and become equanimous, should daily offer fire sacrifice with ghee, reciting the all fifteen stanzas of this Srisukta.

पद्मानने पद्मउरू पद्माक्षि पद्मसंभवे।

तन्मे भजसि पद्माक्षि येन सौख्यं लभाम्यहम् ॥१७॥

padmā-priye padmini padma-haste padmālaye padma-dalāyātākṣi |

viśvā-priye viṣṇu manō'nukūle tvat pāda padmam mayi sannidhatsva || 17 ||



Note

O! Lakshmi with beautiful eyes like lotuses and to who lotuses are dear, who holds lotuses in her glorious hands, and dwells within the lotus of the heart, the beloved of the whole world and the one to whom Lord Vishnu concedes, may your lotus feet always be the object of contemplation for me.

ॐ महादेव्यै च विद्महे विष्णुपत्न्यै च धीमहि ।

तन्नो लक्ष्मीः प्रचोदयात् ॥

ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.1

रिक्तस्थानानि पूरयत-

1. .... हरिणीं सुवर्णरजतस्रजाम् ।
2. अश्वपूर्वा ..... हस्तिनाद-प्रबोधिनीम् ।
3. पद्मे स्थितां पद्मवर्णां तामिहोपह्वये ..... ॥
4. आदित्यवर्णे ..... वनस्पतिस्तव वृक्षोऽथ बिल्वः ।
5. क्षुत्पिपासामंलां ..... नाशयाम्यहम् ।



### WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT

- Proper recitation of Shri shuktam
- Meaning of Shri-shukatm

## Class-IV



Note



## TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Write the importance of Shri-Suktam



## ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

1. हिरण्यवर्णां
2. रथमुध्यां
3. श्रियम्
4. तपसोऽधिजातो
5. ज्येष्ठामंलक्ष्मीं