

# श्री रुद्रम् Śrī Rudram Mantra 8

R̥ṣi - Vaiyāghraḥ; Chandas - Tṛṣṭubh; Devatā - Śrī Rudraḥ

*Dhyāna- śloka*

उद्यद्भास्करकोटिप्रकाशमाकाशगं भीमम् ।

भीतिघ्नमभयवरदं ध्यायेद्द्रुद्रं सुरौदृनुतम् ॥

*udyadbhāskarakoṭiprakāśamākāśagaṁ bhīmam ।*

*bhītiḡnam abhayavaradaṁ dhyāyedrudraṁ surauḡha-nutam ॥*

May one meditate upon the Lord Rudra who is effulgent like crores of rising suns, who pervades space, who has a fearsome form, who dispels fear, who is praised by all *devas* and who grants the boon of refuge to all.

If ten million suns were to simultaneously rise in the sky, how much brilliance would there be, such is the effulgence of the Lord. The idea is that he is all-effulgence, all knowledge. He pervades the space and obtains in the *buddhi* of oneself. Through he has a frightening form, he is the one who destroys fear. Not only does he destroy fear, but he also has the gesture of offering fearlessness, *abhaya*, like even Rāma gave to Vibhiṣaṇa. May one meditate upon Rudra of this nature.

Result for the chanting of the eighth *mantra*: One gains *puraścaraṇa-siddhi* of this *mantra* by chanting continuously for three nights with the discipline of fasting for one night. This *mantra* takes care of inner enemies.

स्तुहि श्रुतं गर्तसदं युवानं मृगन्न भीममुपहतुमुग्रम् ।

मृडा जरित्रे रुद्र स्तवानो अन्यन्ते अस्मन्निवपन्तु सेनाः ॥ (8)

*stuhi śrutam ḡartasadaṁ yuvānaṁ mṛganna bhīmam upaḡhatnumuḡram ।*

*mṛḡḡa jaritre rudraḡ stavāno anyante aḡsmannivapantu senāḡḡ (8)*

*stuhi* - (O mind!) praise ; *śrutam* - the Lord who is revealed in the scriptures; *ḡartasadam* - who abides in the hearts; *yuvānam* - who is ever young; *mṛḡanna* - like the lion; *bhīmam* - who is frightening; *upaḡhatum* - who destroys the wrong doers; *uḡram* - who is not conquerable; *mṛḡa* - bless us with happiness ; *jaritre* - in this body that is subject to ageing; *rudra* - O Rudra! *stavānaḡ* - who is being praised by us; *anyam* - any other; *te* - your; *asmat* - than us; *nivapantu* - may destroy; *senāḡḡ* - armies

O mind, praise the Lord revealed in the scriptures, praise the ever-young Lord who abides in our hearts, who destroys the wrong doers, who is frightening, unconquerable like the lion. Rudra, your praises we sing; bless us with happiness. Bound as we are in this body that is subject to ageing. May your army of *devas* bless us and punish the others ( who are the wrong doers) other than us.

*Stuhi* - Praise (the Lord). Here, we address our mind. In Indian music we come across songs where the organs of speech are addressed such as, "*bruhi mukundeti rasane... O Tongue, say Mukunda.*" In the same spirit we address here, "O Mind, please repeat those words that reveal the glories of the Lord."

*Śrutam stuhi* - Praise that Lord who is revealed by the *śruti*. You may be praising him, but he may not be able to hear at all. No, he is sitting in the heart, *gartasadaḥ*. Even if you do mental *japa*, it is good enough. You do not require calling him. Calling is for your own listening. The *antaryāmī* is pointed out here as *ātmā*, as *Īśvara*.

Further, he is *nitya-yuvā*, ever young, the one who never ages. You cannot say the Lord is a child or an old person, since the former means that he has to grow up and the latter means that he is subject to death. *Yuvā* means, one who is young but never ages.

*Upahatnum mṛgaṁ na (ivārthe) bhīmaṁ stuhi* - In punishing the wrong doers, he is frightening and unconquerable like a lion; there is no equal to the Lord nor any one greater than him. Even though he is praiseworthy, he is also frightening being the destructive power, *bhaya-hetu*.<sup>130</sup> He humbled Yama and therefore, even Yama is afraid of the Lord. Though he is *bhayaṅkara* he also puts an end to your fear.

Any *stuti*, praise is a prayer and also meant for understanding. When you praise the Lord, it can never be a flattery, for he is more than that. It is factual. Whatever you say in praise of him needs to be first understood by you. To understand all that is said in *Viṣṇusahasranāma*, you have to know the *śāstra*. Understanding the words of praise, you understand the vision of the *śāstra*. *Ugraṁ stuhi* - Praise the Lord who is almighty, unconquerable.

*He rudra*, may you, who are being praised by us, make us happy. In this body which is subject to ageing and dying, *jaritre*, give us *mokṣa-sukha*. As long as we are living here, we wish to be able to move around without any disease. Later also, we desire to be free from death. We pray, please direct the *devatās*, to bless us and not trouble us. O Lord, we propitiate your army of *devatās* who are under your control, let them not give us sorrow. Let them, instead, eliminate our inner enemies.

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<sup>130</sup> *bhīṣāsmād vātaḥ pavate...(Taittirīyopaniṣad 2.8)*