

# नीळा सूक्तम् (तैत्तिरीय संहिता ४-४-१२-५)

## Nīlā Sūktam (taittirīya saṁhitā 4-4-12-5)

Nīlā Sūktam word-by-word meanings

This refers to the *dēvī* Aditi who is worshipped in the *taittirīya saṁhitā* just before the beginning of the popular Rudra mantras, indicating that many rituals, including that of Rudra worship, began with worship to the *dēvī*. In other *purāṇic* and *śhrivaishṇava* literature, she is referred to as *Viṣṇupatnī*, or the consort of *Viṣṇu*. (*Lakṣhmī-śhrī dēvī* and *Mother Earth, Bhū dēvī*, are also the consorts of *Viṣṇu*).

If we refer to *Nīlā* as *Aditi*, she is infinity as *aditi* means “un-divided” or “in-divisible” or infinity.

If we take the literal meaning, *nīla* means “blue”, hence she is referred to as the “blue *dēvī*”. Who or what is this blue *dēvī*? It is none other than *Mother Earth* who is visible as a blue Planet from the moon. This derivation also agrees with the term “consort of *Viṣṇu*” as *Bhū dēvī* (*Earth*) is addressed as a consort of *Viṣṇu*. Here we may consider *Nīlā dēvī* and *Bhū dēvī* as one. The mantras are addressed to the living goddess who animates our *Mother Earth*, who is also called as *Gaia* in new age Western writings.

नीळादेवी॰ शरणमहं प्रपद्ये सुतरसि तरसे नमः ।

। नीळा । देवीम् । शरणम् । अहम् । प्र-पद्ये । सु-तरसि । तरसे । नमः ॥

nīlādevīgm' śharaṇamaham' prapadyē sutarasitarasē namaḥa ।

। nīlā । dēvīm । śharaṇam । aham । pra-padyē । su-tarasi । tarasē । namaḥa ॥

नीळा nīlā = blue ॥ देवीम् dēvīm = divinely shining feminine deity ॥ शरणम् śharaṇam = shelter

॥ अहम् aham = I ॥ प्र-पद्ये pra-padyē = fall at (Her) feet ॥ सु-तरसि su-tarasi = su = suṣṭhu = excellent, tarasi = swimmer, hence su-tarasi = excellent swimmer ॥ तरसे tarasē = to the swimmer

॥ नमः namaḥa = my namaskāras

*I surrender myself at the Feet of Nīlā dēvī, the excellent swimmer, who helps us swim and cross this samsāra-sāgara.*

गृणाहि । घृतवती सवितराधिपत्यैः पयस्वती रन्तिराशा नो , अस्तु ।

। गृणाही ॥ घृतवती । स+वितः । आधि-पत्यैः । पयस्-वती । रन्तिः । आशा । नः । अस्तु ॥

gṛṇāhi | ghṛtavatī savitarādhipatyaiḥ payasvatī rantirāśā nō , astu ।

। gṛṇāhi ॥ ghṛtavatī । sa+vitaḥa । ādhi-patyaiḥ । payas-vatī । rantīḥi । āśā । naḥa । astu ॥

गृणाही gṛṇāhi = (we all) sing in praise to invoke her presence [from the root गृ gṛ]

घृतवती ghṛtavatī = full of ghee, here ghee represents the final essence of all intellect

॥ सवितः = स+वितः savitaḥa = sa+vitaḥa = with knowledge ॥ आधि-पत्यैः ādhi-patyaiḥi = through (your) overlordship or governance ॥ पयस्-वती payas-vatī = full of milk or full of juices ॥ रन्तिः rantīḥi = full of rati or affection (for us) ॥ आशा āśā = the diśhās or directions ॥ नः naḥa = for us all ॥ अस्तु astu = be

*We all sing in praise to her as full of knowledge and its final essence (that is, knowledge of the Self), so that her affection overflows for us from all directions.*

ध्रुवा दिशां विष्णुपत्न्यघोराऽस्येशाना सहसो या मनोता ।

। ध्रुवा । दिशाम् । विष्णु-पत्नी । अघोरा । अस्य । ईशाना । सहसः । या । मन+उता ॥

dhruvā diśhām' viṣṇu'patnyaghōrā'asyēśhānā sahasō yā manōtā ।

। dhruvā । diśhām । viṣṇu-patnī । aghōrā । asya । iśhānā । sahasaḥa । yā । mana+utā ॥

ध्रुवा dhruvā = firmly focussed ॥ दिशाम् diśhām = in the directions (all)

॥ विष्णु-पत्नी viṣṇu-patnī = consort of *Viṣṇu* ॥ अघोरा aghōrā = not fearsome ॥ अस्य asya = his

॥ ईशाना iśhānā = overlordship ॥ सहसः sahasaḥa = with Him (with *Viṣṇu*) ॥ या yā = whosoever she

॥ मनोता = मन+उता manōtā = mana+utā = mind elevator = favourite

*Our favourite, whosoever she is, she is firmly focussed, not fearsome, as the consort of *Viṣṇu*, along with His overlordship (simply meaning she is very loving for us all).*

बृहस्पतिर्मातरिश्वोत वायुः सन्धुवाना वाता , अभि नो गृणन्तु ।

। बृहस्पतिः । मातरिश्वा । उत । वायुः । सम्+धुवाना । सम् । धुवाना । वाता । अभि । नः । गृणन्तु ॥

**br̥has'patir' mātarīśh'vōta vāyus' san'dhuvānā vātā , abhi nō gr̥ṇan'tu ।**

। br̥haspatiḥ । mātarīśhvā । uta । vāyuhuḥ । sam+dhuvānā । sam । dhuvānā । vātā । abhi । naḥa । gr̥ṇantu ॥

बृहस्पतिः br̥haspatiḥ = the Divine Teacher ॥ मातरिश्वा mātarīśhvā = the principle Mother vāyuhu that drives and animates all other vāyus (winds) ॥ उत uta = also ॥ वायुः vāyuhuḥ = winds

॥ सन्धुवाना = सम्+धुवाना sandhuvānā = sam+dhuvānā = equal, same+cleansing ॥ वाता vātā = winds

॥ अभि abhi = lovingly ॥ नः naḥa = us ॥ गृणन्तु gr̥ṇantu = mentally wishing

*May Br̥haspati and Mātarīśhvā (both) lovingly wish us well with their equally-cleansing winds*

विष्टम्भो दिवो धरुणः पृथिव्या , अस्येशाना जगतो विष्णुपत्नी ।

। विष्टम्भः । दिवः । धरुणः । पृथिव्या । अस्य । ईशाना । जगतः । विष्णु-पत्नी ॥

**viṣh'tam'bhō divō dharuṇa[fp]' pṛthiv'yā , as'yēśhānā jagatō viṣh'ṇupat'nī ।**

। viṣhṭambhaḥa । divaḥa । dharuṇaḥa । pṛthivyā । asya । īśhānā । jagataḥa । viṣhṇu-patnī ॥

विष्टम्भः = वि+स्तम्भः viṣhṭambhaḥa = vi+stambhaḥa = viśhēṣha stambhaḥa = special pillar

॥ दिवः divaḥa = of the heavens ॥ धरुणः dharuṇaḥa = hold together and hold aloft

॥ पृथिव्या pṛthivyā = by the Earth ॥ अस्य asya = his ॥ ईशाना īśhānā = overlordship

॥ जगतः jagataḥa = Universe ॥ विष्णु-पत्नी viṣhṇu-patnī = Viṣhṇu-consort

*As the consort of Viṣhṇu, (and owning) His overlordship-powers (of maintenance), may she hold us all together, (like a) special pillar holding aloft the heavens.*

विश्वव्यचा , इषयन्ती सुभूतिः शिवा नो , अस्त्वदितिरुपस्थे ।

। विश्व-व्यचा । इषयन्ती । सु-भूतिः । शिवा । नः । अस्तु । अदितिः । उपस्थे ॥

**viṣh'vav'yachā , iṣhayan'tī subhūtiśh' śhivā nō , ast'vaditirupas'thē ।**

। viṣhva-vyachhā । iṣhayan'tī । su-bhūtiḥi । śhivā । naḥa । astu । aditiḥi । upasthē ॥

विश्व-व्यचा viṣhva-vyachā = all-encompassing ॥ इषयन्ती iṣhayan'tī = impelling (by her power)

॥ सु-भूतिः su-bhūtiḥi = suṣhṭhu bhūtiḥi = superb materialization ॥ शिवा śhivā = good and auspicious

॥ नः naḥa = for us ॥ अस्तु astu = be ॥ अदितिः aditiḥi = infinity (Nīlā dēvī here)

॥ उपस्थे upasthē = in (her) lap.

*O dēvī Aditi, superb materialization, (by) thy all-encompassing extent, (by your) inherent power, may you be śhivā for us all in your (comforting) lap!*

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