



The WORLD *as a* DANCE PERFORMANCE
ŚIVASŪTRAS 3.9-10



SARVAMANGALA FOUNDATION

*Translated with the Vārttika of Varadarāja
by Āchārya Vidyābhāskar*

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SARVAMANGALA

नर्तक आत्मा

nartaka ātmā

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LORD NAṬARĀJA, THE DANCING ŚIVA

Śiva is our own blissful Awareness performing the dance of the universe.

Chola Era Sculpture, ca. 950-1000 @ Los Angeles County Museum of Art

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नर्तक आत्मा ॥ ३.९ ॥

nartaka ātmā ॥ 3.9 ॥

The dancer is the ātman.

नृत्यत्यन्तःपरिच्छन्नस्वस्वरूपावलम्बनाः ।

स्वेच्छया स्वात्मचिद्भित्तौ स्वपरिस्पन्दलीलया ॥

nṛtyaty antaḥ-paricchanna-svasvarūpāvalambanāḥ ।

svecchayā svātma-cid-bhittau svaparispanda-līlayā ॥

Since it enacts a dance based upon its very own nature internally fragmented [into many] when by its own will self-awareness is divided through the play of its own vibration,

जागरास्वप्नसौषुप्तरूपास् तास्ताः स्वभूमिकाः ।

आभासयति यत्तस्मादात्मा नर्तक उच्यते ॥

Jāgarāsvapna-sauṣupta-rūpās tās tāḥ svabhūmikāḥ ।

ābhāsayati yat tasmād ātmā nartaka ucyate ॥

[and] since it lets these acting parts of itself appear in the form of waking, dreaming and deep sleep, hence the ātman is called a dancer.

एवंविधजगन्नाट्यनर्तकस्यास्य योगिनः ।

भूमिकाग्रहणस्थानं रङ्गमाह जगद्गुरुः ॥

evaṃvidha-jagan-nāṭya-nartakasyāsyā yoginaḥ |

bhūmikā-grahaṇa-sthānaṃ raṅgam āha jagadguruḥ ||

For such a yogī who is thus a dancer

upon the stage of the universe,

the jagadguru explains the theatre stage,

the site upon which the acting parts are experienced.

रङ्गोऽन्तरात्मा ॥ ३.१० ॥

raṅgo'ntarātmā ॥ 3.10 ॥

The theatre stage is the inner being.

रज्यतेऽस्मिन् जगन्नाट्यक्रीडाकौतुकिनात्मना ।

इति रङ्गोऽन्तरात्मेति जीवः पुर्यष्टकात्मकः ॥

rajyate'smin jagannāṭyakrīḍākautukinātmanā |

iti raṅgo'ntarātmeti jīvaḥ puryaṣṭakātmakaḥ ॥

Eager to enact the dance play of the universe,
that upon which the ātman enacts [this performance],
is the theatre stage, the inner being:
the jīva constituting the eightfold city [the five senses,
the conceptual mind, the discerning mind and the ego.]

योगी कृतपदस् तत्र स्वेन्द्रियस्पन्दलीलया ।

सदाशिवादिक्षित्यन्तजगन्नाट्यं प्रकाशयेत् ॥

देहान्तरङ्गे रङ्गे ऽस्मिन् नृत्यतः स्वान्तरात्मनि ॥

yogī kṛtapadas tatra svendriyaspaṅdalīlayā |

sadāśivādikṣityantajagannāṭyaṃ prakāśayet ॥

dehāntaraṅge raṅge 'smin nṛtyataḥ svāntarātmani ॥

The yogī, having established himself in this [state],
through the playful energy of his own senses,
lets the performance of the universe shine forth,
beginning with Sadāśiva and ending with the earth itself –
dancing upon this theatre stage
of his own inner being within the body.

PRAYER *to* GODDESS SARASVATĪ *to*
INCREASE *our* INTELLIGENCE



GODDESS SARASVATĪ, THE SANSKRIT LANGUAGE PERSONIFIED

Ancient Nepali Painting of Goddess Sarasvatī © Himalayan Art Resources

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INCREASE *our* INTELLIGENCE

ॐ नमस्ते शारदे देवि काश्मीरपुरवासिनि ।
त्वामहं प्रार्थये नित्यं विद्यादानं च देहि मे ॥

om namaste śārade devi kāśmīra-pura-vāsini |
tvām ahaṁ prārthaye nityaṁ vidyā-dānaṁ ca dehi me ||

Om Obeisance to you, O Goddess Śāradā,
You who are like the Full-Moon in Autumn,
You who dwell in the Region of Kāśmīr!
I ever beseech you: Grant me the gift of knowledge!

