

Once, when asked, Lahiri Mahasaya said that his 'Ishta Devata' (favorite deity as per hindu belief system) is 'Silence — stillness of the psyche-I'.

Music is a language that draws near to silence, a sound capable of evoking the soundless. It doesn't require meaning. Humans assign meaning to sounds, but when meaning is stripped away from sounds and replaced with harmony and rhythm that resonates with the heart, it can express the inexpressible. Music then says the unsayable without saying anything.

With this understanding, two beautiful stotras (chants) dedicated to Shibendu Baba were sung during the MahaKumbh retreat earlier this year. These stotras were composed by Kriyavans who are Sanskrit scholars, Dr. Amarnath Jha and Dr. Kashinath Nyupane. The purpose of this message is to share these stotras with the Kriyavan family, so they can be enjoyed individually or as part of chanting sessions in satsangs and retreats. Readers are reminded to focus on the harmony and rhythm of the sound, the meaning is incidental. Kriyavans Abhinav Ji and Kamakhya Ji have helped in writing this message.

This message is longer than usual as there was much to cover.

### श्रीशिवेन्दुस्तोत्रम् (ŚrīŚivendustotram) – By Amarnath Ji

[1]

शिवस्यान्नपूर्णा-युतस्य प्रदेशे शुचौ योगिराजान्वये लब्धजन्मा ।  
शरीरेण चैकेन विष्णुश्च रुद्रः जयेत् सर्वदा सद्गुरुः श्रीशिवेन्दुः ॥ १ ॥

śivasyānnapūrṇā -yutasya pradeśe śucau yogirājānvaye labdhajanmā ।  
śarīreṇa caikena viṣṇuśca rudraḥ jayet sarvadā sadguruḥ śrīśivenduḥ ॥ 1 ॥

*In the sacred land where Shiva and Annapurna reside (Varanasi),  
Born in the holy lineage of great yogis,  
Embodied as the essence of both Vishnu and Rudra (Shiva) —  
Jai Jai Jai Sadguru Shibendu Baba !*

[2]

शरण्यो मदेनारतं दुर्गतानाम् शरण्यो दुराशाशतैराहतानाम् ।  
कृपा- शेवधिः सर्वलोकैकबन्धुः जयेत् सर्वदा सद्गुरुः श्रीशिवेन्दुः ॥ २ ॥

śaraṇyo madenāratam durgatānām śaraṇyo durāśāśatairāhatānām ।  
kṛpā- śevadhiḥ sarvalokaikabandhuḥ jayet sarvadā sadguruḥ śrīśivenduḥ ॥ 2 ॥

*The refuge of those fallen, broken by pride and the separative psyche,  
The shelter for those wounded by endless cravings;  
An ocean of compassion, and the true friend of all —  
Jai Jai Jai Sadguru Shibendu Baba !*

[3]

पुरा भानवे केशवेनोपदिष्टः, सदानुष्ठितः शम्भुना नैक -देहैः ।  
प्रकीर्णोऽयमाजीवनं येन योगः, जयेत् सद्गुरुः सर्वदाऽसौ शिवेन्दुः ॥ ३ ॥

purā bhānave keśavenopadiṣṭaḥ sadānuṣṭhitaḥ śambhunā naika -dehaiḥ ।  
prakīrṇo'yamājīvanaṁ yena yogaḥ jayet sadguruḥ sarvadā'sau śivenduḥ ॥ 3 ॥

*The Yoga once imparted to Bhanu (Sun) by Kesava (Krishna),  
And practiced by Shiva through myriad forms (bodies of yogis) ;  
He spread that ancient flame of Kriya Yoga far and wide —  
Jai Jai Jai Sadguru Shibendu Baba !*

[4]

गृहस्थोऽपि चासीत् परिव्राजको यः सदा लोककल्याणकृत्,निःस्पृहोऽपि ।  
स्थितः "सत्यलोके" , विभुः, "सत्य"-पुत्रः जयेत् सद्गुरुःसर्वदाऽसौ शिवेन्दुः॥४॥

grhastho'pi cāsīt parivrājako ya: sadā lokakalyāṇakṛt,ni:sprho'pi ।  
sthita: "satyaloke" , vibhu:, "satya"-putra: jayet sadguru:sarvadā'sau śivendu:॥४॥

*Though a householder, he was ever a wandering renunciate,  
Forever working for the welfare of humanity in a spirit of non-doership;  
Resident of 'Satyalok' (abode of truth), his home in Varanasi, he was a "Son of Truth" indeed —  
Jai Jai Jai Sadguru Shibendu Baba !*

[5]

भ्रमोच्छेदिनी यस्य सन्देशवाणी हृदयाकाश -देशे प्रकाशं तनोति  
दया -प्रेम-सेवा-पराणां नराणाम् जयेत् सद्गुरुः सर्वदाऽसौ शिवेन्दुः॥५॥

bhramocchedinī yasya sandeśavāṇī hṛdayākāśa -deśe prakāśaṃ tanoti ।  
dayā -prema-sevā-parāṇāṃ narāṇāṃ jayet sadguru: sarvadā'sau śivendu: ॥५॥

*Whose messages destroy the darkness of ignorance ,  
And spreads light of understanding within the hearts  
Of those devoted to compassion, love, and service —  
Jai Jai Jai Sadguru Shibendu Baba !*

[6]

अरूपोऽपि यो विद्यते सत्यरूपः समस्तस्य साक्षी प्रबोध-स्वरूपः ।  
अखण्डोऽस्ति नित्यं य आनन्दरूपः जयेत् सद्गुरुः सर्वदाऽसौ शिवेन्दुः॥६॥

arūpo'pi yo vidyate satyarūpa: samastasya sākṣī prabodha-svarūpa: ।  
akhaṇḍo'sti nityaṃ ya ānandarūpa: jayet sadguru: sarvadā'sau śivendu: ॥६॥

*No longer bound by the limitations of the body,  
He exists in universal consciousness as the witness of all, the embodiment of awakening;  
Eternal, indivisible, and full of bliss —  
Jai Jai Jai Sadguru Shibendu Baba !*

**॥ॐ सहस्रवे समर्पितमस्तु - ॐ sadgurave samarpitamastu- ॐ Dedicated to the Sadguru !**

श्रीशिवेन्दु-गुरु-स्तुति: (Śrīśivendu-guru-stuti) – By Kashinath Ji

[1]

सद्गुरुं विश्वविख्यातं योगिराजं महेश्वरम् ।

क्रिया-भागीरथी-स्नातं श्रीशिवेन्दुं नमाम्यहम् ॥१॥

sadguruṃ viśvavikhyātaṃ yogirājaṃ maheśvaram,  
kriyā-bhāgīrathī-snātaṃ śrīśivenduṃ namāmyahaṃ ॥1॥

*A Sadguru renowned around the world, a great yogi  
who is bathed in the sacred Ganga of Kriya Yoga --  
O Shri Shibendu, in reverence I bow to you!*

[2]

कृपापाङ्गेन वै यस्य मुच्यन्ते सर्वप्राणिनः ।

विकल्पोज्झितविश्वं तं श्रीशिवेन्दुं नमाम्यहम् ॥२॥

kṛpāpāṅgena vai yasya mucyante sarvapraṇīnaḥ,  
vikalpojñhitaviśvaṃ taṃ śrīśivenduṃ namāmyahaṃ ॥2॥

*By whose compassionate glance one is set free,  
Who transcends the corridor of opposites that ensnares the human mind —  
O Shri Shibendu, in reverence I bow to you!*

[3]

श्रीलाहिड़ीकुलास्तित्वं प्रक्रिया-गुरु-गौरवम् ।

क्रियागाङ्गं निर्झरं सत्-श्रीशिवेन्दुं नमाम्यहम् ॥३॥

śrīlāhiḍīkulāstitvaṃ prakriyā-guru-gauravaṃ,  
kriyāgāṅgaṃ nirjhaṛaṃ sat-śrīśivenduṃ namāmyahaṃ ॥3॥

*You are the glory of the revered Lahiri Mahasaya's lineage,  
The embodiment of the Guru process,  
The sacred river of Kriya Yoga wisdom, ever flowing like the Ganga —  
O Shri Shibendu, in reverence I bow to you!*

[4]

अहङ्कारस्य लोपेन स्थितप्रज्ञतया स्थितम् ।

कामलोभादिनिर्मुक्तं श्रीशिवेन्दुं नमाम्यहम् ॥४॥

ahaṅkārasya lopena sthitaprajñatayā sthitam,  
kāmalobhādinirmuktaṃ śrīśivenduṃ namāmyahaṃ ॥4॥

*Free from the stranglehold of the separative psyche,  
He remains steadfast in the energy of equanimity ('sthita-prajnya')  
Liberated from the snare of desire, greed, and other pollutions of the mind  
O Shri Shibendu, in reverence I bow to you!*

[5]

महाकरुणया व्याप्तं चित्तं यस्य चित्तौ स्थितम् ।

विश्वात्मबोधसम्पन्नं श्रीशिवेन्दुं नमाम्यहम् ॥५॥

mahākaruṇayā vyāptaṃ cittaṃ yasya cittau sthitam,  
viśvātmabodhasampannaṃ śrīśivenduṃ namāmyahaṃ ॥5॥

*Whose heart is filled with boundless compassion,  
Who is steadfast in the wisdom of Universal Intelligence,  
O Shri Shibendu, in reverence I bow to you!*

**[6]**

कारुण्यपूर्णदृष्ट्यैव जनान् पश्यन्ति यः सदा ।  
तन्मोहनाशसंलग्नं श्रीशिवेन्दुं नमाम्यहम् ॥ ६॥

kāruṇyapūrṇadr̥ṣṭyaiva janān paśyanti ya: sadā,  
tanmohanāśasaṃlagnaṃ śrīśivenduṃ namāmyahaṃ ॥ 6 ॥

*Who always beholds people with a gaze full of compassion,  
His liberating vision destroying the delusion of worldly attachments —  
O Shri Shibendu, in reverence I bow to you!*

**[7]**

क्रियायोग-प्रदानेन यो मोचयति मानवान् ।  
सुख-दुःख-महाजालात् श्रीशिवेन्दुं नमाम्यहम् ॥ ७॥

kriyāyoga-pradānena yo mocayati mānavān,  
sukha-du:kha-mahājālāt śrīśivenduṃ namāmyahaṃ ॥ 7 ॥

*Who liberates human beings from the dragnet of pleasure and pain  
Through the sacred gift of Kriya Yoga —  
O Shri Shibendu, in reverence I bow to you!*

**[8]**

प्रपौत्रं लोकिवख्यात-श्यामाचरणशर्मणः ।  
विदेहमुक्तमार्गस्थं श्रीशिवेन्दुं नमाम्यहम् ॥ ८॥

prapautraṃ lokivakhyāta-śyāmācaraṇaśarmaṇaḥ,  
videhamuktamārgasthaṃ śrīśivenduṃ namāmyahaṃ ॥ 8 ॥

*The great-grandson of the world-renowned Shyamacharan Lahiri Mahasaya  
Grounded in the understanding of the body's impermanence (Videhamukt state)  
O Shri Shibendu, in reverence I bow to you!*

**[9]**

जन्म-व्याधि-जरा-मृत्यु-द्वन्द्वरोगहतान् जनान् ।  
यो मोक्तुं क्रमते नित्यं श्रीशिवेन्दुं नमाम्यहम् ॥ ९॥

janma-vyādhi-jarā-mṛtyu-dvandvarogahatān janān,  
yo moktuṃ kramate nityaṃ śrīśivenduṃ namāmyahaṃ ॥ 9 ॥

*Who works relentlessly to free people of the sorrow and suffering  
From the endless cycle of life's ups and downs  
O Shri Shibendu, in reverence I bow to you!*

**Verses [10] – [12]**

मानवानां दुःखध्वंशकारणाद् रौद्रकर्मणः ।  
शिवरूपसमायुक्तं श्रीशिवेन्दुं नमाम्यहम् ॥ १०॥

mānavānāṃ du:khadhvaṃśakāraṇād raudrakarmaṇaḥ,  
śivarūpasamāyuktaṃ śrīśivenduṃ namāmyahaṃ ॥ 10 ॥

क्रियायोगप्रदानेन नव्यजीवनदानतः।

सृष्टिकर्तृब्रह्मरूपं श्रीशिवेन्दुं नमाम्यहम् ॥ ११ ॥

kriyāyogapradānena navyajīvanadānataः,  
sr̥ṣṭīkartṛbrahmarūpaṃ śrīśivenduṃ namāmyahaṃ ॥ 11 ॥

सर्वेषां दुःखहानेन रक्षणात्पालनात्तथा ।

व्यापकत्वाद्वासुदेवं श्रीशिवेन्दुं नमाम्यहम् ॥ १२ ॥

sarveṣāṃ duḥkhaḥānena rakṣaṇātpālanāttathā,  
vyāpakatvādvāsudevaṃ śrīśivenduṃ namāmyahaṃ ॥ 12 ॥

*You are the embodiment of the union of Brahma, Vishnu, and Maheshwara (Shiva).  
When you sow the seeds of spiritual rebirth in new Kriyavans, you are Brahma.  
By assuming the form of Rudra (Shiva) , you burn away their sorrow and suffering.  
And as Vishnu, you personify the all-pervading protector, nurturing and safeguarding all Kriyavans  
O Shri Shibendu, in reverence I bow to you!*

[13]

निर्गुणत्वान्नित्यसत्त्वस्वरूपस्थितेश्च यः ।

चित्तिरूपात्परं ब्रह्म श्रीशिवेन्दुं नमाम्यहम् ॥ १३ ॥

nirguṇatvānnityasattvasvasvarūpasthiteśca yaः,  
citirūpātparaṃ brahma śrīśivenduṃ namāmyahaṃ ॥ 13 ॥

*Having transcended the influence of the three Gunas (nature's traits & tendencies in yogic philosophy)  
Established in pure consciousness, and union with the supreme  
O Shri Shibendu, in reverence I bow to you!*

[14]

नमस्ते देवदेवाय नमस्ते व्यापकात्मने ।

जगदात्मस्वरूपाय शिवेन्दुगुरवे नमः ॥ १४ ॥

namaste devadevāya namaste vyāpakātmane,  
jagadātmavarūpāya śivendugurave namaः ॥ 14 ॥

*Salutations O Gurudev,  
Salutations to the embodiment of universal consciousness and holistic awareness  
O Shri Shibendu, in reverence I bow to you!*

**Jai Guru, Jai Shibendu Baba**