



Purusha Suktam: PART 2



Vedas Collection



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Description: A detailed exploration of the opening verses describing the all-pervasive nature of the Supreme Being across space, time, and creation



Tags: purusha-suktam, vedic-mantras, narayana, divya-desam, vyuha-forms, paramapurusha



Introduction to the First Four Mantras

The first four mantras (or riks) of the Purusha Suktam systematically describe the all-pervasive nature of the Supreme Being (Purusha) in terms of space, time, glory, and his creative manifestation.

The Purusha referenced in the initial mantras typically denotes the **Paramapurusha (Narayana)**, although the specific connotation of the word 'Purusha' changes throughout the Suktam, shifting to aspects like **Aniruddha Narayana** and **Brahma**.



Mantra 1: The Lord's Pervasiveness in Space

Sanskrit Text

Sahasra shirsha purushah Sahasrakshah Sahasrapat Sabhumim Vishwato
Vrittwa Atyatishtha Dashangulam



Line-by-Line Explanation

Sanskrit Line


Sahasra shirsha
purushah

Meaning and Explanation

The Purusha has thousands of heads. Sahasra (thousand) is

Associated Concept

In the first three mantras, the Purusha is

Sanskrit Line	Meaning and Explanation	Associated Concept
	interpreted not as a literal number but as innumerable (anantavachi). Shiras (head) signifies the substratum (Adharatvam), indicating that the Purusha is the support or foundation for all existence.	Paramapurusha (Narayana)
Sahasrakshah	He possesses thousands of eyes. This implies sarva darshanatvam, meaning He is a witness to all activities everywhere.	 Associated Divya Desam: Kanchipuram Varadaraja Swami, known as the one who grants sight or eyes (the great ophthalmologist)
Sahasrapat	He has thousands of legs or feet. This means he is all-pervasive and walks along with us everywhere, immaterial of whether we want him there or not.	
Sahasra shirsha purushah Sahasrakshah Sahasrapat Sabhumim Vishwato Vrittwa Atyatishtha Dashangulam	He pervades the earth and the entire universe (Vishwato Vrittwa), extending beyond it by ten digits (Dashangulam). Dashangulam does not denote the number 10, but rather the idea that the Lord is extremely close to the heart, present within the cavity of the mouth or the space from the vocal cord to the heart.	This mantra conveys the Lord's pervasiveness in space (deshato vyaptim)



Mantra 2: The Lord's Pervasiveness in Time

Sanskrit Text

Purusha ye vedagum sarvam yadbhutam yach bhavyam uta amritatvasya ishanaha yadanenaati rohati



Line-by-Line Explanation



Sanskrit Line	Meaning and Explanation	Associated Concept
Purusha ye vedagum sarvam	That Purusha pervades everything. The phrase idam sarvam indicates the present time (vartamana kalam).	The Purusha continues to be the Paramapurusha (Narayana)
Yad bhutam yach bhavyam	He is present in the past (yad bhutam) and the future (yach bhavyam). This shows the Lord's pervasiveness in time (kalato vyapti). This quality is also found in the Vishnu Sahasranamam name Bhuta bhavya bhavat prabhu.	Associated Divya Desam: Guruvayurappan, who was worshipped in the past, present, and future
Uta amritatvasya ishanaha	He is the Lord (Ishanaha) of Amritatva. Amritatva refers to Moksham (liberation/immortality). He is the one who ensures we do not undergo rebirth.	Associated Divya Desam: Tirukannapuram, the Lord who grants moksham to those who seek refuge
Yadanenaati rohati	He grows through or ascends by annam. Annam is defined as anything consumable (attum yogyam). It is interpreted that the Jeevatma (us) is the annam (or object of enjoyment, bhogya vastu) for Bhagavan. The devotee consumes the Lord's name (Namam) as food.	

✨ Mantra 3: The Lord's Incomprehensible Glory

Sanskrit Text

Etavanasya Mahima Atojjayaayagascha Purushah Padosya Vishwa Bhutani
Tripadasya Amritam Divi

🔍 Line-by-Line Explanation

Sanskrit Line	Meaning and Explanation	Associated Concept
Etavanasya Mahima Atojjayaayagascha Purushah	The greatness (Mahima) of this Purusha is beyond our understanding (Atojjayaayagascha). He is the melange of opposites, capable of being contradictions simultaneously (e.g., hell and heaven, poison and remedy, dark and fair). His greatness increases exponentially and is never diminished.	In the latter part of the Suktam, the Purusha word often refers to Aniruddha Murti , responsible for sustenance/ protection
Padosya Vishwa Bhutani	His quarter (Pada) is the world (Vishwa Bhutani). Pada means both foot and quarter. Everything we perceive—the entire universe, solar system, and Earth—is just one-fourth of the Lord's creation.	 Associated Divya Desam: Thiru Vinnagar (Uppiliappan Kovil), representing the Lord who is a collection of opposites (oppu illa appan)
Tripadasya Amritam Divi	His three parts (Tripada) are the immortal abode (Amritam Divi). Divi here means Vaikuntham or Paramapada. This is the three-fourths of the Lord's creation that remains unseen, and one must leave the one-fourth of the material world to attain it.	 Associated Divya Desam: Nachiyar Kovil, associated with the Vyuha forms (Vasudeva, Sankarshana,

Sanskrit Line

Meaning and Explanation

Associated Concept

Pradyumna,
Aniruddha)



Mantra 4: The Lord's Creative Manifestation

Sanskrit Text

Tripadurdho Udayit Purushah Padosyeha Bhavat Punah Tato Vishwam
Vyakramat Shasana Nashane Abhi



Line-by-Line Explanation

Sanskrit Line

Meaning and Explanation

Associated Concept

Tripadurdho

The Purusha, embodying the three parts (Tripad—Vasudeva, Sankarshana, and Pradyumna), rises above (or resides in) the higher plane (Vaikuntham).

The Purusha here refers to [Aniruddha](#) [Narayana](#), who facilitates creation and sustenance

Udayit

Purushah

Padosyeha

Bhavat

Punah

His one-fourth part (Padaha chaturthomshah), referring to Aniruddha, is manifested here again (iha abhavat punah). This form sustains the created world.

Associated Divya Desam: Tirukkovalur (Ulagalandha Perumal), referring to the Lord measuring the worlds

Tato

Vishwam

Vyakramat

From there, he pervades the entire universe. This Purusha measures the universe, which is the product of his creation.

Shasana

Nashane

Abhi

He encompasses both that which eats (sashana or jangama) and that which does not eat (anashana or sthavara). Sashana refers to mobile, sentient beings (like humans and animals), while anashana refers to fixed, inanimate objects (like rocks and trees).

Associated Divya Desam: Dwarka, associated with Krishna, who consumes a small morsel and gives solace to all devotees (Sashana Ashane Abhi)

Summary: The Transition of Purusha

This description establishes the transition in the nature of the Purusha: - **From** the highest reality (**Para Vasudeva**) - **To** the active, sustained creation (**Vyuha Vasudeva/Aniruddha**)

The universe, with all its contents, is merely **one quarter** of his total glory. The three remaining quarters represent the transcendent, immortal realm of Vaikuntham that lies beyond our material perception.

Reference

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzCWeIKtGHU&list=PLUCe17-wlYr-zIRfRt1m6fyPy2r-wjcXl>

Acknowledgment & Disclaimer

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