



॥ श्रीः ॥

श्रीमतेनिगमान्त महादेशिकाय नमः

॥ षोडशायुधस्तोत्रम् ॥

## SWAMY DESIKAN'S SHODASAYUDHA STHOTHRAM

### Introduction

Shodasa Ayutha means sixteen weapons of Sri Sudarsanaazhwar. This Sthothram is in praise of the glory of Sri Sudarsanaazhwar who is wielding sixteen weapons all of which are having a part of the power of the Chakraudham bestowed upon them. This Sthothram consists of 19 sLOkams. The first sLOkam is an introduction and refers to the 16 weapons adorned by Sri Sudarsana Bhagavan. The 18<sup>th</sup> sLOkam is prayer to Sri Sudarsanaazhwar. The last sLOkam 19 is phala sruthi. sLOkam 2 to 17 (sixteen sLOkams) are for each of the sixteen weapons.

It is said that when Swamy Desikan was living at Kanchipuram, many people at Thirupputkuzi, about 5 miles from Kanchipuram were suffering from a wave of visha jvaram (cold fever), which was raging in an epidemic form. People were in distress. Swamy Desikan heard of this and he was very much moved by their suffering. Out of mercy for them, he composed this Sthothram and Sri SudarsanaAshtakam, eulogizing Sri Sudarsana Bhagavan. Swamy advised the villagers to recite them. The rare form of Sri

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Sudarsanar with 16 divine weapons responded to Swamy Desikan's prayer immediately and banished the poisonous fever from the Dhivya desam. The visha jvaram was no match for the powerful weapons of Sri Sudarsana Bhagavan invoked by Swamy Desikan on behalf of the helpless people. This sthothram is in an unusual form. Swamy Desikan's invocation is in the form of second person. Swamy says: "May He (Sri Sudarsanar) protect you!" in these slokams. This explains why these two Sthothrams, find a place next to ParamArTa Sthuti, which is a Sthothram in praise of Thiruputkuzhi Perumal, Sri Vijayaraghavan.

Swamy Desikan in the phala sruthi, says that he composed this Sthothram for the benefit and welfare of the pious and those who recite will be protected by Sri Sudarsanaazhwar

The sixteen weapons of Sri Sudarsanaazhwar are: (1) Chakram (2) Axe - Parasu

(3) Spear - kunta (4) Stick - Dhandam (5) angusam - goad (6) Sathamukhaagni - hundred edged weapon emitting Agni (7) Sword - Nistrimsa (8) Sakthi - vEl (9) Conch - Paanchajanyam (10) Bow- Saarngam (11) Noose - pAsam (12) Plough - Seera (13) Vajrayudham - Thunderbolt (14) Mace - Ghathai (15) Pestle - musalam (16) Trident - Soolam. These sixteen divine weapons can be seen on the archa moorthy of Sri Sudarsanaazhwar at Kanchipuram. Weapons 1 to 8 are on the right hands from the top. Weapons 9 to 16 are on the left hands. These sixteen divine weapons are also mentioned in the last paasuram of Paramatha Bhangam. It is believed that by reciting these slokams, one can be free of diseases and live a healthy and happy life.





Swami Desikan

श्रीमान् वेङ्कटनाथार्यः कवितार्किककेसरी ।

वेदान्ताचार्यवर्यो मे सन्निधत्तां सदा हृदि ॥

srImAn ve~nkaTanAthAryah kavitArkikakesarI |  
vEdAntAchArya varyO mE sannidhattAm sadA hrudi ||



Sri Vijayavalli Sudarshanavalli samEtha Sri ChakrapANi PerumAL

### SLOKAM 1

स्व सङ्कल्प कला कल्पैरायुधैरायुधेश्वरः ।

जुष्टः षोडशभिर्दिव्यैर्जुषतां वः परः पुमान् ॥ १ ॥

sva sankalpa kalA kalpai: aayudhai: aayudhEsvara: |  
jushta: shoDasabhi: divyai: jushatam va: para: pumaan ||

*Meaning:* SaasthrAs say that Sriman NaarAyaNan's sanklapam (divine will) alone took the form of SudarsanAzhwAn. The small part of the sanklapam of Sudarsana BhagavAn transformed itself further into the sixteen weapons. May that ChakrarAjan (SudarshanAn) served by these sixteen aayudhams respond to your prayers for relief from the poisonous fever!





"Chathrus-chakram namasyAmi Kesavam Kanaka Prabham".



Sri Keshava Moorthy Holding Four Chakrams

## SLOKAM 2

यदायत्तं जगच्चक्रं कालचक्रं च शाश्वतम् ।  
पातु वस्तत्परं चक्रं चक्र रूपस्य चक्रिणः ॥ २ ॥

yadAyattam jagacchakram kAla chakram cha sAsvatam |  
pAtu vastatparam chakram chakra rUpasya chakriNa: ||

*Meaning:* May the ChakraYudham (one of the sixteen divine weapons) adorning the hands of ChaakratthAzhwAn protect you all! The Universe is rotating eternally driven by the tattvam of Kaalam (second-minute-hour-day-month-year). This Kaala tattvam is under the control of the ChakraYudham, which is the chief among the weapons of the Lord. He (The Lord) Himself takes on the form of this Chakram (Sudarsana Roopam).





Sri Sudarshana at Thirumohur

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### SLOKAM 3

यत्प्रसूति शतैरासन् रुद्राः परशुलाञ्छनाः ।  
स दिव्यो हेतिराजस्य परशुः परिपातु वः ॥ ३ ॥

yath prasUti sathai: aasan rudrA: parasu lAncchanA: |  
sa divyO heti rAjasya parasu: paripaatu va: ||

*Meaning:* There are many RudrA ghanangals. The weapon for each one of them is axe (Parasu). These axes of the RudrAs were all progeny of Sri Sudarsanar's Axe. RudrAs worship the Ayudharaajan (King of weapons), Sri SudarsanAzhvaan and get their axes from the Lord and do their duties. May Sri Sudarsana BhagavAn's axe, which is the source for the creation of all other axes, protect you all!





Sri Sudarshana at Sri Ranaganatha Temple, Pamona, NY

#### SLOKAM 4

हेलया हेतिराजेन यस्मिन् दैत्याः समुद्धृते ।  
शकुन्ता इव धावन्ति स कुन्तः पालयेत वः ॥ ४ ॥

hElayA hEti rAjEna yasmin daityA: samuddhrutE |  
sakuntA iva dhAvanti sa kunta: pAlayEta va: ||

*Meaning:* When the Lord, Thiruvaazhiaazhvan playfully takes his spear (kunta:) on His hand, the asurAs will immediately run away helter-skelter, like a bird flying away swiftly (sakuntA iva dhAvanti). May that divine weapon “Spear” protect you all!





Sri Sudarshana at Perumpuliyur

### SLOKAM 5

दैत्य दानव मुख्यानां दण्ड्यानां येन दण्डनम् ।  
हेति दण्डेश दण्डोऽसौ भवतां दण्डयेद द्विषः ॥ ५ ॥

daitya dAnava mukhyAnAm daNDyAnAm yEna daNDanam |  
hEti daNDesa daNDa: asau bhavatAm daNDayEdh dvisSha: ||

*Meaning:* DaithyAs were born to Diti. Daanavas were off spring of the race of demoness, Danu. Like this there are many asurAs. They are always intent in treating cruelly all Rishis and other pious people and giving trouble. Therefore, they deserve punishment. Sri Sudarsanar punishes them with His weapon “Stick” (Danda:). May Danda the divine weapon of the Lord, protect you all and destroy the enemies.







Sri Sudarshana at Ahobila Matam

### SLOKAM 6

अनन्यान्वयभक्तानां रुन्धन्नाशा मतङ्गजान् ।  
अनङ्कुशविहारो वः पातु हेतीश्वराङ्कुशः ॥ ६ ॥

ananyAnvaya bhaktAnAm rundhan AasA matangajAn |  
anankusa vihArO va: paatu hetIsvara ankusa: ||

*Meaning:* When BhakthAs who are totally devoted to Emperumaan and never even think of anya dEvathAs (ananyAnvaya) desire for worldly enjoyments, ThiruvaazhiaazhvAn will control them with His ankusam (goad) like an ankusam controlling the elephants. May this divine weapon “ankusam” with such an uninterrupted lelais protect you all!





Sri Sudarshana at Srirangam

### SLOKAM 7

संभूय शलभायन्ते यत्र पापानि देहिनाम् ।  
स पातु शत वक्त्राग्नि हेतिर्हेतीश्वरस्य वः ॥ ७ ॥

sambhUya salabhAyantE yatra pApAni dEheenAm |  
sa paatu sata vaktrAgni hEtirhEtIsvarasya va: ||

*Meaning:* One of the sixteen weapons of Sri Sudarsanaazhvaan is “Sathamukhaagni” (sata vaktra agni) which has hundred (100) mouths. Fierce fire is emitted through all these mouths. If mediated on this divine aayudham, all the sins of chEtanan will be destroyed like insects falling in to lamps and burnt. Such is the power of this aayudham. May this divine aayudham “agni” protect you all!





Sri Sudarshana at ThiruKacchi

### SLOKAM 8

अविद्यां स्वप्रकाशेन विद्यारूपश्छिनत्ति यः ।  
स सुदर्शन निस्त्रिंशः सौतु वस्तत्त्वदर्शनम् ॥ ८ ॥

avidhyAm sva prakAsEna vidhyArUpa: chinatthi ya: |  
sa sudarsana nistrimsa: sautu va: tathva darsanam | |

*Meaning:* Sword (**nistrimsa:**) is another divine weapon of Sri Sudarsanar. PuraNam says that this weapon is “Devathai” for jn~Anam. This weapon is the embodiment of jn~Anam (jn~Ana svaroopi). The very lustre of this divine weapon Sword can root out the ignorance (**avidhya / ajjn~Anam**). May this divine weapon “Sword” bestow upon you all tathva jn~Anam (**tathva darsanam sautu**)!





Sri Sudarshana at Chakrapani Koil

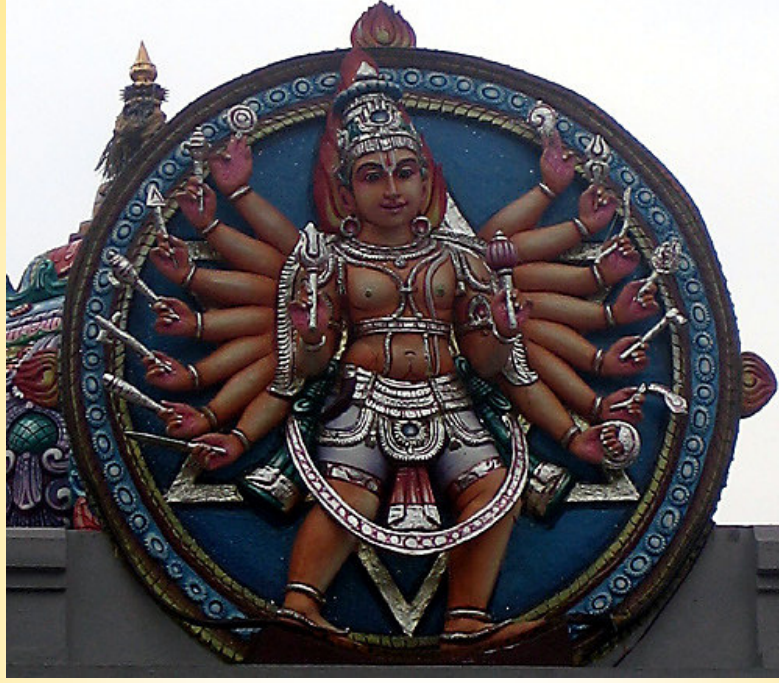
### SLOKAM 9

क्रियाशक्तिगुणो विष्णोर्यो भवत्यतिशक्तिमान् ।  
अकुण्ठशक्तिः सा शक्तिरशक्तिं वारयेत वः ॥ ९ ॥

kriyA sakti guNO vishNO: ya: bhavati atisaktimAn |  
akuNTha sakti: saa sakti: asaktim vArayEta va: ||

*Meaning:* Yet one another of the sixteen weapon for ChaakratthAzhwAn is “Sakti” (vEl). This weapon is a very powerful one. It is said that the power to create the world (kriya sakti guna:) by EmperumAn is only due to this “Sakti” aayudham. The power (Sakti) of this weapon will never get diminished/blunted. (akunTha sakti:). May this weapon, “Sakti” destroy your asakti (inability, weakness)!





Sri Sudarshana

### SLOKAM 10

तारत्वं यस्य संस्थाने शब्दे च परिदृश्यते ।  
प्रभोः प्रहरणेन्द्रस्य पाञ्चजन्यः स पातु वः ॥ १० ॥

tAratvam yasya samsTaanE sabde cha paridrussyatE |  
prabhO: praharaNEndrasya paanchajanya: sa paatu va: ||

*Meaning:* Next to Sri Sudarsanar, Sri Paanchajanyam the Conch is the most glorious and famed weapon of the Lord. The shape of this famed weapon is like that of “PraNavam” (Om). Sri Paanchajanyam is capable of making such a thunderous sound when blown, will cause the stomach of the enemies to tremble in great fear. May that Sri Paanchajanyam protect you all!





### SLOKAM 11

यं सात्विकमहङ्कारम् आमनन्त्यक्षसायकम् ।  
अव्यादœ वश्वक्ररूपस्य तद्धनुः शार्ङ्गधन्वनः ॥ ११ ॥

yam saatvikam ahankAram aamananti aksha saayakam |  
avyaadh va: chakra rUpasya taddhanu: sArnga dhanvana: | |

*Meaning:* Maha Rishis says that Saathvika ahankAram is the divine weapon “Saarngam”, the bow and that the indhriyams arising out of such Sathvika ahankAram are the arrows. The Tiruvaazhiaazhvaan adorning the Emperumaan is but an Embodiment of Himself who bears the divine weapon Saarngam. May that Saarngam borne by the magnificent Sri Sudarsana protect you all!





### SLOKAM 12

युधेन्द्रेण येनैव विश्वसर्गो विरच्यते ।  
स वः सौदर्शनः कुर्यात् पाशः पाशविमोचनम् ॥ १२ ॥

aayudha indrENa yEna yEva visva sargO virachyatE |  
sa va: saudarsana: kuryAt pAsa: pAsavimochanam ||

*Meaning:* Thiruvaazhiaazhvan creates the Universe with the “Noose” (Paasam) on HIS hand. May that divine weapon “Paasam” free you from the Samsaanic afflictions (paasam) and protect you all! BhagavAn by His sankalpam created this Universe. Thiruvaazhiaazhvan is the embodiment of the Lord Himself. It is therefore quite apt to say that Sri Sudarsanar created this Universe.

Note the conflict on the use of the word of “Paasam”, which is used to bind as well to relieve the samsaara paasam.





### SLOKAM 13

विहारो येन देवस्य विश्वक्षेत्रकृषीवलः ।  
व्यज्यते तेन सीरेण नासीरविजयोऽस्तु वः ॥ १३ ॥

vihArO yEna dEvasya visva kshEtra krushIvala: |  
vyajyatE tEna sIrENa nAsIra vijayostu va: ||

*Meaning:* The entire Universe is a cultivable land. Emperumaan is an incomparable former (uzhavan) of this Universe. The Lord cultivates the chEtanan, the land and gets the phalan out of this. Plough used for cultivating the agricultural land is yet another divine weapon borne by SrI Sudarsanar. This shows that HE is a peasant cultivating HIS Leelais. May the divine Plough bestow victory on the battlefield for all of you! (tEna sIrENa va:nasIra vijayOastu).







“aayudhanAmaham vajram.....vasuki:” - Bhagavath Geeta: 10:28

The divine power of Sri Sudarsanar's Vajraayudham was transformed in to that of Indran. Due to this power only, Indran could kill the asuran and his Vajraayudham became famous. Unlike that of Indran's weapon, the Lord's weapon Vajraayudham was not created from the backbones of Rishi Dadheechi. Hence it is more famous. May this famed weapon protect you all!



Sri Malolan

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### SLOKAM 14

आयुधानामहं वज्रं इत्यगीयत यः स वः ।  
अव्याद्धेतीशवज्रोऽसौ अदधीच्यस्थि संभवः ॥ १४ ॥

aayudhAnAm aham vajram iti agIyata ya: sa va: |  
avyAath hEtIsa vajroasau adadhIchyasTi sambhava: ||

*Meaning:* Vajraayudham (Thunderbolt) is the weapon Indran. This weapon was created from the backbones of Rishi Dadheechi. Indra could kill the asuran Vriddhasuran, son of Diti, with this weapon. Among the weapons in the Universe, Vajraayudham is considered to be the foremost and best. When the Lord talks about the best of best things in Geeta, HE says that among the weapons, HE is Vajraayudham and HE is in all praise of this weapon.





### SLOKAM 15

विश्व संहति शक्तिर्या विश्रुता बुद्धि रूपिणी ।  
सा वः सौदर्शनी भूयात् गद प्रशमनी गदा ॥ ॥ १५ ॥

visva samhruti sakti: yaa visrutA buddhi rUpiNee |  
saa va: saudarsanI bhUyAt gada prasamnI gadA ||

*Meaning:* The next divine weapon of the Lord is Gadhaa (Mace). Gadhaa is considered to be one of the tattvam "Mahaan". Mahaan is second in the order of the other tattvams - Prakruthi, Mahaan, ahankAram. Saasthras praise the Lord's weapon, Gadhaa as most powerful weapon capable of having the power to destroy the world (visva samhruti sakti:). May this weapon protect you and relieve you all your ailment!





### SLOKAM 16

यात्यतिकोद शालित्वं मुसलो येन तेन वः ।

हेतीश मुसलेनाशु भिद्यतां मोहमौसलम् ॥ १६ ॥

yaatyati kshOda sAalitivam musalO yEna tEna va: |  
hEteesa musalEna aasu bhidyatAm moha mausalam | |

*Meaning:* Musalam (Pestle) is another divine weapon of Sri Sudar-sanaazhvaan. Due to the transformation of the power of this divine weapon in to other pestles of this Universe, this Lord's weapon is capable of destroying every thing in this world. May this divine weapon remove quickly all your ignorance (ajJn~Anam) which is the main cause for all your troubles!





### SLOKAM 17

शूलि दृष्ट मनोर्वाच्यो येन शूलयति द्विषः ।  
भवतां तेन भवतात् त्रिशूलेन विशूलता ॥ १७ ॥

sooli drushta manOr vAchyO yEna soolayati dvisha: |  
bhavatAm tEna bhavatAt trisoolEna visoolataa | |

*Meaning:* The Trident (Soolam) is the weapon of Sivan. Siva has revealed in ahirbudhnya SamhithA the powerful manthram of Sri Sudarsanar. Thiruvazhiaahvaan with his Soolam punishes the enemies. May the divine weapon "Soolam" protect you all and to live a healthy life with out any aiment (tEna trisoolEna bhavatAtam visoolataa)!





### SLOKAM 18

अस्त्र ग्रामस्य कृत्स्नस्य प्रसूतिं यं प्रचक्षते ।  
सोऽव्यात् सुदर्शनो विश्वम् आयुधैः षोडशायुधः ॥ १८ ॥

astra grAmasya krutsnasya prasUtim yam prachakshatE |  
sOavyAt sudarsanO visvam aayudhai: shODasAyudha: ||

*Meaning:* May Lord Sudarsanan adorning all the sixteen divine weapons protect the entire Universe with them! He is indeed the origin of all the assembly of weapons in this world. SaasthrAs identify Him as the source kaaraNam for the entire assembly of weapons of the world.

For additional thoughts on the vaibhavam of Sri Sudarsana Bhagavan, bhAgavathAs may refer to Sri SudarsanaAshtakam on “Sundarasimham” E-books web site <http://www.sundarasimham.org>





Swami Desikan on His Thirunakshatram at Thiruvaheendrapuram

### SLOKAM 19

श्रीमद्वेङ्कटनाथेन श्रेयसे भूयसे सताम् ।  
कृतेयमायुधेन्द्रस्य षोडशायुध संस्तुतिः ॥ १९ ॥

srImad venkaTa nAaTEna srEyasE bhUyasE sataam |  
kruta iyam aayudha indrasya shoDasAyudha samstuti: ||

**Meaning:** This stothram on Sri SudarsanAzhvaan with sixteen divine weapons was composed by the poet known as Sri VenkatanaTan (Swamy Desikan) for the benefit and welfare of the pious people.

