Bilvashtakam

About these texts

Sources	Each text is printed with its source, tradition and version. Wording may differ slightly in other traditions and editions.
Transliteration	The Roman line is IAST transliteration derived from the Devanagari (ā = long a, ṃ = anusvara, ḥ = visarga, ś/ṣ = sh sounds, c = ch as in “church”). In Hindi, Awadhi and Braj texts the silent final “a” is dropped. Transliteration does not show Vedic accents.

Bilvashtakam

Type	Ashtakam
Deity	Shiva
Version	Verified text
Tradition	Shaiva
Source	Brihat Stotra Ratnakara, vol. 1 (1953) — Vol. 1, scan pages 446–447
Credits	Text: Brihat Stotra Ratnakara vol. 1 (1953) via Sanskrit Wikisource contributors (CC BY-SA 4.0). Verification, summary and meaning: Udyog Jyotish editorial team.
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त्रिदळं त्रिगुणाकारं त्रिनेत्रं च त्रियायुधं ।

tridaḷaṃ triguṇākāraṃ trinetraṃ ca triyāyudhaṃ |

त्रिजन्मपापसंहारं एकबिल्वं शिवार्पितम् ॥ १ ॥

trijanmapāpasaṃhāraṃ ekabilvaṃ śivārpitam || 1 ||

त्रिशाखैर्बिल्वपत्रैश्च अच्छिद्रैः कोमलैश्शुभैः ।

triśākhairbilvapatraiśca acchidraiḥ komalaiśśubhaiḥ |

तव पूजां करिष्यामि एकबिल्वं शिवार्पितम् ॥ २ ॥

tava pūjāṃ kariṣyāmi ekabilvaṃ śivārpitam || 2 ||

दर्शनं बिल्ववृक्षैश्च स्पर्शनं पापनाशनम् ।

darśanaṃ bilvavṛkṣaiśca sparśanaṃ pāpanāśanam |

अघोरपापसंहारं एकबिल्वं शिवार्पितम् ॥ ३ ॥

aghorapāpasaṃhāraṃ ekabilvaṃ śivārpitam || 3 ||

साळग्रामेषु विप्रेषु तटाके वनकूपयोः ।

sāḷagrāmeṣu vipreṣu taṭāke vanakūpayoḥ |

यज्ञकोटिसहस्राणां एकबिल्वं शिवार्पितम् ॥ ४ ॥

yajñakoṭisahasrāṇāṃ ekabilvaṃ śivārpitam || 4 ||

दन्तिकोटिसहस्रेषु अश्वमेधशतानि च ।

dantikoṭisahasreṣu aśvamedhaśatāni ca |

कोटिकन्याप्रदानेन एकबिल्वं शिवार्पितम् ॥ ५ ॥

koṭikanyāpradānena ekabilvaṃ śivārpitam || 5 ||

एकं च बिल्वपत्रैश्च कोटियज्ञफलं लभेत् ।

ekaṃ ca bilvapatraiśca koṭiyajñaphalaṃ labhet |

Traditional texts with source notes. No guaranteed results are claimed.

महादेवैश्च पूजार्थं एकबिल्वं शिवार्पितम् ॥ ६ ॥

mahādevaiśca pūjārthaṃ ekabilvaṃ śivārpitam || 6 ||

काशीक्षेत्रे निवासं च कालभैरवदर्शनम् ।

kāśīkṣetre nivāsaṃ ca kālabhairavadarśanam |

गयाप्रयागमे दृष्ट्वा एकबिल्वं शिवार्पितम् ॥ ७ ॥

gayāprayāgame dṛṣṭvā ekabilvaṃ śivārpitam || 7 ||

उमया सह देवेशं वाहनं नन्दिशङ्करम् ।

umayā saha deveśaṃ vāhanaṃ nandiśaṅkaram |

मुच्यते सर्वपापेभ्यो एकबिल्वं शिवार्पितम् ॥ ८ ॥

mucyate sarvapāpebhyo ekabilvaṃ śivārpitam || 8 ||

Meaning

The three-part bilva leaf is likened to the three gunas, Shiva's three eyes and three weapons, and is said to remove the sins of three births. Each verse compares the merit of one bilva leaf offered to Shiva with great acts — gifts to many, countless sacrifices, living in Kashi and seeing Kalabhairava, pilgrimage to Gaya and Prayag — and the last says the one who offers it to Shiva with Uma and Nandi is freed of all sins.

Traditional texts with source notes. No guaranteed results are claimed.

About this document

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Meanings are short explanations in our own words, not scholarly translations. Benefits mentioned in a text's own verses are part of the text and are not guarantees.

Some practices are traditionally followed with a teacher's guidance. Follow the guidance of your own tradition.