

## Dakshinamurthy



Dakshinamurthy is an aspect of hindu god Shiva as a guru (teacher) of all types of knowledge. This form of Shiva is worshipped as the god of wisdom, complete and rewarding meditation. He is the embodiment of knowledge and the personification of ignorance. Dakshinamurti literally means “one who is facing south (dakshina)” in Sanskrit. “Dakshinya” means kindness (benevolence). So this manifestation is a benevolent teacher who accords wisdom to seekers of salvation. In every Shiva temple while circumambulating the Dakshinamurthy is seen facing south direction.

Lord Shiva, in order to instruct the rishis and the seers assumed the form of a guru, and sitting on the peak of Kailasa. He turned southward to serve all seekers. The term Dakshinamurti means “that divine power of subtle perception which is generated in a fully integrated pure intellect”. According to Hindu mythology he taught the four sons of Brahma in Silence. It is said that he sits under a banyan tree (Vada Ala Vruksham). He is seen seated on a raised platform placed under a banyan or fig tree, his left leg bent and rested upon the seat and his right one rests on the Apasmāra-purusa who is the personification of ignorance; on his head is the jatābandha; the back right hand holds a snake and the front right hand holds an aksamālā and is in the chin-mudrā; the back left hand carries a bundle of kuśa grass, the front left hand carries an amṛta-ghata. He wears round his lions a garment; deer skin worn in the upavīta fashion, he has a resplendent face and a calm radiant smile; He is seen surrounded by sages and disciples sitting around him

### **Dakshinamurthy Gayatri Mantra**

Om vRishabha-dhvajaaya Vidmahe  
Ghruni-Hasthaaya Dheemahi  
Thanno Dakshinamoorthy Prachodayaath

### **Dakshinamurthy Sloka**

Gurave Sarva Lokaa-naam  
Bhisha-je Bhava Rogi-naam  
Nidha-ye Sarva Vidya-naam  
Dakshina Moorthaye Namaha

Meaning: I salute God Dakshina Moorthy (Shiva in Guru form) who is the Guru of all the worlds, the One who cures the disease of worldly existence and who is wealth of all knowledge.