



The eight *ślokas* are introduced in this section. These are chanted along with other *ślokas* while performing a sixteen-step *pūjā*.

1. Offer flowers chanting:

दीपज्योतिः परं ब्रह्म दीपज्योतिर्जनार्दनः।
दीपो मे हरतु पापं दीपज्योतिर्नमोऽस्तुते॥

dīpajyotiḥ param brahma dīpajyotir janārdanaḥ
dīpo me haratu pāpaṃ dīpajyotir namo stute

The light of the lamp stands for *Brahman*, the unmanifest truth as well as for Lord *Viṣṇu* (in his manifest form). Let that light of lamp remove my *pāpas* results of omissions and commissions.

2. *Guru Dhyānam* - Visualisation of one's *Guru*.

गुरुर्ब्रह्मा गुरुर्विष्णुः गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः।
गुरुस्साक्षात् परं ब्रह्म तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः।

gururbrahmā gururviṣṇuḥ gururdevo maheśvaraḥ
gurussākṣāt param brahma tasmai śrī gurave namaḥ

The *guru* is *Brahmā*, the *guru* is *Viṣṇu*, the *guru* is *Maheśvara*. The *guru* is ultimate truth. Unto that *guru* my prostration.

3. *Vighneśvara Dhyānam* - Visualisation of Lord *Gaṇeśa*.

Lightly tap the temples with the knuckles, chanting the following *mantra*:

शुक्लाम्बरधरं विष्णुं शशिवर्णं चतुर्भुजम्।
प्रसन्नवदनं ध्यायेत् सर्वविघ्नोपशान्तये॥

*suklāmbāradharam viṣṇum śaśivarṇam caturbhujam
prasannavadanam dhyāyet sarvaviḡhnopaśāntaye*

May one meditate upon Lord *Vighneśvara*, who wears the white garment, who is all pervasive, who has a bright complexion (like the full moon), who has four hands (representing all power), who has an ever-smiling face (or an elephant face), for the removal of all obstacles.

4. *Āsana pūjā* - Worship of the Earth to Purify the Seat.

Sprinkle water on your seat while chanting:

पृथ्वि त्वया धृता लोकाः देवि त्वं विष्णुना धृता।
त्वं च धारय मां देवि पवित्रं कुरु चासनम्॥

*pṛthvi tvayā dhṛtā lokāḥ devi tvam viṣṇunā dhṛtā
tvam ca dhāraya mām devi pavitram kuru cāsanam*

End of 1A

O Mother Earth, all the worlds are held by you. You are held by *Viṣṇu*. May you hold me, O Goddess, and purify my seat.

5. *Ghaṇṭā pūjā* - Worship of the Bell to Purify the Atmosphere.

Ring the bell while chanting:

आगमार्थं तु देवानां गमनार्थं तु रक्षसाम्।
कुर्वे घण्टारवं तत्र देवताह्वानलाञ्छनम्॥

*āgamārtham tu devānaṃ gamanārtham tu rakṣasām
kurve ghaṇṭaravam tatra devatāhvānalāñchanam*

For the arrival of the deities and for the departure of destructive forces, I ring the bell, marking the invocation of the deity.

6. *Kalaśa pūjā* - Worship of the Pot of Water to Purify all *pūjā* Materials.

Offer flowers in the *pañcapātram*, small pot, which has been filled with water and decorated with sandal paste and vermilion. Cover the *pañcapātram* with the right palm and chant:

गङ्गे च यमुने चैव गोदावरि सरस्वति।
नर्मदे सिन्धु कावेरि जलेऽस्मिन् सन्निधिं कुरु॥

*gaṅge ca yamune caiva godāvari sarasvati
narmade sindhu kāveri jale'smin sannidhiṃ kuru*

O Rivers *Gaṅgā*, *Yamunā*, *Godāvarī*, *Syarasvatī*, *Narmadā*, *Sindhu*, *Kāverī*, may you all be present in this water!

Sprinkle the water from the *pañcapātram* on all the *pūjā* materials and on oneself.

7. *Ātma pūjā* - Worship of the Self.

Fold hands and chant:

देहो देवालयः प्रोक्तः जीवो देवस्सनातनः ।
त्यजेदज्ञाननिर्माल्यं सोऽहं भावेन पूजयेत् ।

deho devālayaḥ proktaḥ jīvo devassanātanah
tyajedaḡñānanirmālyam so'ham bhāvena pūjayet

The body is the temple. The *jīva* is the deity of this temple since the beginningless time. May one remove wilted flowers that are looked upon as ignorance and worship the Lord with an understanding that he is non-separate from oneself.

8. सरस्वति नमस्तुभ्यं वरदे कामरूपिणी ।
विद्यारम्भं करिष्यामि सिद्धिर्भवतु मे सदा ॥

sarasvati namastubhyaṃ varade kāmarūpiṇī
vidyārambhaṃ kariṣyāmi siddhirbhavatu me sadā

Salutation to you O Goddess *Sarasvati*, who is a giver of boons, and who has a beautiful form! I begin my studies. Let there be success for me always.