



# YTAYogaTantra&Agama

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## The etymology of some names from the Lalita Sahasranam

[English rendering of a Sanskrit paper read by Prof. Sujata Tripathi at YTA colloquium]

श्रीसुन्दरीसेवनतत्पराणां भोगश्च मोक्षश्च कस्व एव - Path to enlightenment has no enjoyments and vice versa. If one relishes worldly enjoyments there is no emancipation. But for a docile worshipper of the graceful goddess of beauty -Shri Sundari, both are available.

### *Shri Mata –*

The term **Shri** signifies both the consort of Shiva and Bharati, the consort of Brahma, the presiding deity of learning. Hence the mother of both goddesses. It is commonplace that a mother comes for the deliverance of her offspring from miseries and distress. This is why during distress only the mother is remembered. Only mothers can remove our three-fold grievances. Owing to her prowess of removing extreme distress, the universal mother must be felicitated. This comprises the purpose of this compilation. Even for attaining salvation, the divine mother must be felicitated. The thesaurus called *vyadi* defines -the term Shri as - लक्ष्मी-सरस्वती-धी-त्रिवर्ग-सम्पत्-विभूति-शोभसु i.e. affluence, wisdom, intelligence, the three objectives of human life -wealth, comfort and righteousness, wealth, grandeur, and agreeability. Nevertheless owing to the genetrix of Gauri and Bharati -the **shree** can not be categorised as similar to these two. On the other hand, she is propounded as the mother of the consorts of Rudra, Vishnu, and Brahma i.e. the supreme empress of lord Paramashiva. Another etymology of the word **shree** is the entity that illuminates or conditions Lakshmi. The conditioning entity is more extent and pervasive and thus necessarily exceeds -the conditioned one. Therefore, emancipation or moksha can also be defined as infinite grace or unlimited grandeur [अनवधिकश्रीः] as one Vedic verse goes -

सा हि श्रीर्युता सतां [shri is the famous goddess of grandeur and immortality in righteous people]

Or, as the Vedic meter goes - यो ब्रह्माणं विदधाति पवर्षं यो वै वेदांश्च ग्रहिणोति तन्मै (One who bears Brahma the creator and confides the knowledge of the Vedas to him).

**Shri** also means poison- one who limits [मति] or places it within her/his throat श्रीप्. This name however is in the masculine gender. There is a tradition that says that one should use the superlative shree before the names of-

Great people and entities e.g. Shri chakram, Shri shailam, Shir vidya, Shri phalam, etc. are the synonyms of the supreme mother. This also signifies that she is the genetrix of the primordial “word”

### *Sri maharajni*

Other subsidiary goddesses like Bharati etc. are merely queens or Rajni but the supreme divine mother is the great empress. This means she is authorised for the sustenance of the entire universal phenomena. In this context, since the word raj ends with na, on being compounded by the prefix mahat, according to the sutra *आत्महनः समानाधिकरणजातीययोः* -on extending the brevis or introducing aatva, the word maharajni becomes a compound of the type in which the middle portion is eliminated [madhyama pada lopah]. This name cannot be derived by adding a suffix ईप् [used for changing the gender]. In that case, the word derived will be maharajee and not maharajni.

### *Shreematsimhasaneshwari*

Simhasanam is the throne meant for the sitting of a coronated monarch. The prefix “sim” in this word refers to excellence; this is a compound like *rajadanta*. In Devi puranam, this has been explained as owing to her being a