॥ तोटकाष्टकम् ॥ Totakashtaka of Sri Totakacharya

The Totakashtaka has been composed in the Totaka meter, in which each paada (quarter) has four sagana's. Here a sa-gana is made up of two short syllables followed by a long one. The hymn naturally lends itself to be set to music. A suggested Raga is (Hindustaani) Todi.

विदिताखिलशास्त्रसुधाजलधे महितोपनिषत्कथितार्थनिधे ।

हृदये कलये विमलं चरणं भव शङ्कर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥ १ ॥

1. O Thou, the knower of all the nectar-ocean of Scriptures! The expounder of the knowledge of the great Upanisadic treasure! I meditate on Your pure lotus feet in my heart. O Teacher, Sankara! be my refuge. (1)

करुणावरुणालय पालय मां भवसागरदुःखविदूनहृदम् ।

रचयाखिलदर्शनतत्त्वविदं भव शङ्कर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥ २ ॥

2. O You who are the Ocean of compassion! Save me whose heart is tormented /afflicted by the misery of the ocean of births! (By Your grace) make me the knower of the truths of all the systems of philosophy. O Teacher Shankara, be my refuge. (2)

भवता जनता सुहिता भविता निजबोध-विचारण-चारुमते ।

कलयेश्वरजीवविवेकविदं भव शङ्कर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥ ३ ॥

3. The people have found happiness due to You, who have the intellect adept in the inquiry into Self knowledge. Make me understand the knowledge of Isvara and the selfl. O Teacher Shankara, be my refuge. (3)

भव एव भवानिति मे नितरां समजायत चेतसि कौतुकिता ।

मम वारय मोहमहाजलधिं भव शङ्कर देशिक मे शरणम् ॥ ४ ॥

4. You are verily Lord Siva Himself. Knowing this my mind is filled with an abundance of joy. Put an end to my vast ocean of delusion. O Teacher Shankara, be my refuge. (4)

सुकृतेऽधिकृते बहुधा भवतो भविता समदर्शनलालसता।

अतिदीनमिमं परिपालय मां भव शङ्कर देशिक मे शरणम्॥ ५॥

5. Only after numerous virtuous deeds have been performed in many ways, does a keen desire for the kowledge of Brahman through You arise. Protect (me who am) extremely helpless. O Teacher Shankara, be my refuge. (5)

जगतीमवितुं कलिता कृतयो विचरन्ति महामहसच्छलतः।

अहिमांशुरिवात्र विभासि गुरो भव शङ्कर देशिक मे शरणम्॥ ६॥

6. For the sake of saving the world, great (persons) assuming various forms wander in disguise. O Guru, You shine like the sun (among them). O Teacher Shankara, be my refuge. (6)

गुरुपुङ्गव पुङ्गवकेतन ते समतामयतां न हि कोऽपि सुधीः।

शरणागतवत्सल तत्त्वनिधे भव शङ्कर देशिक मे शरणम्॥ ७॥

7. O Best among the Teachers! The Lord whose flag bears the emblem of the bull! You have no equal among the wise. You who are affectionate to those who seek refuge! The treasure of truth! O Preceptor Teacher, be my refuge. (7)

विदिता न मया विशदैककला न च किञ्चन काञ्चनमस्ति गुरो।

द्रुतमेव विधेहि कृपां सहजां भव शङ्कर देशिक मे शरणम्॥ ८॥

8. Not even a single branch of knowledge has been understood by me clearly. Nor do I possess any wealth. O Teacher. quickly bestow on me the compassion which is natural to You.grace. O Teacher Sankara, be my refuge. (8)

॥ इति तोटकाष्टकं समाप्तम्॥