

THE INVOCATION TO PATANJALI, WORD FOR WORD

*I am bowed down, with hands to the heart, to one who has removed the impurity of the mind by yoga,
impurity of the body by medicine, and impurity of speech by a word, to Patanjali of the lineage of sages.*

*I bow down to that Patanjali, of human form, whose arms extend down to the knees,
who holds a conch, disc and sword, who has a thousand heads, who is so fair.*

<i>yogena</i> by yoga	<i>cittasya</i> of the mind	<i>padena</i> by a word	<i>vaacam</i> of speech
<i>malam</i> impurity	<i>sarirasya</i> of the body	<i>ca</i> and	<i>vaidyakena</i> by medicine (healing)
<i>yo</i> one who	<i>(a)paakarot tam</i> removed that	<i>pravaram</i> lineage	<i>muniinaam</i> of the sages
<i>Patanjalim</i> Patanjali	<i>praanjalir</i> gesture of salutation hands to the heart, head bowed	<i>aanato</i> bowed down	<i>(a)smi</i> I am
<i>abahu</i> One whose arms extend down to the knees	<i>purusa</i> human	<i>aakaaram</i> shape or form	
<i>sankha</i> conch	<i>akera</i> discus	<i>asi</i> sword	<i>dbaarinam</i> holding
<i>sahasra</i> thousand	<i>sirasam</i> head(ed)	<i>svetam</i> white, fair (upper caste, Brahmin)	
<i>pranamami</i> I bow down	<i>Patanjalim</i> to that Patanjali		

*By yoga, the mind; by a word, the speech;
impurity of the body by medicine
(to) the one who has removed that, (of the) lineage of the sages,
(to) Patanjali, with hands to the heart, head bowed, I am bowed down
(he is) one whose arms extend down to the knees, human in form,
(a) conch, discus and sword holding
thousand headed, (he is) white in color,
I bow down to that Patanjali*

When I chant the invocation to Patanjali, I want to be able to understand each word as I would an English word, rather than repeating it by rote. I asked Fred Smith, Professor of Sanskrit and Classical Indian Religions at the University of Iowa, student and friend of the Iyengar community, to help me with the word for word translation above. The first version is a looser and rearranged translation. The word for word translation follows. The last translation is put together in the word for word order. — Francie Ricks