

# THE KAVACH OF THE DEVI

The Presiding Sage for Shri Chandi-Kavach is Brahma. The metre is Anushtup. The Presiding Deity is Chamunda. The main seed is Anganyasakta Matar. The principle is Digbandha Devata. It is recited as part of Sapta-Shati, to please Jagadamba. Amen.

Obeisance to Chandika.

Thus spoke Markandeya:

1) Amen. O Brahmadeva, please tell me that which is very secret and has not been told by anyone to anybody else and which protects all human beings in this world.

Brahmadeva said:

2) Brahmin, there is Devi Kavach which is most secret and is useful to all beings.

Please listen to the Kavach of the Devi, O Great Sage.

(3.5) The following nine names have been told by the great soul Brahmadeva Himself.

Durga is known by these names:

First, Shailaputri. Second, Brahmacharini. Third, Chandraganta. Fourth, Kooshmanda. Fifth, Skandamata. Sixth, Katyayani. Seventh, Kalaratri. Eighth, Mahagauri. Ninth, Siddhidatri.

Durga is the daughter of the King of Himalayas, the One who observes the state of celibacy, the One who bears the moon around Her neck, the One whose void contains the universe, the One who gave birth to Karttikeya, the One who incarnated to help the Devas, the One who is the destroyer, even of Kali, the One who has made great penances, and the One who grants Moksha.

(6-7) Those who are frightened, who are surrounded by enemies on the battlefield, who are burning in fire, or are at an impassable place, will face no calamity, and will never have grief, sorrow, fear, or evil, if they surrender to Durga.

8) Those who remember You with great devotion indeed have prosperity. Undoubtedly, O Goddess of the Gods, You protect those who remember You.

9) The Goddess Chamunda sits on a corpse, Varahi rides on a buffalo, Aindri is mounted on an elephant, and Vaishnavi on a condor.

10) Maheshvari rides on a bull; the vehicle of Kaumari is the peacock; Lakshmi, the beloved of Shri Vishnu, is seated on a lotus, and also holds a lotus in Her hand.

11) The Goddess Ishvari, of white complexion, rides on a bull; and Brahmi, who is bedecked with every ornament, is seated on a swan.

12) All the mothers are endowed with yoga and are adorned with ornaments and jewels.

13) All the Goddesses are mounted on chariots and are very angry. They wield the conch, discus, mace, plough, club, javelin, axe, noose, barbed dart, trident, bow, and arrows. They wield their weapons for destroying the bodies of demons, for the protection of their devotees, and for the benefit of the Gods.

16) Salutations to You, O Goddess, of very dreadful appearance, of frightening valour, of tremendous strength and energy, the destroyer of the worst fears.

17) O Devi, it is difficult to have even a glance at You. You increase the fears of Your enemies. Please come to my rescue.

May Goddess Aindri protect me from the east; Agni Devata (the Goddess of fire) from the southeast, Varahi (the Shakti of Vishnu in the form of the boar) from the south, Khadgadharini (the wielder of the sword) from the southwest, Varuni (the Shakti of Varuna, the rain God) from the west, and Mrgavahini (whose vehicle is the deer) protect me from the northwest.

19) May Goddess Kaumari (the Shakti of Kumar, that is, Karttikeya) protect me from the north and Goddess Shooladharini from the northeast; Brahmani (the Shakti of Brahma) from above; and Vaishnavi (the Shakti of Vishnu) from below.

20-21) May Goddess Chamunda, who sits on a corpse, protect me from all ten directions. May Goddess Jaya protect me from the front and Vijaya from the rear; Ajita from the left and Aparajita from the right. May Goddess Dyotini protect the top-knot, and may Uma sit on my head and protect it.

22-23) May I be protected by Maladhari on the forehead; Yashasvini on the eyebrows, Trinetra between the eyebrows, Yamaghanta on the nose, Shankini on both the eyes, and Dvaravasini on the ears. May Kalika protect my cheeks and Shankari the roots of the ears.

24-27) May I be protected by Sugandha—nose, Charchika—upper lip, Amrtakala—lower lip, Sarasvati—tongue, Kaumari—teeth, Chandika—throat, Chitraghanta—sound box, Mahamaya—crown of the head, Kamakshi—chin, Sarvamangala—speech, Bhadrakali—neck, and Dhanurdhari—back.

May Neelagreeva protect the outer part of my throat and Nalakoobari, my windpipe. May Khadgini protect my shoulders and Vajradharini protect my arms.

28-30) May Devi Dandini protect both my hands; Ambika—my fingers; Shooleshvari—my nails; and may Kuleshvari protect my belly. May I be protected by Mahadevi—breast, Shuladharini—abdomen, Lalita Devi—heart, Kamini—navel, Guhyeshwari—hidden parts, Pootanakamika—reproductive organs, and Mahishavahini—rectum.

31) May Goddess Bhagavati protect my waist; Vindhyaasini, my knees; and may the wish-fulfilling Mahabala protect my hips.

32) May Narasinh protect my ankles; may Taijasi protect my feet; may Shri protect my toes; and may Talavasini protect the soles of my feet.

33) May Danshtrakarali protect my nails, Urdhvakeshini—hair, Kauberi—pores, and Vagishvari—skin.

34) May Goddess Parvati protect my blood, bone marrow, fat and bones; Goddess Kalaratri, intestines; and Mukuteshvari, bile and liver.

35) May Padmavati protect the chakras; Choodamani—phlegm, or lungs; Jvalamukhi—lustre of the nails; and Abhedya—all the joints.

36) Brahmani—semen, Chhatreshvari—the shadow of my body, Dharmadharini—ego, superego and intellect, or buddhi.

37) Vajrahasta—the five vital breaths: pran, apan, vyan, udan, and saman; Kalyanashobhana—the life forces, or pranas.

38) May Yogini protect the sense organs: the faculties of tasting, seeing, smelling, hearing and touching.

May Narayani protect the satva, raja and tamo gunas.

39) Varahi—life, Vaishnavi—dharma, Lakshmi—success and fame, Chakrini—wealth and knowledge.

40) Indrani—relatives, Chandika—cattle, Mahalakshmi—children, and Bhairavi—spouse.

41) May Supatha protect my journey and Kshemakari, my way. May Mahalakshmi protect me in the king's courts and Vijaya, everywhere.

42) O Goddess Jayanti, any place that has not been mentioned in the Kavach and has thus remained unprotected, may it be protected by You.

43-44) One should invariably cover oneself with this Kavach by reading it wherever one goes and one should not walk even a single step without it, if one desires auspiciousness. Then one is successful everywhere and all one's desires are fulfilled. That person enjoys great prosperity on the earth.

45) The person who covers himself with Kavach becomes fearless, is never defeated in battle, and becomes worthy of being worshipped in the three worlds.

46-47) One who reads with faith every day thrice (morning, afternoon and evening) the Kavach of the Devi, which is inaccessible even to the Gods, receives the Divine arts, is undefeated in the three worlds, lives for a hundred years and is free from accidental death.

48) All diseases, boils and scars are finished. Moveable poisons (scorpions and snakes) and immovable poisons cannot affect him.

49-52) All those who cast magical spells, by mantras or yantras, on others for evil purposes; all bhoots, goblins, and malevolent beings that move on the earth and in the sky; all those who mesmerise others; all female goblins; and all yakshas and gandharvas are destroyed just by the sight of the person having Kavach in his heart.

53) That person receives more and more respect and prowess. On the earth he rises in prosperity and fame by reading the Kavach and Saptashati.

54-56) His progeny will live as long as the earth is rich with mountains and forests. By the grace of Mahamaya, he will attain the highest place that is inaccessible even to the Gods, and will be eternally blissful in the company of Lord Shiva.