

MAHĀKĀLI DHYANAM  
Meditation on Mahākālī  
From the Devī Mahātmyam [Mārķendeya Purana]

Om Namaś Chaṇḍikāyai.

Om khaḍgam̐ chakra-gadeṣu-chāpa-parighāñ  
chūlam̐ bhuśuṇḍīm̐ śiraḥ  
śaṅkham̐ saṃda-dhatīm̐ karai-stri-nayanām̐  
sarvāṅga-bhūṣāvṛitām̐

Nīlāśma-dyutimāsyā pāda-daśakām̐  
seve Mahākālikām̐  
yāmastaut-svapite harau kamalajo  
hantuṃ madhuṃ kaiṭabham̐.

Om Namaś Chaṇḍikāyai.

Om, I bow to the Goddess Chaṇḍikā.

Om, holding a scimitar, disk, mace, arrows and bow, lance, club, a skull and a conch shell in Her ten hands. The three-eyed goddess, Her body covered with ornaments, Her countenance with the brilliance of blue diamonds, with ten limbs. We offer our service to Mahākālī, She who Brahma praised for protection from the demons Madhu and Kaitava, when Vishnu was in sleep.

Om, I bow to the Goddess Chaṇḍikā.

Line 1: Om; khaḍgam̐: scimitar; chakra: disk; gadeṣu: mace; chāpa: arrow; parighāñ: bow; chūlam̐: lance; bhuśuṇḍīm̐: club; śiraḥ: skull;

Line 2: śaṅkham̐: conch shell; saṃda-dhatīm̐ karai: in Her hands; stri-nayanām̐: three-eyed; sarvāṅga: all Her body; bhūṣāvṛitām̐: decorated.

Line 3: Nīlāśma: blue stone, diamond; dyutimāsyā: radiance; pāda-daśakām̐: ten feet; seve: serve; Mahākālikām̐

Line 4: yāmastaut: She who; svapite: in sleep; harau: Vishnu; kamalajo: Brahmā; hantuṃ: destroy; madhuṃ kaiṭabham̐: the demons Madhu and Kaitava.