

SARASVATĪ DHYANAM
(Meditation on Sarasvatī)

From the Devī Mahātmyam [Mārķendeya Purana]

Om Namaś Chaṇḍikāyai.

Om ghaṇṭā chūlaṃ halāni śaṅkha musale
cakraṃ dhanuḥ sāyakaṃ
Hastābajair dadhatīm ghanānta vilasa-
cī-tām śutulya prabhām
Gaurīdeha samudbhavām trijagatām-
ādhārabhūtaṃ mahā-
Pūrvāmatra Sarasvatīm anubaje
śumbhādi daityādinīm.

Om Namaś Chaṇḍikāyai.

Om, I bow to the Goddess Chaṇḍikā,

I meditate on the incomparable Mahā Sarasvatī, who holds in her (eight) lotus-like hands bell, trident, plough, conch, mace, discus, bow and arrow; who is effulgent like the moon shining at the fringe of a cloud, who is the destroyer of Śumbha and other asuras, who issued forth from Parvatī's body and is the substratum of the three worlds.

Om, I bow to the Goddess Candikā,

Line 1:

om; ghantā: bell; chūlaṃ: lance; halāni: plough; śaṅkha: conch shell; musale: club; cakraṃ: disk; dhanuḥ: bow; sayakaṃ: arrow;

Line 2:

Hastābajair dadhatīm: holding in Her hands; ghanānta-vilasa-cī-tām śu-: the moon in a cloudless sky; tulya prabhām: of similar radiance;

Line 3:

Gaurīdeha: from body of Gauri, -samudbhavām: appeared from; trijagatām: the three worlds; ādhārabhutaṃ: contained in; mahā-

Line 4:

pūrvāmatra: immensely beautiful; Sarasvatīm; anubhaje: we focus on and praise; Śumbhādi: Shumbha and others; daityādinīm: destroyer of demons.