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## Kavach of the Devī (Shrī-Chandī-Kavacham)

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*The Devi Kavach was presented for the first time on a Guru puja day, hence the following introduction: Our guru is the Great Mother. All Her Shakti and Yogini aspects are available for Her children. By reading the Kavach of the Devi, we mobilise these powers to purify and enlighten our Koshas (our mental, emotional and physical bodies). Thus by the power of the Guru-mata, the Atma becomes the guru of the body. May the wisdom and compassion of our Sat-guru flow through us and reach the four quarters of the Earth!*

### Atha Shrī-Chandī-Kavacham

*Here begins the Chandī Kavach:*

**Aum Shrī Ganeshāya namah, Shrī-Sarasvatyai namah**

*Aum. Salutations to Shri Ganesha. Salutations to Shri Saraswati.*

**Shrī-Gurubhyo namah, Shrī-Kula-devatāyai namah**

*Salutations to Shri Guru. Salutations to the Deity worshipped in the family (that is Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi).*

**Avighnam astu, Aum Nārāyanāya namah**

*May there be no obstacles. Amen, salutations to Shri Narayana.*

**Aum Nara-narottamāya namah,**

**Aum Sarasvatī Devyai namah**

**Shrī Vedavyāsāya namah**

*Amen, salutations to Shri Vishnu. Amen, salutations to Goddess Saraswati.*

*Salutations to sage Vyasa.*

### Atha Devyāhā Kavacham

*Here begins the main part of the Devi Kavach:*

**Asya Shrī-Chandī-kavachasya Brahmā ṛishihi**

*The presiding sage of Shri Chandī-Kavach is Brahma,*

**Anushtup chhandah, Chāmundā devatā**

*The metre is Anushtup. The presiding deity is Chamunda.*

**Aṅga-nyāsokta-mātaro-bījam, Digbandha-devatās-tatvam**

*The main seed is Anganyasokta Matar. The principle is Digbandha-devata.*

**Shrī-Jagadambā-prītyarthe,**

**Sapta-Shati pāthāṅgatvena jape viniyogah**

*It is recited as part of the Sapta-shati (seven hundred verses in praise of Shri Durga) to please Shri Jagadamba.*

**Aum namash-Chandikāyai**

*Amen. Obeisance to Chandika.*





## Mārkandeya uvācha

*Thus spoke Markandeya:*

- 1 Aum yad-guhyam paramam loke  
sarva-rakshā-karam nṛunām  
*Amen. O Brahmadeva, please tell me that which is very secret and  
has not been told to anybody,*  
Yan-na kasya-chid'ākhyātam tanme, brūhi Pitāmaha  
*and which protects all beings in this world, in every way.*

## Brahm'ovācha

*Brahmadeva said:*

- 2 Asti Guhya-tamam vipra, sarva-bhūt'opa-kāarakam  
*O Brahmin! That which is most secret, auspicious and benevolent to all beings*  
Devy'astu kavacham punyam, tachchhṛu-nushva Mahāmune  
*Is the Kavach of the Devi. Please listen to that, O great sage.*
- 3 Prathamam Shailaputrī cha, dvitīyam Brahma-chārinī  
*First Shailaputri (The daughter of the mountain), second Brahmacharini  
(The one who observes the state of celibacy),*  
Tṛitīyam Chandra-ghant'etī, Kūshmānd'eti chatur-thakam  
*Third Chandraghanta (adorned with the moon as her bell), fourth Kushmanda  
(The one whose void contains the universe),*
- 4 Panchamam Skandamāt'eti, shashtham Kātyāyan'īti cha  
*Fifth Skandamata (The mother of Kartikeya), Sixth Katyayani  
(The foster-daughter of Sage Katyayana),*  
Saptamam Kālarātr'īti, Mahāgaur'īti ch'āshtamam  
*Seventh Kalaratri (The dark night of dissolution), eighth Mahagauri  
(The Adi Kundalini),*
- 5 Navamam Siddhi-dātrī cha, nava Durgāhā prakīr-titāhā  
*Ninth Siddhi-datri (The bestower of special divine powers). Durga is known  
by these nine names,*  
Uktān-yetāni nāmāni, Brahman'aiva Mahāt-manā  
*As told by the Great Soul Brahmadeva Himself.*
- 6 Agninā dahya-mān'astu, shatru-madhya gato rane  
*Those who are engulfed by fire or surrounded by enemies on the battlefield,*  
Vishame durgame ch'aiva, bhayārtāhā sharanam gatāhā  
*Or being at an impassable place or frightened, if they surrender (to Durga),*





- 7 Na teshām jāyate, kinchid–ashubham rana–sankate  
*They would never suffer any misery or misfortune, even at time of war.*  
Nāpadam tasya pashyāmi, shoka–dukh–bhayam na hi  
*They would face no calamity, grief, sorrow or fear.*
- 8 Yaistu bhaktyā smṛutā nūnam, teshām vṛuddihi prajāyate  
*Those who remember You with great devotion, indeed have prosperity.*  
Ye tvām smaranti Deveshi, rakashase tān–na saonshayah  
*Undoubtedly, O Supreme Goddess, You protect those who remember You.*
- 9 Preta–saonsthā tu Chāmundā, Vārāhī mahish’āsanā  
*The Goddess Chamunda sits on the corpse, Varahi rides on a buffalo,*  
Aindrī gaja–samārūdhā, Vaishnavī Garud’āsanā  
*Aindri is mounted on an elephant and Vaishnavi on a condor (Garuda),*
- 10 Māheshwarī vṛushārūdhā, Kaumārī shikhivāhanā  
*Maheshwari is riding on a bull, the vehicle of Kaumari is a peacock,*  
Lakshmīhī padm’āsanā Devī, padmahastā Haripriyā  
*Lakshmi (the beloved of Shri Vishnu), is seated on a lotus and is also holding a lotus in her hand.*
- 11 Shwetarūpa–dharā Devī, Īshvarī vṛusha–vāhanā  
*The Goddess Ishwari, of white complexion, is riding on a bull,*  
Brāhmī haonśa–samārūdhā, sarv’ābharana–bhūshitā  
*Brahmi who is bedecked with all ornaments is seated on a swan.*
- 12 Ityetā Mātarah sarvāhā, sarvayoga–sam–anvitāhā  
*All the Mothers (goddesses) are endowed with yoga*  
Nānā–bharana–shobhā–dhyā, nānā–ratn’opa–shobhitāhā  
*and are adorned with different ornaments and jewels.*
- 13 Dṛushyante ratham–ārūdhā, Devyah krodha–samā–kulāhā  
*All the goddesses are seen mounted in chariots and are full of anger.*  
Shaṅkham chakram gadām shaktim,  
halam cha musal’āyudham  
*They are wielding conch, discus, mace, plough, club, javelin,*
- 14 Khetakam tomaram chaiva, parashum–pāsham–eva cha  
*Axe, noose, barbed dart, halter, whip,*  
Kunt’āyudham trishulam cha, shārṅgam–āyudham–uttamam  
*Trident, spear, bow and arrows.*





- 15 **Daityānām deha-nāshāya, bhakt'ānāma-abhayāya cha**  
*These goddesses are wielding their weapons constantly, to destroy the bodies of demons,*  
**Dhārayanty'āyudhā-nīttham, Devānām cha hitāya vai**  
*For the protection of devotees and for the benevolence of the gods.*
- 16 **Namaste'stu Mahāraudre, Mahāghora-parākrame**  
*Salutations to You O Goddess, of very dreadful appearance, of frightening valour,*  
**Mahābale Mahotsāhe, Mahābhaya-vināshini**  
*Of tremendous strength and energy, the destroyer of the worst of fears.*
- 17 **Trāhi mām Devī dushprekshye, shatrūnām bhaya-varadhini**  
*O Devi, it is difficult to have even a glance at You. You increase the fears of Your enemies, please protect me.*  
**Prāchyām rakshatu mām-Aindrī, Āgneyyām-Agni devatā**  
*May Goddess Aindri protect me from the east, Agni devata (goddess of fire) from the south-east,*
- 18 **Dakshine'vatu Vārāhī, Nairūtyām Khadga-dhārinī**  
*Varahi (the shakti of Vishnu in the form of the boar) from the south, Khadgadharini (the wielder of sword) from the south-west,*  
**Pratīchyām Varunī rakshed, Vāya-vyām Mṛuga-vāhinī**  
*Varuni (the shakti of Varuna the rain god) from the west, Mrugavahini (whose vehicle is the deer) protect me from the north-west.*
- 19 **Udīchyām pātu Kaumārī, Aishānyām Shūla-dhārinī**  
*May Goddess Kaumari (the eternal virgin, the shakti of Kartikeya) protect me from the north and Goddess Shuladharini from the north-east,*  
**Ūrdhvam Brahmāni me rakshed'adhastād-Vaishnavī tathā**  
*Brahmani (the shakti of Brahma) from above and Vaishnavi (shakti of Vishnu) from below, protect me.*
- 20 **Evam dasha disho rakshyech-Chāmundā Shava-vāhanā**  
*O Goddess Chamunda, who sits on a corpse, please protect me from all the ten directions.*  
**Jayā me chāgratah pātu, Vijayā pātu pṛushthatah**  
*May Goddess Jaya protect me from the front and Vijaya from the rear,*
- 21 **Ajitā vāma-pārshve tu, dakshine ch'āparājitā**  
*Ajita from the left and Aparajita from the right.*  
**Shikhām-Udyotinī rakshed, Umā mūrdhni vyavas-thitā**  
*May Goddess Udyotini protect the top-knot and may Uma cover my head and protect it.*





- 22 Mālādhārī lalāte cha, bhruvau rakshed–Yashasvinī  
*May I be protected, by Maladhari on the forehead, Yashasvini on the eye-brows,*  
Trinetrā cha bhṛuvor–madhye–Yamaghantā cha nāsike  
*Trinetra on the hamsa, Yamaghanta on the nose,*
- 23 Shaṅkhinī chakshushor–madhye, shrotrayor–Dwāra–vāsini  
*Shankhini on both the eyes, Dwarawasini on the ears.*  
Kapolao Kālikā rakshet–karnamūle to Shāṅkarī  
*May Kalika protect my cheeks and Shankari the roots of the ears.*
- 24 Nāsikāyām Sugandhā cha, uttar’oshthe cha Charchikā  
*May I be protected, by Sugandha on the nose, Charchika - the upper lip,*  
Adhare ch’āmṛutakalā, jihvāyām cha Sarasvatī  
*Amrutakala - the lower lip, Saraswati - the tongue,*
- 25 Dantān–rakshatu Kaumārī, kantha–deshe tu Chandikā  
*Kaumari - the teeth, Chandika - the throat,*  
Ghantikām Chitraghantā cha, Mahāmāyā cha tāluke  
*Chitraghanta - the sound-box, Mahamaya - the crown of the head,*
- 26 Kamākshī chibukam rakshed, wācham me Sarva–maṅgalā  
*Kamakshi - the chin, Sarvamangala - speech,*  
Grīvāyām Bhadrakālī cha, pṛushtha–vaonshe Dhanur–dharī  
*Bhadrakali - the neck, Dhanurdhari - the spine.*
- 27 Nīlagrīvā bahih–kanthe, nalikām Nalakūbarī  
*May Nilagriva protect the outer part of my throat and Nalakubari the windpipe.*  
Skandhayoh khadginī rakshed, bāhū me Vajra–dhārinī  
*May Khadgini protect my shoulders and Vajra-dharini protect my arms.*
- 28 Hastayor–Dandinī rakshed–Ambikā chāṅgu–līshu cha  
*May Devi Dandini protect both my hands, Ambika - the fingers,*  
Nakhān Chhūleshwarī rakshet–kukshau rakshet–Kuleshwarī  
*Shuleshwari my nails and may Kuleshwari protect my belly.*
- 29 Stanau rakshen–Mahādevī, manah Shoka–vināshinī  
*May I be protected by Mahadevi - the breast, Shoka-vinashini - the mind,*  
Hṛudaye Lalitā Devī, udare Shūladhārinī  
*Lalita Devi - the heart, Shula-dharini - the stomach,*
- 30 Nābhau cha Kāminī rakshed, guhyam Guhyesh–warī tathā  
*Kamini - the nabhi, Guhyeswari - the hidden parts,*  
Pūtanā kāmikā medhram, gude Mahisha–vāhinī  
*Putana kamika - the reproductive organs, Mahisha-vahini - the rectum.*





- 31 Katyām Bhagavatī rakshej-jānunī Vindhya-vāsini  
*May Goddess Bhagavati protect my waist, Vindhyvasini - the knees,*  
Janghe Mahābalā rakshet-sarvakāma pradāyini  
*The wish fulfilling Mahabala protect my thighs.*
- 32 Gulphayor-Nārasinvhī cha, pāda-prushthe tu Taijasī  
*May Narasinhvi protect my ankles, may Taijasi protect my feet,*  
Pādāñ-gulīshu Shrī rakshet-pādādhas-Talavāsini  
*Shri protect my toes, may Talavasini protect the soles of my feet,*
- 33 Nakhan-doanshtrā-karālī cha, keshān-chaiv'ordhva-keshini  
*May Doanshtra-karali protect my nails, Urdhvakeshini - the hair,*  
Roma-kūpeshu Kauberī, tvacham Vāgīshwarī tathā  
*Kauberi - the pores, Vagishwari - the skin.*
- 34 Rakta-majjā-vasā-māonsāny'asthi-medaoṅsi Pārvatī  
*May Goddess Parvati protect blood, marrow of the bones, fat and bone,*  
Antrāni kāla-rātrish-cha, pittam cha Mukuteshwarī  
*Goddess Kalaratri - the intestines, Mukuteshwari - bile (and liver).*
- 35 Padmāvatī padmakoshe, kaphe Chūdā-manistathā  
*May Padmavati protect the chakras, Chudamani - phlegm (or lungs),*  
Jvālāmukhī nakha-jvālām-Abhedyā sarva-sandhishu  
*Jwalamukhi - lustre of the nails and Abhedya - all the joints,*
- 36 Shukram Brahmānī me rakshet-chhāyām  
Chhatresh-varī tathā  
*Brahmani - semen, Chhatreshwari - the shadow of my body,*  
Ahaṅkāram mano buddhim, rakshen-me Dharma-dhārinī  
*Dharmadharini - ego, superego and intellect (Buddhi),*
- 37 Prānā-pānau tathā vyānam-udānam cha samāna-kam  
*Vajrahasta - pran, apan, vyan, udan, saman (the five vital breaths),*  
Vajrahastā cha me rakshet-prānam Kalyāna-shobhanā  
*Kalyana-shobhana - the pranas (the life force).*
- 38 Rase rūpe cha gandhe cha, shabde sparshe cha Yoginī  
*May Yogini protect the sense organs, that is the faculties of tasting, seeing,*  
*smelling, hearing and touching,*  
Sattvam rajas-tam-shaiva, rakshen-Nārāyanī sadā  
*May Narayani protect sattwa, raja and tamo gunas.*





- 39 Āyū rakshatu Vārāhī, dharmam rakshatu Vaishnavī  
*Varahi - life, Vaishnavi - dharmam,*  
Yashah kīrtim cha Lakshmīn-cha, dhanam Vidyām cha Chakrinī  
*Lakshmi - success and fame, Chakrini - wealth and knowledge,*
- 40 Gotram-Indrāni me rakshet-pashūn-me raksha Chandike  
*Indrani - relatives, Chandika - cattle (sustenance),*  
Putrān-rakshen-Mahālakshmīr-bhāryām rakshatu Bhairavī  
*Mahalakshmi - children and Bhairavi - spouse (wife).*
- 41 Panthānam Supathā rakshen-mārgam Kshema-karī tathā  
*Supatha may protect my journey and Kshemakari my way.*  
Rajadvāre Mahālakshmīr-Vijayā sarvatah sthitā  
*Mahalakshmi may protect me in the king's courts (all official places)  
and Vijaya everywhere.*
- 42 Rakshā-hīnam tu yat-sthānam, varjitam kavachena tu  
*O Goddess Jayanti, any place that has not been mentioned in the Kavach  
and has thus remained unprotected,*  
Tat-sarvam raksha me Devī, Jayantī pāpa-nāshinī  
*May that be protected by You, the destroyer of sins.*
- 43 Padam-ekam na gachhetu, yadīchhe-chhubham-ātmanah  
*One should invariably cover oneself with this Kavach wherever one goes*  
Kavachenā-vṛuto nityam, yatra-yatraiva gachhati  
*and should not walk even a step without it, if one desires auspiciousness.*
- 44 Tatra tatrārtha-lābhash-cha, Vijayah sarva-kāmikah  
*Then one is successful everywhere, in all things.*  
Yam yam chintayate kāmam, tam tam prāpnoti nishchitam  
*All one's desires are surely fulfilled,*  
Param'aish-varyam-atulam, prāpsyate bhūtale pumān  
*and that person enjoys great prosperity on the Earth.*
- 45 Nirbhayo jāyate martyah, sangrām-eshv'aparājitah  
*The person who covers himself with Kavach becomes fearless, is never  
defeated in battle,*  
Trailokye tu bhavet-pūjyah, kavachen'āvṛutah pumān  
*and becomes worthy of being worshipped in the three worlds.*





- 46 Idam tu Devyāhā kavacham, Devānām'api dur-labham  
*This Devi Kavach is inaccessible even to the gods.*  
Yah pathet-prayato nityam, trisandhyam shraddhay'ānvitah  
*One who reads with faith every day thrice (morning, afternoon and evening),*
- 47 Daivī kalā bhavet-tasya, trailok-yeshv'aparājitah  
*Receives the divine arts (the shaktis), is undefeated in the three worlds,*  
Jīved-varsha-shatam, sāgram-apa-mṛutyu-vivar-jitah  
*Lives for a hundred years and is free from accidental death.*
- 48 Nashyanti vyādhayah sarve, lūtā-visphotakā-dayah  
*All diseases, like boils, scars etc. are destroyed.*  
Stha-varam jaṅga-mam ch'aiva, kṛutri-mam  
chāpi yad-visham  
*Moveable (scorpions and snakes) and immovable (other) poisons  
cannot affect him.*
- 49 Ābhi-chārāni sarvāni, mantra-yantrāni bhūtale  
*All those who cast magical spells by mantras or yantras,  
on others for evil purposes,*  
Bhūcharāhā khecharāsh-ch'aiva jāsh-chopa-deshikāhā  
*All negative forces active in water or in the air,*
- 50 Sahajā kulajā mālā, dākinī shākinī tathā  
*All kinds of bhoots roaming about the Earth,*  
Antariksha-charā ghorā dākinyashcha mahā-balāhā  
*All those who mesmerise others,*
- 51 Graha-bhūta-pishā-chāshcha, yaksha-gandharva-rākshasāhā  
*All yakshas and gandharvas, all negative entities,*  
Brahma-rākshasa-vetālāhā, kūshmāndā bhairav'ādayah  
*All demons and evil forces,*
- 52 Nashyanti darshanāt-tasya, kavache hṛudi saonsthite  
*Are destroyed just by the sight of the person having Kavach in his heart.*  
Māno-nnatir-bhaved rādñyas-tejo-vṛudhi-karam param  
*If a king reads the Kavach with devotion, his dignity increases and his  
kingdom benefits.*
- 53 Yashasā vardhate so-api, kīrti-mandita-bhūtale  
*That person receives more and more respect and prowess.*  
Japet-Sapta-shatīm Chandīm, kṛtvā tu kavacham purā  
*On the Earth he rises in prosperity and fame by reading the Kavach  
and the Sapta-shati (seven hundred verses in praise of Shri Durga),*







- 54 Yāvad–bhū–mandalam dhatte–sashaila–vana–kānanam  
*and by meditating on Shri Chandī. His progeny would thrive,  
Tāvāt–tishthati medinyām, santatihi putra–pautrikī  
as long as the Earth is rich with mountains and forests.*
- 55 Dehānte paramam sthānam, yat–surai–rapi durlabham  
*By the grace of Mahamaya, he would attain the highest state,  
Prāpnoti purūsho nityam, Mahāmāyā–prasādatah  
Which is extremely difficult even for the gods,*
- 56 Labhate paramam rūpam, Shivena saha modate, Aum  
*and is eternally blissful in the company of Lord Shiva, Aum.*

Iti Devyāhā Kavacham sampūrnam  
*Thus the Devi kavach reaches its fulfillment.*

### Sākshāt Shri Ādi Shakti Mātāji Shri Nirmalā Devyai namo namah



The Devi Kavach is performed on both the fourth and fifth nights of Navaratri.

While reading the Devi Kavach, you can put your hand or attention on the part of the body which is to be protected. You can also pause during the reading and take the name as a mantra. For example: Aum twamewa sākshāt..Shrī Chandī.. sākshāt Shri Ādi Shakti Mātāji Shri

Nirmalā Devyai namo namah

The Devi Kavach is best read aloud, as this helps to clear away the catches and bathes the devotee in divine vibrations. If read in Sanskrit, the sounds themselves act as bija mantras and further activate the Kundalini.

*See p.228 for the names of Shri Bhairava.  
See p.223–33 for the mantras of the left side.*

