

TANTROKTAM RĀTRISŪKTAM

Praise of the Goddess Night Revealed in the Tantra

From the Devī Mahātmyam [Mārkendeya Purana]

¹ Om Viśveśvarīṁ jagadhātrīṁ sthitisamhārakārinīṁ
Nidrāṁ Bhagavatīṁ Viṣṇoratulāṁ tejasah prabhuḥ

I worship the Goddess controlling this universe, the support of this world, maintainer and destroyer. The beneficial sleep, the incomparable splendor and authority of Vishnu.

² Tvāṁ Svāhā tvāṁ Svadhā tvāṁ hi vaṣṭakārah
svarātmikā
Sudhā tvamakṣare nitye tridhā mātrātmikā sthitā

O Devi, you are Svaha, Svadha, Vashatkar. The Svara are a form of yours only. You are the nectar giving life. You are present in the form of the three matras A, U and M of the indestructible syllable AUM.

³ Ardhamātrāsthitā nityā yānuccāryā višeṣataḥ
Tvameva sandhyā sāvitrī tvāṁ devī jananī parā

You are the unpronounceable half matra at the end of AUM. You are Sandhya, Savitri, O Devi, you are the original Mother.

⁴ Tvayai tadhāryate viśvām̄ tvayai tat sṛjyate jagat
Tvayaitat pālyate devi tvamatsyante ca sarvadā

You are supporting this Universe, you create this World, you sustain this World. At the end of the Universe, you absorb everything in yourself.

⁵ Viśrṣṭau sṛṣṭi rūpā tvam sthiti rūpā ca pālane
Tathā saṁhṛti rūpānte jagato'sya jaganmaye

At the time of generation of this World you are Srushti – the Creation, while the world continues to exist you are Stthiti – its stability, and at the time of Dissolution you are Samhriti – the Destroyer.

⁶ Mahāvidyā mahāmāyā mahāmedhā mahāsmṛtiḥ
Mahāmohā ca bhavatī Mahādevī Mahāsurī.

You are the ultimate knowledge, illusion, intelligence, memory, ignorance, goddess and controller.

⁷ Prakṛtis tvāṁ ca sarvasya guṇa traya vibhāvinī
Kālarātrir Mahārātrir Moharātriśca dāruṇā

You are the Prakriti – the Fundamental material – which creates the three Gunas – the properties. You are three kinds of Night – Time, the Fundamental and Ignorance.

⁸ Tvāṁ Śrīs tvāṁ Īśvarī tvāṁ Hrītvām buddhir bodha
lakṣaṇā
Lajjā puṣṭistathā tuṣṭis tvāṁ śāntih kṣāntireva ca

You are Shri – the Wealth, Ishvari – the controller, Hri – modesty, and intelligence in the form of perceptions. You are bashfulness, enrichment, satisfaction, peace and forgiveness.

⁹ Khaṅginī śūlinī ghorā gadinī cakriṇī tathā
Śaṅkhinī cāpinī bāṇa bhuṣuṇḍī paridhāyudhā

You have these different forms of representations.***

¹⁰ Saumyā saumya tarā śeṣa saumyebhyastvati sundarī¹⁰
Parāparāṇāṁ paramā tvameva Parameśvarī

You are beauty and more beauty. You are most beautiful amongst all the Saumya things. You are Parameshvari, the Supreme Goddess, beyond the things near and far.

¹¹ Yacca kiñcit kvacidvastu sadasadvākhilātmike
Tasya sarvasya yā śaktih sā tvam̄ kim̄ stūyase tada

Om Omnipresent Devi, whatever things are really there or not there, and whatever is their ability, you are verily that. Under this condition, how can we pray to you?

¹² Yayā tvayā jagat sraṣṭā jagat pātyatti yo jagat
So-pi nindrā vaśam̄ nitah kastvām̄ stotumiheśvarah

You have put to sleep even Vishnu, who creates, maintains and destroys this World, under that condition, who is able to pray to you.

¹³ Viṣṇuh̄ śarira grahaṇa Mahamīśāna eva ca
Kāritāste yato'tastvām̄ kah̄ stotum̄ śaktimān bhavet

You have given a body (or a form) to myself, Lord Vishnu and Lord Mahadeva, so who has the ability to pray to you?

¹⁴ Sā tvamitthaṁ prabhāvaiḥ svairudārair devi samstutā
Mohayaitau durādharsā vasurau madhu kaitabhou

O Devi, you are praised due to your beneficial abilities. Please put these Asuras, Madhu and Kaitabha, difficult to battle with, under your spell.

¹⁵ Pradbodham̄ ca jagat svāmī nīyatā macyuto laghu
Bodhaśca kriya tāmasya hantu metau mahāsurau

Please awaken Vishnu and inspire him to destroy these two mighty demons (representing name and form).

Om Namaś Chanḍikāyai.

Om, I bow to the Goddess Chanḍikā,

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Translation and Sanskrit Text:

http://www.ambaa.org/pdf/devii_sukta_300.pdf

Image of Ratri Devi:

<http://www.umiyadhamsurat.org/UmiyadhamImages/devi03.jpg>

Harmonium Files:

Soon coming.

Download MSWord Version of this file:

<http://www.babachants.com/TantroktamRatrisuktamFull.doc>

Download Gentium Font for MSWord File (necessary for diacritical marks to display properly):

http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&id=Gentium_download