

# ☪ The Kavach of the Devi ☪

## Shrī Chaṇḍī Kavacham

*‘The ‘Armour’ of the Goddess who is all fired-up to protect Her devotees’*

*Our **Guru** is the Great Mother.*

*All Her **Śhakti** and **Yogini** aspects are available for Her children.*

*By reading the **Kavach** of the **Devī**, we mobilise these powers to purify and enlighten our **Koshas** - our mental, emotional and physical bodies.*

*The **Kavach** should be read aloud. It washes away the ‘catches’ and bathes the children in Divine Vibrations. May the wisdom and compassion of our **Sat-guru** flow through us and reach the four quarters of the Earth.*

***Jai Shri Mataji !***

**Om Śhrī Gaṇeśhāya namaḥ**

*Salutations to Shri Ganesha*

*Amen. In the Name of **Shri Mātājī Nirmalā Devi**, the Merciful, the Compassionate. The Protection of **Shri Chaṇḍī**.*

*Salutations to **Shri Gaṇeśha**. Salutations to **Shri Saraswatī**. Salutations to the **Guru**. Salutations to the Deity worshipped in the family, that is, **Shri Mātājī Nirmalā Devi**. May there be no obstacle.*

*Amen. Salutations to **Nārāyaṇa**. Salutations to **Nara-nāratam**, that is, **Shri Viṣṇu**. Salutations to Goddess **Saraswatī**. Salutations to Sage **Ved-Vyāsa**, the All-knowing.*

*Now begins the Kavach of the Devi:-*

**Asya Śhrī-Chaṇḍī kavachasya**

*Of this Shrī Chandi Kavach*

**Brahmā ṛishih**

*The Composing Seer is Brahma,*

**Anuṣhtup chhandah**

*The Metre is Anushtubh.*

**Chāmuṇḍā devatā**

*The Presiding Deity is Chamundā.*

**Aṅga-nyās'okta-mātarō bījam**

*The Seed is **Anga-nyas'okta mātar** – ‘Putting attention to parts of the body while reciting’.*

**Digbandha-devatās tattvam**

*The Principle is **Digbandha-devatā** – ‘Facing the direction of the Deity’.*

**Śhrī-Jagadambā prīty'arthe,**

*To please Shrī Jagadamba*

**Sapta-śhatī pāṭh'āṅgatvena**

*as part of **Sapta-shati** – ‘700 verses’*

**jape viniyogaḥ**

*this recitation is undertaken*

**Om namaśh-Chaṇḍikāyai**      *Amen. Obeisance to Śhrī Chandika.*

**Mārkaṇḍeya uvācha:-**      *Thus spoke Śhrī Markandeya:*

**Om**

- 1 **Yad-guhyam paramam loke, sarva-rakṣhā-karam nṛiṇām**  
**Yan-na kasya-chid'ākhyātam, tanme brūhi Pitāmaha**

*Amen. O Brahmadeva, please tell me that which is very secret,  
Has not been told to anyone else and which protects all beings in this world.*

**Brahm'ovācha - Brahmadeva said:**

- 2 **Asti Guhya-tamam vipra, sarva-bhūt'opa-kāarakam**  
**Devy'āstu kavacham puṇyam, tat-śhṛiṇuṣhwa Mahāmune**

*O Brahmin! That which is most secret, auspicious and benevolent to all beings  
Is the Kavach of the Devī. Please listen to that, O Great Sage.*

- 3 **Prathamam Śhaila-putrī cha, dvitīyam Brahma-chāriṇī**  
**Tritīyam Chandra-ghaṇṭ'etī, Kūṣhmāṇḍ'eti chaturthakam**

*Śhrī Durgā is known by these nine names:*

*First- Shaila-putri – 'Daughter of the King of Himalayas'*

*Second- Brahma-chārinī – 'One who observes the state of celibacy'*

*Third- Chandra-ghanta - 'Adorned with the moon as Her bell'*

*Fourth- Kushmanda- 'The One whose void contains the Universe'*

- 4 **Pañchamam Skanda-māt'eti, śhaṣṭham Kātyāyan'iti cha**  
**Saptamam Kāla-rātrīśh cha, Mahāgaur'iti ch'āṣṭamam**

*Fifth- Skanda-mātā – 'The Mother of Kārttikeya',*

*Sixth- Kātyāyanī – 'The Daughter of Sage Katyayana'*

*Seventh- Kālarātrī – 'The Dark night of dissolution',*

*Eighth- Mahāgaurī – 'Very bright - the Ādi Kundalini'*

- 5 **Navamam Siddhi-dātrī cha, nava Durgāḥ prakīrtitāḥ**  
**Uktāny'etāni nāmāni, Brahman'aiva Mah'ātmanā**

*Ninth- Siddhi-dātrī – 'One who grants Moksha'*

*These nine names have been told by the Great Soul Brahmadeva Himself*

- 6 **Agninā dahya-mān'āstu, śhatru-madhye gato raṇe**  
**Viṣhame durgame ch'aiva, bhayārtāḥ śharaṇam gatāḥ**

*Those who are engulfed by fire or surrounded by enemies on the battlefield,  
Or being at an impassable place or frightened, if they surrender to Shri Durga,*

- 7 **Na teṣhām jāyate kiñchid, aśhubham rana-saṅkate**  
**N'āpadam tasya paśhyāmi, śhoka-duḥkha-bhayam na hi**  
*They would never suffer any misery or misfortune, even at time of war.*  
*They would face no calamity, grief, sorrow or fear.*
- 8 **Yaistu bhaktya smṛita nūnam, teṣham vṛiddiḥ prajayate**  
**Ye tvām smaranti Deveśhi, rakṣhase tānna saṁśhayaḥ**  
*Those who remember You with great devotion, indeed have prosperity.*  
*Undoubtedly, O Supreme Goddess, You protect those who remember You.*
- 9 **Preta-saṁsthā tu Chāmuṇḍā, Vārāhī mahiṣh'āsanā**  
**Aindrī gaja-samārūdhā, Vaiṣhṇavī Garud'āsanā**  
*The Goddess **Chamunda** sits on a corpse, **Vārāhi** rides on a buffalo,*  
***Aindri** is mounted on an elephant and **Vaiṣhnavi** on a condor (Garuda),*
- 10 **Mah'eśhvarī vṛiṣh'ārudhā, Kaumārī śhikhi-vāhanā**  
**Lakṣhmī padm'āsanā Devī, padma-hastā Hari-priyā**  
***Maheśhvari** is riding on a bull, the vehicle of **Kaumari** is a peacock,*  
***Lakṣhmi**, the beloved of **Śhrī Vishnu**, is seated on a lotus with a lotus in Her hand.*
- 11 **Śhveta-rūpa-dharā Devī, Īśhvarī vṛiṣha-vāhanā**  
**Brahmī haṁsa-samārūdhā, sarv'ābharana-bhūṣhitā**  
*The Goddess **Ishwari**, of white complexion, is riding on a bull,*  
***Brahmi** who is bedecked with all ornaments is seated on a swan.*
- 12 **Ity'etā Mātaraḥ sarvāḥ, sarva-yoga sam-anvitāḥ**  
**Nān'ābharana-śhobh'ādhyā, nānā-ratn'opa-śhobhitāḥ**  
*All the Mother Goddesses are endowed with yoga*  
*And are richly adorned with different ornaments and jewels.*
- 13 **Dṛiśhyante ratham-ārudhā, Devyaḥ krodha-samā-kulāḥ**  
**Śhaṅkham chakram gadām śhaktim, halam cha musal'āyudham**  
*All the Goddesses are seen mounted in chariots and very angry.*  
*They are wielding conch, discus, mace, plough, club, javelin,*
- 14 **Khetakam tomaram chaiva, paraśhum-pāśham-eva cha**  
**Kunt'āyudham triśhūlam cha, śhārṅgam-āyudham-uttamam**  
*Axe, noose, barbed dart, halter, whip, Trident, spear, bow and arrows.*

- 15 **Daityānām deha-nāśhāya, bhakt'ānāma-abhayāya cha  
Dhārayanty'āyudhān'ittham, Devānām cha hitāya vai**  
*These Goddesses are wielding their weapons, to destroy the bodies of demons,  
For the protection of devotees and for the benevolence of the Gods.*
- 16 **Namaste'stu Mahāraudre, Mahāghora-parakrame  
Mahābale Mahotsāhe, Mahābhaya-vināśhini**  
*Salutations to You O Goddess, of very dreadful appearance, of frightening valour,  
Of tremendous strength and energy, the destroyer of the worst of fears.*
- 17 **Trāhi mām Devī duṣh-prekṣhye, śhatrunām bhaya-vardhini  
Prāchyām rakṣhatu mām-Aindrī, Āgneyyām-Agni devatā**  
*O Devī, it is difficult to have even a glance at You.  
You increase the fears of Your enemies, please protect me.  
May Goddess **Aindri** protect me from the east,  
**Agni devatā** –'Goddess of fire' from the south-east,*
- 18 **Dakṣhine'vatu Vārāhī, Nairutyām Khadga-dhārinī  
Pratīchyām Varunī rakṣhed, Vāyavyām Mṛiga-vāhinī**  
*Vārāhī –'the Shakti of Vishnu in His boar form' from the south,  
Khadga-dharini –'wielding a sword' from the south-west,  
Varuni –'the Shakti of Varuna the rain God' from the west,  
Mṛiga-vāhinī –'riding a deer' protect me from the north-west.*
- 19 **Udīchyām pātu Kaumārī, Aiśhānyām Śhūla-dhārinī  
Ūrdhvam Brahmāni me rakṣhed, adhas-tād-Vaiṣṇavī tathā**  
*May Goddess **Kaumari** –'Shakti of Kārttikeya' protect me from the north and  
Goddess **Shūla-dhārinī** –'who wields a trident' from the north-east,  
**Brahmāni** – 'the Shakti of Brahmā' from above and  
**Vaishnavi** –'Shakti of Vishnu' from below, protect me.*
- 20 **Evam daśha diśho rakṣhyech, Chāmuṇḍā Śhava-vāhanā  
Jayā me chāgrataḥ pātu, Vijayā pātu pṛiṣṭhataḥ**  
*Goddess **Chamundā**, who sits on a corpse, protect me from the ten directions.  
May Goddess **Jaya** protect me from the front and **Vijaya** from the rear,*
- 21 **Ajitā vāma-pārśhve tu, dakṣhine ch'āparājitā  
Śhikham me Dyotinī rakṣhed, Umā mūrdhni vyava-sthitā**  
***Ajitā** from the left and **Aparajitā** from the right.  
May Goddess **Dyotini** protect the top-knot and **Uma** sit on my head and protect it.*

- 22 **Mālā-dharī lalāte cha, bhṛivau rakṣhed-Yaśhasvinī**  
**Trinetṛā cha bhṛivor-madhye, Yama-ghaṇṭā cha nāsike**  
*May I be protected by **Mālā-dharī** - 'wearing a garland' on the forehead,  
**Yashasvinī** - 'full of glory' on the eye-brows, **Trineta** on the Hamsa,  
**Yama-ghanta** on the inner part of the nose,*
- 23 **Śhaṅkhinī chakṣhuṣhor-madhye, śhrotrayor Dwāra-vāsini**  
**Kapolau Kālikā rakṣhet, karna-mūle tu Śhāṅkarī**  
***Shankhini** on both the eyes, **Dwara-vasini** on the ears.  
May **Kalika** protect my cheeks and **Shankari** the roots of the ears.*
- 24 **Nāsikāyām Sugandhā cha, uttar'oṣṭhe cha Charchikā**  
**Adhare ch'āmṛuta-kalā, jihvāyām cha Sarasvatī**  
*May I be protected, by **Sugandha** on the nose, **Charchika** - the upper lip,  
**Amruta-kala** - the lower lip, **Saraswatī** - the tongue,*
- 25 **Dantān-rakṣhatu Kaumarī, kantha-deshe tu Chaṇḍikā**  
**Ghaṇṭikām Chitra-ghaṇṭā cha, Mahāmāyā cha tāluke**  
***Kaumari** - the teeth, **Chandika** - the throat,  
**Chitra-ghanta** - the sound-box, **Mahāmaya** - the crown of the head,*
- 26 **Kāmākṣhī chibukam rakṣhed, vācham me Sarva-maṅgalā**  
**Grīvāyām Bhadrakālī cha, pṛiṣṭha-vamśhe Dhanur-dharī**  
***Kamakshi** - the chin, **Sarvamangala** - speech,  
**Bhadrakali** - the neck, **Dhanurdhari** - the spine.*
- 27 **Nīla-grīvā bahiḥ-kanthe, nalikām Nalakūbarī**  
**Skandhayoh khadginī rakṣhed, bāhū me Vajra-dhārinī**  
*May **Nilagriva** protect the outer part of my throat and **Nalakubari** the windpipe.  
May **Khadgini** protect my shoulders and **Vajra-dharini** protect my arms.*
- 28 **Hastayor-Daṇḍinī rakṣhed , Ambikā ch'āṅgulīṣhu cha**  
**Nakhāñ Chhūleśhvarī rakṣhet, kukṣhau rakṣhet-Kuleśhvarī**  
*May **Devī Dandini** protect both my hands, **Ambika** - the fingers,  
**Shuleśhvari** my nails and may **Kuleśhvari** protect my belly.*

- 29 **Stanau rakṣhen-Mahādevī, manah Śhoka-vināśhinī**  
**Hṛidaye Lalitā Devī, udare Śhūla-dhāriṇī**  
*May I be protected by **MahāDevī** - the breast, **Shoka-vinashini** - the mind,  
**Lalita Devī** - the heart, **Shula-dharini** - the stomach,*
- 30 **Nābhau cha Kāminī rakṣhed, guhyam Guhyeśhvarī tathā**  
**Pūtanā kāmikā medhram, gude Mahiṣha-vāhinī**  
*Kamini - the nabhi, **Guhyeswari**- the hidden parts,  
**Putana kamika** - the reproductive organs, **Mahisha-vahini** - the rectum.*
- 31 **Katyām Bhagavatī rakṣhej-jānunī Vindhya-vāsinī**  
**Jaṅghe Mahābalā rakṣhet, sarva-kāma pradāyinī**  
*May Goddess **Bhagavati** protect my waist, **Vindhyvasini** - the knees,  
The wish fulfilling **Mahābala** protect my thighs.*
- 32 **Gulphayor Nārasimhī cha, pāda-prīṣṭhe tu Taijasī**  
**Pād'āṅgulīṣhu Śhrī rakṣhet, pād'ādhas Talavāsinī**  
*May **Narasimhi** protect my ankles, may **Taijasi** protect my feet,  
**Śhrī Devī** protect my toes, may **Talavasini** protect the soles of my feet,*
- 33 **Nakhan Daṁṣhṭrā-karālī cha, keśhāñ chaiv'Ordhva-keśhini**  
**Roma-kūpeṣhu Kauberī, tvacham Vāgīśhvarī tathā**  
*May **Daṁshtra-karali** protect my nails, **Urdhvakeshini** - the hair,  
**Kauberi** - the pores, **Vagishwari** - the skin.*
- 34 **Rakta-majjā-vasā-māmsāny'asthi medaṁsi Pārvatī**  
**Antrāṇi kāla-rātriśh-cha, pittam cha Mukuteśhvarī**  
*May Goddess **Pārvatī** protect blood, marrow of the bones, fat and bone,  
Goddess **Kalaratri** - the intestines, **Mukuteśhvari** – bile and liver.*
- 35 **Padmāvatī padma-kośhe, kaphe Chūdā-maṇistathā**  
**Jvālā-mukhī nakha-jvālām, Abhedyā sarva-sandhiṣhu**  
*May **Padmavati** protect the Chakras, **Chudamani** - phlegm (or lungs),  
**Jwalamukhi** - lustre of the nails and **Abhedya** - all the joints,*

- 36 **Śhukram Brahmānī me rakṣhet, śhāyām Chhatreśhvarī tathā  
Ahaṁkāram mano buddhim, rakṣhen-me Dharma-dhārini**  
*Brahmani* - semen, *Chhatreśhvari* - the shadow of my body,  
*Dharmadharini* - ego, superego and intellect,
- 37 **Prāṇā-pānau tathā vyānam, udānam cha samāna-kam  
Vajra-hastā cha me rakṣhet, prāṇam Kalyāṇa-śhobhanā**  
*Vajra-hasta*- 'the five vital breaths - prana, apana, vyana, udana, samana,  
*Kalyana-shobhana* - Prana (the life force).
- 38 **Rase rūpe cha gandhe cha, śhabde sparśhe cha Yoginī  
Sattvam rajas-tamas-chaiva, rakṣhen-Nārāyaṇī sadā**  
*May Yogini* protect the senses of tasting, seeing, smelling, hearing and touching,  
*May Narayani* protect Sattwa, Rajas and Tamo Gunas.
- 39 **Āyū rakṣhatu Vārāhī, dharmam rakṣhatu Vaiṣṇavī  
Yaśhaḥ kīrtim cha Lakṣhmīn-cha, dhanam vidyām cha Chakrini**  
*Varahi* - life, *Vaishnavi* - dharma,  
*Lakshmi* -success and fame, *Chakrini* - wealth and knowledge,
- 40 **Gotram-Indrāṇī me rakṣhet, paśhūn-me rakṣha Chaṇḍike  
Putrān-rakṣhen-Mahālakṣhmīr, bhāryām rakṣhatu Bhairavī**  
*Indrani* - relatives, *Chandika* - cattle (sustenance),  
*Mahālakshmi* - children and *Bhairavi* - spouse (wife).
- 41 **Panthānam Supathā rakṣhen, mārgam Kṣhema-karī tathā  
Rāja-dvāre Mahālakṣhmīr, Vijayā sarvataḥ sthitā**  
*Supatha* may protect my journey and *Kshemakari* my way.  
*Mahālakshmi* may protect me in the king's courts and *Vijaya* everywhere.
- 42 **Rakṣhā-hīnam tu yat-sthānam, varjitam kavachena tu  
Tat-sarvam rakṣha me Devī, Jayantī pāpa-nāśhini**  
O Goddess *Jayanti*, any place that has not been mentioned in the Kavach  
and has thus remained unprotected, May that be protected by You,  
the Destroyer of wickedness.

**Phala-śhruti** - 'Listening to the fruits'

- 43 **Padam'ekam na gacchet tu, yadīcchet-śhubham'ātmanah  
Kavachen'āvṛito nityam, yatra-yatr'aiva gacchati**

*One should invariably cover oneself with this Kavach wherever one goes  
and should not walk even a step without it, if one desires auspiciousness.*

- 44 **Tatra tatrārtha-lābhaśh-cha, Vijayaḥ sarva-kāmikah  
Yam yam chintayate kāmam, tam tam prāpnoti niśhchitam  
Param'aiśhvaryam-atulam, prāpsyate bhūtale pumān**

*Then one is successful everywhere, in all things: All one's desires are surely fulfilled,  
and that person enjoys great prosperity on the Earth.*

- 45 **Nirbhayo jāyate martyaḥ, saṅgrāmeṣhv'aparājitaḥ  
Trailokye tu bhavet-pūjyaḥ, kavachen'āvṛitaḥ pumān**

*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 **Idam tu Devyāḥ kavacham, Devānām'api dur-labham  
Yaḥ pathet-prayato nityam, trisandhyam śhraddhay'ānvitaḥ**

*This Devī Kavach is inaccessible even to the Gods.*

*One who reads with faith every day thrice, morning, noon and evening,*

- 47 **Daivī kalā bhavet-tasya, trailokye-'py'aparājitaḥ  
Jīved-varṣha-śhatam sāgram, apa-mṛityu-vivarjitaḥ**

*Receives the divine arts, is undefeated in the three worlds,*

*Lives for a hundred years and is free from accidental death.*

- 48 **Naśhyanti vyādhayaḥ sarve, lūtā-visphoṭak'ādayaḥ  
Sthā-varam jaṅga-mam chaiva, kṛitrimam ch'āpi yad-viṣham**

*All diseases, like boils, scars etc. are destroyed.*

*Movable (scorpions and snakes) and immovable (other) poisons cannot affect him.*

- 49 **Ābhi-chārāni sarvāni, mantra-yantrāni bhūtale  
Bhū-charāḥ khe-charāśh ch'aiva, jalajāśh ch'opa-deśhikāḥ**

*All those who cast magical spells by mantras or yantras, on others for evil purposes,  
All bhoots, goblins, malevolent beings, moving on the Earth or in the sky,*



- 50 **Sahajā kulajā mālā, dākinī śhākinī tathā**  
**Antarikṣha-charā ghorā, dākinyaśh-cha Mahā-balāḥ**  
*All those who mesmerise others, All female goblins*
- 51 **Graha-bhūta-piśhāchāśh-cha, yakṣha-gandharva-rākṣhasāḥ**  
**Brahma-rākṣhasa-vetālāḥ, kūṣhmāndā bhairav'ādayaḥ**  
*All Yakshas and Gandharvas, All demonic forces,*
- 52 **Naśhyanti darśhanāt-tasya, kavache hṛidi saṁsthite**  
**Mānonnatir-bhaved rāgñyas, tejo-vṛiddhi-karam param**  
*Are destroyed just by the sight of the person having Kovach in his heart.*  
*That person receives more and more respect and prowess.*
- 53 **Yaśhas āvardhate so-'pi, kīrti-mandita-bhūtale**  
**Japet-sapta-śhatīm Chaṇḍīm, kṛitva tu kavacham purā**  
*On the Earth he rises in prosperity and fame*  
*By reading the Kovach and Sapta-shati (seven hundred verses)*
- 54 **Yāvad-bhū-maṇḍalam dhatte, saśhaila-vana-kānanam**  
**Tāvat-tiṣṭhati medinyām, santatiḥ putra-pautrikī**  
*As long as the Earth is rich with mountains and forests, His progeny would thrive*
- 55 **Dehānte paramam sthānam, yat surair api durlabham**  
**Prāpnoti puruṣho nityam, Mahāmāyā-prasādataḥ**  
**Labhate paramam rūpam, Śhivena saha modate**  
*By the grace of Mahāmaya, he would attain the highest state, which is extremely difficult even for the Gods, and is eternally blissful in the company of Lord Shiva.*

**Iti Śhrī Devi Kavacham sampūrnām**

*Thus the Devī Kavach is completed.*

**Sākṣhāt Śhrī Ādi Śhakti Mātājī Śhrī Nirmalā Devyai namo namaḥ**

From the Vārāha Purāṇa.

The Devī Kavach is performed on both the third and fourth nights of Navaratri.  
It may be intoned or sung to a simple tune.

Download the 'Sanskrit Pronunciation Guide' from [symb-ol.org](http://symb-ol.org).