**The Śhiva Kavach**

**Atha** **Amogha** **Śhiva** **Kavacham***–‘The Unfailing Armour of Shri Shiva’*

**Oṁ Śhrī Gaṇeśhāya namaḥ** *Salutations to Shri Ganesha*

**Asya Śhrī Śhiva Kavacha stotra mantrasya** *Of this Shiva Kavach*

**Brahmā ṛiṣhiḥ** *Shri Brahmadeva is the Composing Seer*

**Anuṣhṭup chhandaḥ** *Anushtubh1 is the Meter*

**Śhrī Sadāśhiva-rudro devatā** *The Fearsome Eternal Spirit is the Deity*

**Hrīṁ śhaktiḥ, Raṁ kīlakam** *Hrim is the Power, Ram is the Key*

**Śhrīṁ Hrīṁ Klīṁ bījam** *Shrīm Hrīm Klīm are the Seeds*

**Śhrī Sadāśhiva prīty’arthe Śhiva Kavacha stotra jape viniyogaḥ.**

 *To please the Eternal Lord this recitation is undertaken*

 **Kara nyāsaḥ:** *Meditation on the hand*

**Oṁ namo Bhagavate jwala jwālā-māline**

 *Salutations to the Radiant Lord encircled with flames*

**Oṁ Hrāṁ, sarva śhakti dhāmne** *Om Hrām, Abode of all power*

**Īśhān’ātmane** *Spirit of light and dominion,*

**Aṅguṣhṭhā-bhyāṁ namaḥ.** *Salutations to the thumbs*

**Oṁ namo Bhagavate jwala jwālā-māline**

 *Salutations to the Radiant Lord encircled with flames, Om Nam Rim*

**Oṁ Naṁ Riṁ, nitya tṛipti dhāmne** *Abode of eternal contentment*

**Tat-puruṣh’ātmane** *Essence of Formless Consciousness*

**Tarjanī-bhyāṁ namaḥ***. Salutations to the forefingers*

**Oṁ namo Bhagavate jwala jwālā-māline**

 *Salutations to the Radiant Lord encircled with flames, Om Mam Rūm*

**Oṁ Maṁ Rūṁ, anādi śhakti dhāmne** *Abode of eternal power*

**Aghor’ātmane** *The Gentle Spirit*

**Madhyamā-bhyāṁ namaḥ.** *Salutations to the middle fingers*

*In spite of this assertion, the main meter is Trishtubh! Verses 1 and 2 and the Phala-śhruti are in Anushtubh (4 quarters of eight syllables) and then verses 3-27 have four lines of eleven syllables which is Triṣhṭubh meter. The lists of names are not in meter.*

**Oṁ namo Bhagavate jwala jwālā-māline**

 *Salutations to the Radiant Lord encircled with flames, Om Shim Raim*

**Oṁ Śhiṁ Raim swa-tantra śhakti dhāmne** *Abode of absolute power*

**Vāma dev’ātmane** *Lovely Essence of the Left Side*

**Anāmikā-bhyāṁ namaḥ.** *Salutations to the ring fingers*

**Oṁ namo Bhagavate jwala jwālā-māline**

 *Salutations to the Radiant Lord encircled with flames, Om Vām Raum*

**Oṁ Vāṁ Rauṁ alupta-śhakti dhāmne** *Abode of undiminished energy*

**Sadyo-jāt’ātmane** *The New-born Soul*

**Kaniṣhṭhikā-bhyāṁ namaḥ.** *Salutations to the little fingers*

**Oṁ namo Bhagavate jwala jwālā-māline**

 *Salutations to the Radiant Lord encircled with flames, Om Yam Raḥ*

**Oṁ Yaṁ Raḥ anādi śhakti dhāmne** *Abode of eternal power*

**Sarv’ātmane** *Soul of everything*

**Kara-tala kara-pṛiṣhṭhā-bhyāṁ namaḥ.** *Salutations to the palms*

 *[The* ***Bījas******Om****,* ***Nam****,* ***Mam****,* ***Śhim****,* ***Vām****,* ***Yam*** *spell ‘****Om namaḥ Śhivāya****’,*

 *the five-syllabled mantra.* ***Raṁ*** *is the* ***Fire Bīja****, here taken with six vowels.]*

 **Atha dhyānam:** *The Meditation*

**Vajra-daṁṣhṭraṁ tri-nayanaṁ kāla-kaṇṭham arindamam,**

 *With diamond-hard jaws, three-eyed, black-throated, destroying enemies*

**Sahasra-karam aty’ugraṁ vande Śhambhuṁ Umā-patim.**

 *Thousand-handed, very fierce, we bow to the Beneficent Husband of Umā*

 **Ṛiṣhabha uvācha:** *Sage Rishabha said:*

**Ataḥ paraṁ sarva purāṇa guhyaṁ**

 *This is the supreme secret of all the ancient texts*

**Niḥśheṣha pāp’augha haraṁ pavitram,**

 *Which removes and purifies a mountain of sins*

**Jaya pradaṁ sarva vipat pramochanaṁ**

 *Grants victory and liberates from all calamities*

**Vakṣhyāmi Śhaivaṁ Kavachaṁ hitāya te.**

 *I will recite this Shiva Kavach for your benevolence.*

**Namas-kṛitva Mahādevaṁ viśhva vyāpinam īśhvaram,**

 *After bowing to the Great God, the Supreme Spirit prevading the whole Universe,*

**Vakṣhye Śhiva-mayaṁ varma sarva rakṣhā karaṁ nṛiṇām.** *(1)*

 *I will reveal the auspicious praise conferring all protection and safety on humanity*

**Śhuchau deśhe samāsīno yath’āvat kalpit’āsanaḥ,**

 *In a clean place, sitting in a suitably prepared seat*

**Jitendriyo jita-prāṇaś chintayet Śhivam avyayam.** *(2)*

 *Controlling the senses and the breath, let him meditate on the Imperishable Lord*

**Hṛit-puṇḍarīk’āntara san-niviṣhṭaṁ**

 *Settled down in the secret chamber of the heart*

**Swa-tejasā vyāpta nabho-’vakāśham,**

 *Entering inside absorbed in his own heavenly inner light*

**Atīndriyaṁ sūkṣhmam anantam ādyaṁ**

 *Beyond the senses, subtle, infinite, primordial*

**Dhyāyet par’ānanda-mayaṁ Maheśham.** *(3)*

 *May he meditate on the Great Lord whose nature is Supreme Bliss*

**Dhyān’āvadhūt’ākhila karma bandhaśh**

 *Meditating, renouncing everything, cutting the long-time bonds of Karma*

**Chiraṁ chid-ānanda nimagna chetāḥ,**

 *With awareness immersed in the Bliss of Consciousness*

**Ṣhaḍ akṣhara nyāsa samāhit’ātmā**

 *Fully intent on the six-syllabled meditation (Om namaḥ Śhivāya)*

**Śhaivena kuryāt kavachena rakṣhām.** *(4)*

 *With this Shiva Kavach he may obtain protection*

**Māṁ pātu Devo-’khila devat’ātmā**

 *Protect me, O Spirit of all the Gods*

**Saṁsāra kūpe patitaṁ gaṁbhīre,**

 *From the deep chasm of troubles of this worldly life*

**Tan nāma divyaṁ vara mantra mūlaṁ**

 *May these Divine names, the root of all excellent mantras*

**Dhunotu me sarva maghaṁ hṛidi stham.** *(5)*

 *Destroy all the sins in my heart*

**Sarvatra māṁ rakṣhatu Viśhva-mūrtir**

 *Protect me everywhere, O Form of the Universe*

**Jyotir-may’ānanda ghanaś chid’ātmā,**

 *Full of light, solid joy, the Essence of Consciousness*

**Aṇ’ora-ṇīy’ānuru śhaktir ekaḥ**

*The One Power of tiny and vast, low and high,*

**Sa Īśhvaraḥ pātu bhayād aśheṣhāt.** *(6)*

 *May that Divine Ruler protect me from all fears*

**Yo bhū swa-rūpeṇa bibharti viśhvaṁ**

 *May He whose form is the Earth, who sustains the world*

**Pāyāt sa bhūmer Giriśho-’ṣhṭa mūrtiḥ,**

 *Protect me from the earth, O Eight-formed Lord of the Mountain*

**Yo-’pāṁ swa-rūpeṇa nṛiṇāṁ karoti**

 *May He who sustains humanity in the form of water,*

**Sañjīvanaṁ so-’vatu māṁ jalebhyaḥ.** *(7)*

 *Guard my life from water*

**Kalp’āvasāne bhuvanāni dagdhvā**

 *O Turner of Ages and Burner of Worlds,*

**Sarvāṇi yo nṛityati bhūri līlaḥ,**

*Who destroys everything by dancing for His great play*

**Sa kāla rudro-’vatu māṁ dav’āgner**

*May that Destroyer of Time protect me from fire,*

**Vāty’ādi bhīter akhilāt cha tāpāt.** *(8)*

*Storms and other dangers and from all pain and grief*

**Pradīpta vidyut kanak’āvabhāso**

*May He who gleams like gold and shines like lightning*

**Vidyā var’ābhīti kuṭhāra pāṇiḥ,**

*In whose hands are knowledge, boons, fearlessness and a sword*

**Chatur mukhas tat-puruṣhas tri-netraḥ**

*Four-faced, three-eyed, Supreme Formless Spirit*

**Prāchyāṁ sthitaṁ rakṣhatu mām ajasram.** *(9)*

 *Standing in the east, protect me for ever*

**Kuṭhāra ved’āṅkuśha pāśha śhūla**

*Holding a sword, sacred texts, goad, noose and trident*

**Kapāla ḍhakk’ākṣha guṇān dadhānaḥ,**

*Skull, drum and counting beads in the hands*

**Chatur mukho nīla ruchis tri-netraḥ**

 *Four-faced, three-eyed and blue-skinned*

**Pāyād Aghoro diśhi dakṣhiṇasyām.** *(10)*

 *Protect, O Gentle Lord, the direction of the south*

**Kundendu śhaṅkha sphaṭik’āvabhāso**

 *Shining white like crystal, Jasmine or a conch,*

**Ved’ākṣha-mālā varad’ābhay’āṅkaḥ,**

 *Garlanded with the Vedas, whose hand-gestures grant boons and fearlessness*

**Try’akṣhaś chatur vaktra uru-prabhāvaḥ**

 *Three-eyed, four-faced, of great majesty*

**Sadyo-’dhi-jāto-’vatu māṁ pratīchyām.** *(11)*

 *Protect me, O New-born Lord, in the west*

**Var’ākṣha māl’ābhaya ṭaṅka hastaḥ**

 *Having boons, rosary, fearlessness and axe in the hands*

**Saroja kiñjalka samāna varṇaḥ,**

 *Whose colour is like a lotus-filament*

**Tri-lochanaś chāru chatur mukho māṁ**

 *Three-eyed, four-faced and beautiful*

**Pāyād udīchyāṁ diśhi Vāma-devaḥ.** *(12)*

 *Protect me in the north, O Lovely Lord of the Left Side*

**Ved’ābhay’eṣhṭ’āṅkuśha pāśha ṭaṅka**

 *Holding the Vedas, fearlessness, desires, goad, noose, axe,*

**Kapāla ḍhakk’ākṣhara śhūla pāṇiḥ,**

 *Skull, drum, rosary and trident in the hands*

**Sita dyutiḥ pañcha mukho-’vatān mām**

 *Shining white, five-faced, guard me*

**Īśhāna ūrdhvaṁ Parama-prakāśhaḥ.** *(13)*

 *From above, O Lord of Supreme Enlightenment*

**Mūrdhānam avyān mama Chandra-mauliḥ**

 *Protect my head, O Moon-crested Lord*

**Bhālaṁ mam’āvyād atha Bhāla-netraḥ,**

 *Protect my forehead, Thou whose forehead has a third eye*

**Netre mam’āvyād Bhaga-netra-hārī**

 *Protect my eyes, O Destroyer of Kāmadeva’s (lustful) eyes*

**Nāsāṁ sadā rakṣhatu Viśhva-nāthaḥ.** *(14)*

 *Protect always my nose, O Master of the Universe*

**Pāyāt śhrutī me Śhruti-gīta-kīrtiḥ**

*Protect my ears, O Lord celebrated in the sacred songs*

**Kapolam avyāt satataṁ Kapālī,**

*Guard my cheeks constantly, O Skull-adorned Lord*

**Vaktraṁ sadā rakṣhatu pañcha-vaktro**

*Protect my face always, O Five-faced God*

**Jihvāṁ sadā rakṣhatu Veda-jihvaḥ.** *(15)*

*Protect ever my tongue, Thou on whose tongue is Sacred Knowledge*

**Kaṇṭhaṁ Girīśho-’vatu Nīla-kaṇṭhaḥ**

 *Guard my neck, O Blue-throated Mountain Lord*

**Pāṇi dvayaṁ pātu Pināka-pāṇiḥ,**

 *And both my hands, O Bow-weilding God*

**Dormūlam avyān mama Dharma-bāhuḥ**

 *Protect my armpits, Thou Armed with Righteousness*

**Vakṣhaḥ sthalaṁ Dakṣham akh’āntako-’vyāt.** *(16)*

 *And guard my speech and chest, O Ender of Daksha’s sacrifice*

**Mam’odaraṁ pātu Gir’īndra-dhanvā**

 *Protect my belly, Thou whose bow is the Lord of mountains*

**Madhyaṁ mam’āvyān Madan’ānta-kārī,**

 *Guard my middle, O Killer of the God of Love*

**Heramba-tāto mama pātu nābhiṁ**

 *Protect my navel, O Father of Ganesha*

**Pāyāt kaṭiṁ Dhūr-jaṭir Īśhvaro me.** *(17)*

 *Protect my waist, O Lord with matted locks*

**Ūru dvayaṁ pātu Kubera-mitro**

 *Protect my two thighs, O Friend of Kubera*

**Jānu dvayaṁ me Jagad-īśhvaro-’vyāt,**

 *Guard both my knees, O Lord of the World*

**Jaṅghā yugaṁ Puṅgava-ketur avyāt**

 *Protect my ankles, Thou whose flag is the bull*

**Pādau mam’āvyāt Sura-vandya-pādaḥ.** *(18)*

 *And guard my feet, whose Feet are worshipped by the Gods.*

**Maheśhvaraḥ pātu din’ādi yāme**

 *May the Great Ruler protect me in the first part of the day*

**Māṁ madhya yāme-’vatu Vāma-devaḥ,**

 *And the Splendorous God in the middle part*

**Tri-lochanaḥ pātu tṛitīya yāme**

*May the Three-eyed Lord protect in the third part*

**Vṛiṣha-dhvajaḥ pātu din’āntya yāme.** *(19)*

*And the Bull-flagged Lord in the last part of the day*

**Pāyān niśh’ādau Śhaśhi-śhekharo māṁ**

*In the start of the night, may the Moon-crested Lord protect me*

**Gaṅgā-dharo rakṣhatu māṁ niśhīthe,**

*And the Supporter of Ganga in the midnight*

**Gaurī-patiḥ pātu niśh’āvasāne**

*May the Husabnd of Gauri, protect me in the last part of the night*

**Mṛityuñ-jayo rakṣhatu sarva kālam.** *(20)*

*And the Victor over Death, protect me at all times*

**Antaḥ sthitaṁ rakṣhatu Śhaṅkaro māṁ**

*May the Benevolent Lord protect me indoors*

**Sthāṇuḥ sadā pātu bahiḥ sthitaṁ mām,**

*And the Ever-firm God protect me outside*

**Tad antare pātu Patiḥ-paśhūnāṁ**

*May the Protector of Cattle guard when in-between*

**Sadāśhivo rakṣhatu māṁ samantā.** *(21)*

*And the Eternal Happiness protect me everywhere*

**Tiṣhṭhatam avyād Bhuvan’aika-nāthaḥ**

*May the One Lord of all the Worlds guard me standing*

**Pāyād vrajantaṁ Pramath’ādhi-nāthaḥ,**

*And the Overlord of the Divine Troops protect me walking*

**Vedānta-vedyo-’vatu māṁ niṣhaṇṇaṁ**

*May the Sacred Knowledge of all religions protect me sitting*

**Mām’avyayaḥ pātu Śhivaḥ śhayānam.** *(22)*

*And the Benevolent Lord guard me reclining*

**Mārgeṣhu māṁ rakṣhatu Nīla-kaṇṭhaḥ**

*May the Blue-throated God protect me on the path*

**Śhail’ādi durgeṣhu Pura-tray’āriḥ,**

*And the Enemy of Tripura, in mountains and other hard places*

**Araṇya-vās’ādi mahā-pravāse**

*May the Forest-dwelling Lord protect me on great journeys*

**Pāyān Mṛiga-vyādha udāra śhaktiḥ.** *(23)*

*And the Deer-hunter protect my rising energy (Kundalini)*

**Kalp’āntako-‘topa paṭu prakopaḥ**

 *At the end of time, hastily, with terrible violent anger*

**Sphuṭ’āṭṭahāsoch chalit’āṇḍa kośhaḥ,**

 *The Loud-laughing Lord shakes the egg-shell (of the Universe)*

**Ghor’āri sen’ārṇava dur-nivāra**

 *May that Terrible Lord stop the four-fold armies of my enemies*

**Mahā-bhayād rakṣhatu Vīra-bhadraḥ.** *(24)*

 *And may the Distinguished Hero protect me from geat fear*

**Patty’aśhvaṭ mātaṅga ghaṭ’āvarūtha**

 *Divisions of cavalry, elephants, chariots and infantry*

**Sahasra lakṣh’āyuta koṭi bhīṣhaṇam,**

 *Hundreds of millions and terrifying untold crores*

**Akṣhauhiṇīnāṁ śhatam ātatāyināṁ**

 *A hundred full armies intent on killing me*

**Chhindyān Mṛiḍo ghora kuṭhāra dhārayā.** *(25)*

 *May be routed by the Joy-giving Lord wielding the fearsome axe*

**Nihantu dasyūn Pralay’ānal’ārchir**

 *Destroy all enemies, O Flame of the Fire of Final Dissolution*

**Jvalat triśhūlaṁ Tri-pur’āntakasya,**

 *With the blazing trident of the Destroyer of the demons’ three cities*

**Śhārdūla siṁha’rkṣha vṛik’ādi hiṁsrān**

 *Save me from tigers, lions, bears, wolves and other savage beasts*

**Santrāsaya Tv’īśha-dhanuḥ pinākaḥ.** *(26)*

 *And from great fear, Thou Lord with the mighty bow Pinaka*

**Duḥ-svapna duḥ-śhakuna dur-gati daur-manasya**

 *Bad dreams, bad omens, bad conduct and bad thoughts*

**Dur-bhikṣha dur-vyasana dus-saha dur-yaśhāṁsi,**

 *Bad eating, bad fasting, bad companions and bad reputation*

**Utpāta tāpa viṣha bhītim asad-grahārtiṁ**

 *Calamity, grief, hatred, fear and trouble from bad planets*

**Vyādhīṁśh cha nāśhayatu me Jagatām-adhīśhaḥ.** *(27)*

 *And all diseases may be destroyed for me, O Overseeing Lord of the Worlds*

**Oṁ namo Bhagavate Sadāśhivāya** *Salutations to the Eternally Blissful Lord*

1. **Sakala tattv’ātmakāya** *The Essence of all good qualities*
2. **Sarva mantra swa-rūpāya** *Embodied in all mantras*
3. **Sarva yantr’ādhi-ṣhṭhitāya** *Presiding in all sacred diagrams*
4. **Sarva tantra swa-rūpāya** *Whose forms are all sacred techniques*
5. **Sarva tattva vidūrāya** *Beyond all philosophical principles*
6. **Brahma rudr’āvatāriṇe** *Coming wailing from Brahma’s forehead*
7. **Nīla kaṇṭhāya** *Blue-throated*
8. **Pārvatī manohara priyāya** *Beloved of captivating Parvati*
9. **Soma sūry’āgni lochanāya** *Whose eyes are the moon, sun and fire*
10. **Bhasm’oddhūlita vigrahāya** *Whose body is smeared with ashes*
11. **Mahāmaṇi mukuṭa dhāraṇāya** *Wearing a magnificent crest-jewel*
12. **Māṇikya bhūṣhaṇāya** *Adorned with rubies*
13. **Sṛiṣhṭi sthiti pralaya kāla Raudr’āvatārāya**

 *The Fierce God who embodies creation, sustenance, dissolution and time*

1. **Dakṣh’ādhvara dhvaṁsakāya** *The Ruiner of Daksha’s sacrifice*
2. **Mahākāla bhedanāya** *Destroying in the form of time*
3. **Mūladhār’aika nilayāya** *Residing first in the Sacrum*
4. **Tattv’ātītāya** *Beyond all principles*
5. **Gaṅgā dharāya** *The Support of River Ganga*
6. **Sarva dev’ādi devāya** *First among all the Gods*
7. **Ṣhaḍ’āśhrayāya** *The Five Senses and the Mind*
8. **Vedānta sārāya** *The Essence of Spiritual Knowledge*
9. **Trivarga sādhanāya** *The Means of achieving the three goals*
10. **Ananta koṭi brahmāṇḍa nāyakāya**

 *Foremost in unending crores of Universes*

1. **Ananta vāsuki takṣhaka karkoṭaka śhaṅkha kulika padma-**

**-mahā-padm’eti aṣhṭa mahā-nāga kula bhūṣhaṇāya**

 *Adorned with the king of snakes, great lotuses, sugar-cane bow, conch, etc.*

1. **Praṇava swa-rūpāya** *The Personification of Om*
2. **Chid ākāśhāya** *The All-pervading Consciousness*
3. **Ākāśha dik swarūpāya** *Embodied in the Firmament*
4. **Graha nakṣhatra māline** *Garlanded by planets and constellations*
5. **Sakalāya** *Everything*
6. **Kalaṅka rahitāya** *Free of impurity*
7. **Sakala lok’aika kartre** *The Primary Creator of all worlds*
8. **Sakala lok’aika bhartre** *The Primary Supporter of all worlds*
9. **Sakala lok’aika saṁhantre** *The One Destroyer of all worlds*
10. **Sakala lok’aika gurave** *The First Guru of all worlds*
11. **Sakala lok’aika sākṣhiṇe** *The Main Witness of all worlds*
12. **Sakala nigama guhyāya** *The Secret Doctrine of everything*
13. **Sakala vedānta pāragāya** *Beyond all sacred knowledge*
14. **Sakala lok’aika vara pradāya** *The Chief Boon-giver of all worlds*
15. **Sakala lok’aika śhaṅkarāya** *The Benevolence of all worlds*
16. **Śhaśhāṅka śhekharāya** *Having the moon as a crest-jewel*
17. **Śhāśhvata nij’āvāsāya** *Whose own dwelling is the Earth*
18. **Nir-ābhāsāya** *Without false appearances*
19. **Nir-āmayāya** *Infallible*
20. **Nir-malāya** *Pure*
21. **Nir-lobhāya** *Without greed*
22. **Nir-madāya** *Unintoxicated*
23. **Niśh-chintāya** *Without anxiety*
24. **Nir-ahaṅkārāya** *Free of ego*
25. **Nir-aṅkuśhāya** *Unfettered*
26. **Niṣh-kalaṅkāya** *Innocent*
27. **Nir-guṇāya** *Attributeless*
28. **Niṣh-kāmāya** *Desireless*
29. **Nir-ūpaplavāya** *Free of disaster*
30. **Nir-avadhyāya** *Unlimited*
31. **Nir-antarāya** *Undivided*
32. **Niṣh-kāraṇāya** *Without causation*
33. **Nir-antakāya** *Never destroyed*
34. **Niṣh-prapañchāya** *Without multiplicity*
35. **Nis-saṅgāya** *Companionless*
36. **Nir-dvandvāya** *Beyond duality*
37. **Nir-ādhārāya** *Unsupported*
38. **Nīrāgāya** *Free of passion*
39. **Niśh-krodhāya** *Without anger*
40. **Nir-malāya** *Pure*
41. **Niṣh-pāpāya** *Sinless*
42. **Nir-bhayāya** *Fearless*
43. **Nir-vikalpāya** *Beyond conceptual thought*
44. **Nir-bhedāya** *Whole*
45. **Niṣh-kriyāya** *Not doing*
46. **Nis-tulāya** *Incomparable*
47. **Niḥ-saṁśhayāya** *Without doubts*
48. **Nir-añjanāya** *Pure, unadorned*
49. **Nir-upama vibhavāya** *Of unmatched prowess*
50. **Nitya śhuddha buddha-** *Ever-pure, awakened, complete,*

**-pari-pūrṇa sach-chid-ānand’ādvayāya**  *the undivided Existence,*

*Consciousness and Bliss*

1. **Parama śhānta swarūpāya** *Experienced as**Supreme Tranquility*
2. **Tejo rūpāya** *Whose form is light*
3. **Tejo mayāya** *Composed of light*

**Jaya Jaya Rudra, Mahā-raudra, Bhadr’āvatāra**

 *Victory to the very Fierce Lord, the Embodiment of auspiciousness and goodness*

**Mahā-bhairava, Kāla-bhairava, Kalp’ānta-bhairava,**

 *The very Fearsome Ruler of Time and Destruction, the Ender of Ages*

**Kapāla mālā-dhara, Khaṭv’āṅga khaḍga charma,**

 *With a garland of skulls, a skull-topped staff, a sword and animal skins,*

**Pāśh’āṅkuśha ḍamarū śhūla chāpa bāṇa gadā śhakti-**

 *Noose, goad, drum, trident, bow, arrows, mace and spear,*

 **-bhindi-pāla tomara musala mudgara pāśha parigha**

 *catapult, javelin, club, pistol, rope, Iron bar,*

 **-bhuśhuṇḍī śhataghnī chakr’ādy’āyudha bhīṣhaṇā kara.**

 *hammer, gun, discus and other terrifying weapons in the hands*

**Sahasra mukha** *Thousand-faced*

**Daṁṣhṭrā karāla vadana** *With gaping jaws*

**Vikaṭ’āṭṭa hāsa** *Laughing loudly*

**Visphārita brahmāṇḍa maṇḍala** *Breaking open the Egg of Brahma (Universe)*

**Nāgendra kuṇḍala** *Having the king of snakes for earrings*

**Nāgendra hāra** *Garlanded with the king of snakes*

**Nāgendra valaya** *Encircled by the snake-lord*

**Nāgendra charma dhara** *Wearing a mighty elephant’s hide*

**Mṛityuñ jaya** *Victorious over death*

**Try’ambaka** *Three-eyed*

**Tri-pur’āntaka** *Destroyer of the three cities of the demons*

**Viśhva rūpa** *Whose Form is the Universe*

**Virūp’ākṣha** *With large and powerful eyes*

**Viśhveśhvara** *The Ruler of everything*

**Vṛiṣhabha vāhana** *Whose vehicle is a bull*

**Viṣha vibhūṣhaṇa** *Adorned with poison (blue-throated)*

**Viśhvato mukha** *Facing in all directions*

**Sarvato rakṣha rakṣha māṁ jvala jvala**

 *Protect me everywhere, O Radiant Lord*

**Mahā-mṛityuṁ apa-mṛityu bhayaṁ nāśhaya nāśhaya**

 *Removing the fear of great or sudden death*

**Chora bhayam utsāday’otsādaya** *Abolishing fear of robbery*

**Viṣha-sarpa bhayaṁ śhamaya śhamaya** *Pacifying fear of snake-venom*

**Chorān māraya māraya** *Killing thieves*

**Mama śhatrūn ucchāṭay’occhāṭaya** *Overthrowing my enemies*

**Tri-śhūlena vidāraya vidāraya** *Crushing them with Your trident*

**Kuṭhāreṇa bhindhi bhindhi** *Destroying with Your axe*

**Khaḍgena chhindhi chhindhi** *Splitting with Your sword*

**Khaṭvāṅgena vipothaya vipothaya** *Shattering with Your skull-topped staff*

**Musalena niṣh-peṣhaya niṣh-peṣhaya** *Grinding with Your mace*

**Bāṇaiḥ santāḍaya santāḍaya** *Severing with Your arrows*

**Rakṣhāṁsi bhīṣhaya bhīṣhaya** *Striking fear into demons*

**Aśheṣha bhūtāni vidrāvaya vidrāvaya** *Putting to flight all evil spirits*

**Kūṣhmāṇḍa vetāla mārīcha brahma-rākṣhasa-gaṇān santrāsaya**

**santrāsaya** *Terrifying all devils, ghosts and hordes of Brahmin-demons*

**Mam’ābhayaṁ kuru kuru** *Make me fearless*

**Vitrastaṁ māṁ āśhvāsaya āśhvāsaya** *Giving me courage against fear*

**Naraka mahābhayān māṁ uddhara uddhara sañjīvaya sañjīvaya**

*Delivering me from the fear of hell and giving life and health*

**Kṣhut-tṛidbhyaṁ māṁ āpyāyay’āpyāyaya** *Taking away hunger and thirst*

**Duḥkh’āturaṁ māṁ ānanday’ānandaya** *Removing sorrow, giving me joy*

**Śhiva kavachena māṁ ācchāday’ācchādaya**

*Covering me with this Shiva Kavach*

**Mṛityuñ jaya Try’ambaka Sadāśhiva namas-te namas-te namas-te**

 *O, Death-defeating, Three-eyed, Eternal Lord, salutations to You*

**Sākṣhāt Śhrī Ādi Śhakti Mātājī Śhri Nirmal Devyai namo namaḥ**

*Who is indeed incarnated in person as Our Holy Mother Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi*

*Salutations to You eternally!*

**Phala Śhrutiḥ** *-‘listening to the results’*

 **Ṛiṣhabha uvācha:** *Sage Rishabha said:*

**Ity’etat Kavachaṁ Śhaivaṁ varadaṁ vyāhṛitaṁ mayā,**

 *This Shiva Kavach recited by me bestows boons*

**Sarva bādhā praśhamanaṁ rahasyaṁ sarva dehinām.** *(1)*

 *Annulls all catches, and is the secret of all people*

**Yaḥ sadā dhārayen martyaḥ Śhaivaṁ Kavacham uttamam,**

 *Any mortal who meditates always on this excellent Shiva Kavach*

**Na tasya jāyate kvāpi bhayaṁ Śhambhor anugrahāt.** *(2)*

 *Is not defeated anywhere, with fear removed by the Benevolent Lord*

**Kṣhīṇāyur prāpta mṛityur vā mahā-roga hato-’pi vā,**

 *He whose life is in danger, approaching death or dying from disease*

**Sadyaḥ sukham avāpnoti dīrgha māyuś cha vindati.** *(3)*

 *Immediately obtains happiness and accomplishes long-felt desires*

**Sarva dāridrya śhamanaṁ sau-māṅgalya vivardhanam,**

 *All poverty is diminished and good fortune increased*

**Yo dhatte Kavachaṁ Śhaivaṁ sa devair api pūjyate.** *(4)*

 *For whoever worships God with this Shiva Kavach*

**Mahāpātaka saṅghātair muchyate ch’opapātakaiḥ,**

 *Multitudes of great sins and minor offences are annulled*

**Dehānte muktim āpnoti Śhiva varm’ānubhāvataḥ.** *(5)*

 *On dying, he obtains liberation, whoever enjoys Shiva’s protection*

**Twam api śhraddhayā vatsa Śhaivaṁ Kavacham uttamam,**

 *Saying this excellent Shiva Kavach with faith and love,*

**Dhārayasva mayā dattaṁ sadyaḥ śhreyo hy’avāpsyasi.** *(6)*

 *Possessing this gift of mine, you will immediately obtain good fortune*

**Sūta uvācha:** *Shri Sūta said: (Sūta, a disciple of Ved Vyās, is narrating the Purana)*

**Ity’uktvā Ṛiṣhabho Yogī tasmai pārthiva sūnave,**

 *Having thus spoken, Yogi Rishabha gave the king’s son*

**Dadau śhaṅkhaṁ mahārāvaṁ khaḍgaṁ chāri niṣhūdanam.** *(7)*

 *A very loud conch, and a highly destructive sword*

**Punaśh cha bhasma sam-mantrya tad aṅgaṁ parito-’spṛiśhat**,

 *And smeared him all over with consecrated ash*

**Gajānāṁ ṣhaṭ sahasrasya dvi-guṇasya balaṁ dadau.** *(8)*

 *Giving him the strength of twelve thousand elephants*

**Bhasma prabhāvāt samprāpta bal’aiśhvarya dhṛiti smṛitiḥ,**

 *The power of the ash gave him strength, dominion, steadfastness and memory*

**Sa Rāja-putraḥ śhuśhubhe śharad-ark’aiva śhriyā.** *(9)*

 *That king’s son shone like the autumn sun.*

**Tamāha prāñjaliṁ bhūyaḥ sa yogī rāja-nandanam,**

 *Then, saluting him, that Yogi told the prince:*

**Eṣha khaḍgo mayā dattas tapo mantr’ānubhāvataḥ.** *(10)*

 *This sword given by me has the power of a renunciant’s mantras*

**Śhita dhāram imaṁ khaḍgaṁ yasmai darśhayasi sphuṭam,**

 *Showing this very keen sword and shaking it*

**Sa sadyo mriyate śhatruḥ sākṣhān mṛityur api swayam.** *(11)*

 *Immediately the enemy dies, viewing it as their own death*

**Asya śhaṅkhasya nihrādaṁ ye śhṛiṇvanti tav’āhitāḥ,**

*Hearing the sound of this conch, those against you*

**Te mūrchitāḥ patiṣhyanti nyasta śhastrā vichetanāḥ.** *(12)*

 *Would immediately fall down and drop their weapons*

**Khaḍga śhaṅkh’āvimau divyau para-sainya vināśhinau,**

 *With this Divine sword and conch, one may destroy armies of enemies*

**Ātma sainya swa-pakṣhāṇāṁ śhaurya tejo vivardhanau.** *(13)*

 *And instill courage and great power into one’s own army*

**Etayoś cha prabhāvena Śhaivena Kavachena cha,**

 *And, with this powerful Shiva Kavach,*

**Dviṣhaṭ sahasra nāgānāṁ balena mahat’āpi cha.** *(14)*

 *With the strength of twelve thousand mighty elephants*

**Bhasma dhāraṇa sām-arthyāt śhatru sainyaṁ vijeṣhyasi,**

 *Empowered by wearing the sacred ash you will overcome enemy armies,*

**Prāpya siṁh’āsanaṁ paitryaṁ goptāsi pṛithivīm imām.** *(15)*

 *Regain your father’s throne and rule the earth*

**Iti Bhadrāyuṣhaṁ samyag anuśhāsya sam-ātṛikam,**

 *Having thus encouraged Prince Bhadrayusha*

**Tābhyāṁ sam-pūjitaḥ so-’tha yogī swaira-gatir yayau.** *(16)*

 *And saluting each other respectfully, that Yogi continued on his way*

**Iti Śhrī Skānda Mahā-purāṇe Brahm’ottara khaṇḍe Śhiva Kavacha prabhāva varṇanaṁ nāma dvādaśho-’dhyāyaḥ sam-pūrṇaḥ.**

*Here ends the Shiva Kavach from the twelfth chapter*

*of the last book of the Skanda Purana.*

***Notes:*** *The* ***Śhiva Kavach*** *is recited for protection mainly during the* ***Amāvāsyā*** *period (one or two days either side of the new moon) considered to be a time when bhoots and demons are more active (left-sided). Once the moon is sighted again (as a thin ‘nail-paring’ at sunset)* ***Amāvāsyā*** *is over.*

*There are two main versions of the* ***Śhiva Kavach*** *with several variations. The version given here is the one used in Sahaja Yoga and is virtually identical to the Sanskrit recitation at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrEacQ89Rp8. The translations have been reworked to be more literal (and possibly more prosaic!) and now appear under the line they translate. Names of* ***Lord Śhiva*** *have been capitalised wherever possible.*

*The* ***Skanda Purāṇa*** *is the largest of the* ***Purāṇas****, with 81,000 verses in seven books (the* ***Mahābhārata*** *has about 100,000).* ***Skanda*** *is a name of* ***Shrī Kārttikeya*** *(the son of* ***Śhiva****) and the* ***Purāṇa*** *contains mainly stories and information about* ***Lord Śhiva****.*