

The Śhiva Kavach

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

Om Śhrī Gaṇeśhāya namaḥ

Salutations to Shri Ganesha

Asya Śhrī Śhiva Kavacha stotra mantrasya

Of this Shiva Kavach

Brahmā riṣhiḥ

Shri Brahmadeva is the Composing Seer

Anuṣṭup chhandah

Anushtubh¹ is the Meter

Śhrī Sadāśhiva-rudro devatā

The Fearsome Eternal Spirit is the Deity

Hrīm śhaktiḥ, Raṁ kīlakam

Hrim is the Power, Ram is the Key

Śhrīm Hrīm Klīm 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*

Om namo Bhagavate jwala jwālā-māline

Salutations to the Radiant Lord encircled with flames

Om Hrām, sarva śhakti dhāmne

Om Hrām, Abode of all power

Īshān’ātmāne

Spirit of light and dominion,

Aṅguṣṭhā-bhyām namaḥ.

Salutations to the thumbs

Om namo Bhagavate jwala jwālā-māline

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

Om Naṁ Rīm, nitya tṛipti dhāmne

Abode of eternal contentment

Tat-puruṣh’ātmāne

Essence of Formless Consciousness

Tarjanī-bhyām namaḥ.

Salutations to the forefingers

Om namo Bhagavate jwala jwālā-māline

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

Om Maṁ Rūm, anādi śhakti dhāmne

Abode of eternal power

Aghor’ātmāne

The Gentle Spirit

Madhyamā-bhyām 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 Triṣṭubh meter. The lists of names are not in meter.

Om namo Bhagavate jwala jwālā-māline

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

Om Śhim Raim swa-tantra śhakti dhāmne

Abode of absolute power

Vāma dev'ātmane

Lovely Essence of the Left Side

Anāmikā-bhyām namaḥ.

Salutations to the ring fingers

Om namo Bhagavate jwala jwālā-māline

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

Om Vām Raum alupta-śhakti dhāmne

Abode of undiminished energy

Sadyo-jāt'ātmane

The New-born Soul

Kaniṣṭhikā-bhyām namaḥ.

Salutations to the little fingers

Om namo Bhagavate jwala jwālā-māline

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

Om Yam Raḥ anādi śhakti dhāmne

Abode of eternal power

Sarv'ātmane

Soul of everything

Kara-tala kara-prīṣṭhā-bhyām 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-daṁṣṭraṁ tri-nayanam kāla-kaṇṭham arindamam,

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

Sahasra-karam aty'ugraṁ vande Śhambhum Umā-patim.

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

Ṛṣhabha uvācha: *Sage Rishabha said:*

Ataḥ param sarva purāṇa guhyam

This is the supreme secret of all the ancient texts

Niḥśheṣha pāp'augha haraṁ pavitram,

Which removes and purifies a mountain of sins

Jaya pradam sarva vipat pramochanam

Grants victory and liberates from all calamities

Vakṣhyāmi Śhaivam Kavacham 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 karam nṛiṇām. (1)

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

Śhuchau deśhe samāsīno yath'āvat kalpit'āsanah,

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-niviṣṭam

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

Śhaḍ 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

Mām pātu Devo-'khila devat'ātmā

Protect me, O Spirit of all the Gods

Samśāra kūpe patitaṁ gambhīre,

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 mām rakṣhatu Viśhva-mūrtir

Protect me everywhere, O Form of the Universe

Jyotir-may'ānanda ghanas chid'ātmā,
Full of light, solid joy, the Essence of Consciousness

An'ora-nīy'ānuru śhaktir ekaḥ
The One Power of tiny and vast, low and high,

Sa Īshvaraḥ 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-'ṣṭa mūrṭiḥ,
Protect me from the earth, O Eight-formed Lord of the Mountain

Yo-'pām swa-rūpeṇa nṛiṇām karoti
May He who sustains humanity in the form of water,

Sañjīvanaṁ so-'vatu mām 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 mām 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

Prāchyām 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 dhakk'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.

Protect, O Gentle Lord, the direction of the south

(10)

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 mām pratīchyām.

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

(11)

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 mām

Three-eyed, four-faced and beautiful

Pāyād udīchyām diśhi Vāma-devaḥ.

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

(12)

Ved'ābhay'eṣṭ'āṅkuśha pāśha ṭaṅka

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

Kapāla dhakk'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.

From above, O Lord of Supreme Enlightenment

(13)

Mūrdhānam avyān mama Chandra-mauliḥ

Protect my head, O Moon-crested Lord

Bhālaṁ mam'avyād atha Bhāla-netraḥ,

Protect my forehead, Thou whose forehead has a third eye

Netre mam'avyād Bhaga-netra-hārī

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

Nāsām sadā rakṣatu Viśhva-nāthaḥ.

Protect always my nose, O Master of the Universe

(14)

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

Jihvām sadā rakṣhatu Veda-jihvaḥ.

(15)

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

Kaṇṭham 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'odaram 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

Pādaṁ 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

Mām madhya yāme-'vatu Vāma-devaḥ,

And the Splendorous God in the middle part

Tri-lochanah pātu tṛitīya yāme

May the Three-eyed Lord protect in the third part

Vṛiṣha-dhvajah pātu din'āntya yāme.

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

(19)

Pāyān niśh'ādaś Śhaśhi-śhekharo mām

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

Gaṅgā-dharo rakṣhatu mām niśhīthe,

And the Supporter of Ganga in the midnight

Gaurī-patiḥ pātu niśh'āvasāne

May the Husband of Gauri, protect me in the last part of the night

Mṛityuñ-jayo rakṣhatu sarva kālam.

And the Victor over Death, protect me at all times

(20)

Antaḥ sthitaṁ rakṣhatu Śhaṅkaro mām

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-paśhūnām

May the Protector of Cattle guard when in-between

Sadāśhivo rakṣhatu mām samantā.

And the Eternal Happiness protect me everywhere

(21)

Tiṣṭhatam 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 mām niṣhaṇṇam

May the Sacred Knowledge of all religions protect me sitting

Mām'avayayaḥ pātu Śhivaḥ śhayānam.

And the Benevolent Lord guard me reclining

(22)

Mārgeṣhu mām 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

Aranya-vās'ādi mahā-pravāse

May the Forest-dwelling Lord protect me on great journeys

Pāyān Mṛiga-vyādha udāra śhaktiḥ.

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

(23)

Kalp'āntako-'topa paṭu prakopah

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 great 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

Akṣhauhiṇīnām śhatam ātatāyinām

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 simha'rkṣha vṛik'ādi himsrān

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-yaśhāmsi,

Bad eating, bad fasting, bad companions and bad reputation

Utpāta tāpa viṣha bhītim asad-grahārtim

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

Vyādhīmś cha nāśhayatu me Jagatām-adhīśhaḥ.

(27)

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

Om 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-ṣṭhitāya	<i>Presiding in all sacred diagrams</i>
4. Sarva tantra swa-rūpāya	<i>Whose forms are all sacred techniques</i>
5. Sarva tattva vidūrāya	<i>Beyond all philosophical principles</i>
6. Brahma rudr'āvatāriṇe	<i>Coming wailing from Brahma's forehead</i>
7. Nīla kaṇṭhāya	<i>Blue-throated</i>
8. Pārvatī manohara priyāya	<i>Beloved of captivating Parvati</i>
9. Soma sūry'āgni lochanāya	<i>Whose eyes are the moon, sun and fire</i>
10. Bhasm'oddhūlita vighrahāya	<i>Whose body is smeared with ashes</i>
11. Mahāmaṇi mukuṭa dhāraṇāya	<i>Wearing a magnificent crest-jewel</i>
12. Māṇikya bhūṣhaṇāya	<i>Adorned with rubies</i>
13. Sṛiṣṭi sthiti pralaya kāla Raudr'āvatārāya	<i>The Fierce God who embodies creation, sustenance, dissolution and time</i>
14. Dakṣh'ādhvara dhvaṁsakāya	<i>The Ruiner of Daksha's sacrifice</i>
15. Mahākāla bhedanāya	<i>Destroying in the form of time</i>
16. Mūladhār'aika nilayāya	<i>Residing first in the Sacrum</i>
17. Tattv'ātītāya	<i>Beyond all principles</i>
18. Gaṅgā dharāya	<i>The Support of River Ganga</i>
19. Sarva dev'ādi devāya	<i>First among all the Gods</i>
20. Ṣhaḍ'āśhrayāya	<i>The Five Senses and the Mind</i>
21. Vedānta sārāya	<i>The Essence of Spiritual Knowledge</i>
22. Trivarga sādhanāya	<i>The Means of achieving the three goals</i>
23. Ananta koṭi brahmāṇḍa nāyakāya	<i>Foremost in unending crores of Universes</i>
24. Ananta vāsuki takṣhaka karkoṭaka śhaṅkha kulika padma- -mahā-padm'eti aṣṭa mahā-nāga kula bhūṣhaṇāya	<i>Adorned with the king of snakes, great lotuses, sugar-cane bow, conch, etc.</i>
25. Praṇava swa-rūpāya	<i>The Personification of Om</i>
26. Chid ākāśhāya	<i>The All-pervading Consciousness</i>
27. Ākāśha dik swarūpāya	<i>Embodied in the Firmament</i>
28. Graha nakṣhatra māline	<i>Garlanded by planets and constellations</i>
29. Sakalāya	<i>Everything</i>
30. Kalaṅka rahitāya	<i>Free of impurity</i>

31. Sakala lok'aika kartre	<i>The Primary Creator of all worlds</i>
32. Sakala lok'aika bhartre	<i>The Primary Supporter of all worlds</i>
33. Sakala lok'aika samhantre	<i>The One Destroyer of all worlds</i>
34. Sakala lok'aika gurave	<i>The First Guru of all worlds</i>
35. Sakala lok'aika sākṣhiṇe	<i>The Main Witness of all worlds</i>
36. Sakala nigama guhyāya	<i>The Secret Doctrine of everything</i>
37. Sakala vedānta pāragāya	<i>Beyond all sacred knowledge</i>
38. Sakala lok'aika vara pradāya	<i>The Chief Boon-giver of all worlds</i>
39. Sakala lok'aika śhaṅkarāya	<i>The Benevolence of all worlds</i>
40. Śhaśhāṅka śhekharāya	<i>Having the moon as a crest-jewel</i>
41. Śhāśhvata nij'āvāsāya	<i>Whose own dwelling is the Earth</i>
42. Nir-ābhāsāya	<i>Without false appearances</i>
43. Nir-āmayāya	<i>Infallible</i>
44. Nir-malāya	<i>Pure</i>
45. Nir-lobhāya	<i>Without greed</i>
46. Nir-madāya	<i>Unintoxicated</i>
47. Niśh-chintāya	<i>Without anxiety</i>
48. Nir-ahaṅkārāya	<i>Free of ego</i>
49. Nir-aṅkuśhāya	<i>Unfettered</i>
50. Niśh-kalaṅkāya	<i>Innocent</i>
51. Nir-guṇāya	<i>Attributeless</i>
52. Niśh-kāmāya	<i>Desireless</i>
53. Nir-ūpaplavāya	<i>Free of disaster</i>
54. Nir-avadhyāya	<i>Unlimited</i>
55. Nir-antarāya	<i>Undivided</i>
56. Niśh-kāraṇāya	<i>Without causation</i>
57. Nir-antakāya	<i>Never destroyed</i>
58. Niśh-prapañchāya	<i>Without multiplicity</i>
59. Nis-saṅgāya	<i>Companionless</i>
60. Nir-dvandvāya	<i>Beyond duality</i>
61. Nir-ādhārāya	<i>Unsupported</i>
62. Nīrāgāya	<i>Free of passion</i>

63. Niśh-krodhāya	<i>Without anger</i>
64. Nir-malāya	<i>Pure</i>
65. Niśh-pāpāya	<i>Sinless</i>
66. Nir-bhayāya	<i>Fearless</i>
67. Nir-vikalpāya	<i>Beyond conceptual thought</i>
68. Nir-bhedāya	<i>Whole</i>
69. Niśh-kriyāya	<i>Not doing</i>
70. Nis-tulāya	<i>Incomparable</i>
71. Niḥ-saṁśhayāya	<i>Without doubts</i>
72. Nir-añjanāya	<i>Pure, unadorned</i>
73. Nir-upama vibhavāya	<i>Of unmatched prowess</i>
74. Nitya śhuddha buddha- -pari-pūrṇa sach-chid-ānand'ādvayāya	<i>Ever-pure, awakened, complete,</i> <i>the undivided Existence,</i> <i>Consciousness and Bliss</i>
75. Parama śhānta swarūpāya	<i>Experienced as Supreme Tranquility</i>
76. Tejo rūpāya	<i>Whose form is light</i>
77. Tejo mayāya	<i>Composed of light</i>

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 śhataghñī 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

Visphārīta brahmāṇḍa maṇḍala

Breaking open the Egg of Brahma (Universe)

Nāgendra kuṇḍala	<i>Having the king of snakes for earrings</i>
Nāgendra hāra	<i>Garlanded with the king of snakes</i>
Nāgendra valaya	<i>Encircled by the snake-lord</i>
Nāgendra charma dhara	<i>Wearing a mighty elephant's hide</i>
Mṛityuñ jaya	<i>Victorious over death</i>
Try'ambaka	<i>Three-eyed</i>
Tri-pur'āntaka	<i>Destroyer of the three cities of the demons</i>
Viśhva rūpa	<i>Whose Form is the Universe</i>
Virūp'ākṣha	<i>With large and powerful eyes</i>
Viśhveśhvara	<i>The Ruler of everything</i>
Vṛiṣhabha vāhana	<i>Whose vehicle is a bull</i>
Viṣha vibhūṣhaṇa	<i>Adorned with poison (blue-throated)</i>
Viśhvato mukha	<i>Facing in all directions</i>
Sarvato rakṣha rakṣha mām jvala jvala	<i>Protect me everywhere, O Radiant Lord</i>
Mahā-mṛityuṁ apa-mṛityu bhayaṁ nāśhaya nāśhaya	<i>Removing the fear of great or sudden death</i>
Chora bhayam utsāday'otsādaya	<i>Abolishing fear of robbery</i>
Viṣha-sarpa bhayaṁ śhamaya śhamaya	<i>Pacifying fear of snake-venom</i>
Chorān mārāya mārāya	<i>Killing thieves</i>
Mama śhatrūn ucchāṭay'occhāṭaya	<i>Overthrowing my enemies</i>
Tri-śhūlena vidārāya vidārāya	<i>Crushing them with Your trident</i>
Kuṭhāreṇa bhindhi bhindhi	<i>Destroying with Your axe</i>
Khaḍgena chhindhi chhindhi	<i>Splitting with Your sword</i>
Khaṭvāṅgena vipothaya vipothaya	<i>Shattering with Your skull-topped staff</i>
Musalena niṣh-peṣhaya niṣh-peṣhaya	<i>Grinding with Your mace</i>
Bāṇaiḥ santāḍaya santāḍaya	<i>Severing with Your arrows</i>
Rakṣhāṁsi bhīṣhaya bhīṣhaya	<i>Striking fear into demons</i>
Aśheṣha bhūtāni vidrāvaya vidrāvaya	<i>Putting to flight all evil spirits</i>
Kūṣhmāṇḍa vetāla mārīcha brahma-rākṣhasa-gaṇān santrāsaya	
santrāsaya	<i>Terrifying all devils, ghosts and hordes of Brahmin-demons</i>

Mam'ābhayaṁ kuru kuru

Make me fearless

Vitrastaṁ mām āśhvāsaya āśhvāsaya

Giving me courage against fear

Naraka mahābhayān mām uddhara uddhara sañjīvaya sañjīvaya

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

Kṣhut-trīdbhyaṁ mām āpyāyay'āpyāyaya

Taking away hunger and thirst

Duḥkh'āturaṁ mām ānanday'ānandaya

Removing sorrow, giving me joy

Śhiva kavachena mām 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'

Ṛishabha 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)

Annuls all catches, and is the secret of all people

Yañ 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 māyus 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 Rīṣhabho 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

Punaś cha bhasma sam-mantrya tad aṅgaṁ parito-'spriśhat,

And smeared him all over with consecrated ash

Gajānām 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 mūrchatāḥ paṭiṣhyanti 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-pakṣhāṇām 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 nāgānām 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'āsanam paitryam goptāsi prithivīm imām. (15)
Regain your father's throne and rule the earth

Iti Bhadrāyuṣhaṁ samyag anuśhāsyā sam-āṭṛikam,
Having thus encouraged Prince Bhadrayusha
Tābhyām 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 varṇanam 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 **Śhrī Kārttikeya** (the son of **Śhiva**) and the **Purāṇa** contains mainly stories and information about **Lord Śhiva**.