

Badaa Bandee Mochana (The Mother who liberates)

All glories to the most merciful Shree-Bandi Devi-Shree Mahadevaji.
All glories to the wonderful servants of the Supreme Lord.
Bandee Paath (In English)



“She yonder, bending down, rich in rays, clothed in red hues is seen, advancing as one wonderful form, amid the ten surrounding arms” – Rig Veda VIII 101-13 Many have requested an English version of the Bandi Paath. This is an extremely popular prayer as you will read below why. This prayer is one of my favourite prayers as well. Ma Bandi is one of the most famous as well as merciful expansions of Mother Durga.

*** Do note this is a very lengthy article ***

Some of the benefits of hearing or reading the Bandi Path:-

Mother Bandi gives support when difficulty arises.

One is blessed with well-being.

Mother Bandi is the giver of children and rescues one from hardships.

Mother Bandi recues one from troubles and is the giver of happiness to the world. The person who meditates on Mother Bandi, his son becomes very strong. Whosoever is heavily in debt, should recite this katha often.

If a barren woman listens/reads this katha with a steadfast mind, Mother Bandi definitely confers on her the boon of a child. One should meditate and listen to the Purana for one full month with an undisturbed mind. Definitely that barren woman will be blessed with a child.

Milk, a child, riches and Lakshmi (abundance), whatever he asks for he will get. The man who is a trader or a shopkeeper, that man should concentrate on this katha. She is the bestower of milk and children and rescues one from adversity.

Dohaa (Couplet)

May Mother Bhavani always be on my right side and Lord Ganesh in front of me. May Mother Bhavani and Lord Ganesh together with Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Mahesha all protect me.

Stuti (Eulogy)

All glories to Adi Bhavani (The consort of Lord Bhava a.k.a. Lord Shiva) who brings about the welfare of the devas and whose name means "The annihilator of the demons". Hail to Ma Adi Kumari who rides on the lion and whom even Shree Raam worships. Please Shivaraani (The queen of Lord Shiva) the creator and the benefactor of the three worlds, do fulfil all my desires. The glory and powers of Mother Bandi are difficult to realise. Its unlimited and cannot be described by the human mouth. Whenever some misfortune falls upon me, O Mother Bandi do come to my aid.

Chaupaaee (Quadruplets)

O Mother Bandi, I meditate on you and chant your name. Kindly bestow knowledge and wisdom on me as I do your sumiran (chant your name). Your name itself is Mother Bandi. Please come to the aid of the one who is your own. When she created the three worlds she was given the name Bandi. The Devas, Devi's, Nagas, Sages, and Deities all serve Mother Bandi. The glory of Mother Bandi is beyond understanding and limitless. She gives support when difficulty arises. Whosever continuously meditates on Mother Bandi they are always blessed with well-being. O Mother Bandi, you are the Adi Bhavani. Her thousand Kalas (arts) are recounted by all people.

Dohaa (Couplets)

He on whose home Mother Bandi is present as a Deity his house is full of happiness. All his miseries and dilemmas are removed and he is freed from the snares of Lord Yamaraja (The Lord of Death). The person who is facing great hardships, should daily listen to or read the katha of Mother Bandi. He would definitely be relieved from the difficulty says Lord Mahadeva (a.k.a Lord Shiva). The Ardhangi (Half Part of Lord Shiva), Mother Bhavani who is endowed with thousands of kalas and who is the store house of good behaviour and merits. He who recites this katha daily, in his/her home

Mother Lakshmi (the Deity of Abundance of all kinds) keeps on increasing every day. Mother Bandi is the destroyer of the enemies and she illuminates the world with bright lights. She becomes the rescuer of the world, her Lilas (Pastimes) are beyond grasp and unlimited. She is the giver of milk (wealth) and sons and rescues one from difficulties. The whole world chants the name of Mother Bandi. When misfortune strikes Mother Bandi comes to the rescue. He/She who recites the katha of Mother Bandi with his/her entire mind on it, Aditi (The Mother of the devas) becomes helpful to him/her. Her thousands of kalas and brilliant glow are spreading the lustre in the three worlds. She alone is poor, she alone is wealthy. She alone is hard and she alone only is meritorious. She is the bestower of knowledge; she alone is the Mother of the three worlds. Mother Bandi accepts the worship in every home and as one chants her name she bestows abundance and wealth. In the home where Mother Lakshmi is worshipped and her katha is recited with concentration, the residents are definitely happy and blessed with a vision in this world only. Mother Bhavani becomes pleased with him. Lord Mahadeva describing her Lilas said this, "There is no other glory in this world. Grasp this and realise it in your own mind. She alone has created the whole world; she only has brought about the destruction of the demons. Her mangala (auspicious songs) is sung about in 64 Yojanas (Vedic measure of distance used in ancient India) and the Bhutas (a kind of spirit) and the Pretas (a kind of spirit) are beating Taal (a rhythmic cycle) to it daily. Such kala is Mother Bandi whose fame has come down to this world. Without her no sacrifice or chanting is possible, whosoever worships her with concentration, proper order and speech. Such a Mother is Bandi; her glory is beyond understanding and limitless. She is the giver of milk and sons and rescues one from hardships. O Brother concentrating and reciting her name all sins are destroyed. Mother Bandi is the Mother of the three worlds. She recues one from troubles and is the giver of happiness to this world. Whose name is chanted by Lord Tripurari (Lord Shiva the enemy of the demon Tripura) and whose Lilas number tens of millions, Balihari on her. The person who meditates on Mother Bandi, his child becomes very strong. The person, who reads the Bandi Path gladly and attentively, that man by the power of Mother Bandi, travels across the Bhava-sagara (ocean of worldly existence). Whosoever is heavily in debt, should recite this katha completely. The glory of Mother Bandi is praise-worthy. The hardship of debt will be definitely be overcome. Whosoever reads or listens to the glory of the Bandi Path and is engrossed in it gets the Darshan (to view) of Mother Bandi. My words will not be futile. Lord Mahadeva has said "What more merits should I describe? Listen to this katha. This is Amrita-Bani (nectar-speech). The man who suffers from leprosy in all his eight limbs, that man should read this katha steadfastly. He should get the sacrifices performed by inviting Brahmins and the ashes thereof; he should take and smear his limbs with it. Every day he should meditate on Bandi Devi by remembering and chanting her name his sins are destroyed. If a barren woman listens/reads this katha with a steadfast mind, Bhavani Devi definitely confers on her the boon of a child. One should meditate and listen to the Purana for one full month with an undisturbed mind. Definitely the barren woman will be blessed with a child. I make this statement, explaining the meaning also. Uncountable blind men have been

saved at this very place and all their needs have been fulfilled as well. Praiseworthy is the glory of Bandi Devi whose praise should be listened to with concentration." A person should read the katha of Mother Bandi with a happy mind and taking an interest in it. Milk, a child, riches and Lakshmi (abundance of all kinds), whatever he asks for he will get. Listen, O Damsel to the Amritbani of giri. I recount the powers of Mother Bandi with description. The man who is a trader or a shopkeeper, that man should concentrate on this katha. In the early morning, he should concentrate his mind on this katha and then with all his mind, speech and deeds, he should run his shop. Mother Lakshmi comes there in her own form and sitting there he sells more goods. Mother Lakshmi comes to his place in abundance who reads this katha fixing his mind on it. Happy in mind, speech and action, he should fix his mind on this katha. If that man runs a shop, Lakshmi in abundance, comes there. Listen O Uma, I relate with explanation. Fixing your mind, listen to more kathas. There was a King, Kaushala Pati (the ruler of Kaushal). He did not beget a son because of his karma. For full 12 months, he worshipped Lord Shiva and had performed many sacrifices. Then Lord Shankara said to the King, the goddess Bandi resides at Kashi. On going there you get engrossed in meditation. The goddess will be pleased and you would beget a meritorious son. Having heard this, the king along with his wife went where the mandapa (place of prayer) of Mother Bandi was situated. Both the king and queen were determined to serve her. Then Mother Bhavani became pleased with them and said "O King ask and ask again with all your heart. I will fulfil your purposes in every way". Then the king recited her eulogy. Riches and Lakshmi, all you have already given me. I have come here having heard your name and fame, O Mother Bandi if you are truly pleased with me, please gladden my heart. I am very unhappy without a son. O Mother please make me happy about that as well. When Mother Bandi became pleased, she bestowed a son to the king. Both the royal beings then, went back to their home. Soon a son was born to the king and queen. Mangala (auspicious) rites of many types were performed. Brahmanas were reciting the Vedas in a resounding voice. Many talented people were dancing and singing. Unaccountable paupers were given donations. The king showered diamonds, rubies, topaz, jewels, garnets and all types of precious red stones jewels. All the paupers were blessed with them. When the son reached twelve years old, a thought came to the king's mind. One should go and visit Mother Bhavani and perform worship to the Mother. Then the king said to the queen a happy thought has arisen in my mind. The queen, replied "Listen O King, have the darshan of Mother Bandi, O goddess of the land. Your words have appealed to my mind also because Mother Bandi is the one by who was pleased with us; we have begotten this beautiful boon as her favour". When his son reached 12 years old, the king having thought this in his mind, the royal persons together went to the residence of Mother Bandi. The three of them went where the mandapa of Mother Bandi was. The king with all accompanying him availed of the Darshana of Mother Bandi. The king gave food to thousands of Brahmanas and performed auspicious rites of various types. He performed all sorts of joyous activities and with his entire mind, speech and actions gave charities to the poor. "Bandi is such a goddess; she gave the boon of a son to the king. The king, queen and their son then

made their departure to their home. Hear another katha; I will relate the glory of Mother Bandi to you. Whenever there befalls misfortune on some person, he should act in accordance with Mother Bandi's katha. Definitely he will be rescued from misfortunes". Lord Mahadeva thus spoke having pondered well. O Brother, Mother Bandi's katha should be read, concentrating on her katha. The sixty –four Yogini's sing the mangala. Bhutas and Pretas all beat the Tala. Whosoever in the three worlds chants her name all his desires are fulfilled. Japa (chanting) and Tapa (austerities), both are not possible. Grasp this in order with your mind and words. Mother Bandi is such a Mother that her glory is unlimited. She is the bestower of milk and children and rescues one from adversity. Once, a great surprise happened. Ahiravana kidnapped and carried away Lord Raam. He took Lord Hari to the 7th Patala (the lowest planet of the 14 main planets), and having extended it, turned it into a yajnnashala (Sacrificial Hall). He devised to sacrifice Lord Raam. Then the Lord took Mother Bandi's name and she appeared. But Mother Bandi took up a disguise and took 100 Yojanas of Patala. At that time, came Shree Hanuman and Shree Hanuman knew of this act. The son of Pavana (The Wind-Deity) who is the destroyer of pride began to think seriously. Ahiravana had become overjoyed at that time and he had a "Kund" (a sacred place where a fire sacrifice is performed) made offerings of "Ahuti" (Oblations). All the demons together decided that all our aims have been achieved. Mother Bhavani has become pleased with you. Now you should perform worship as you like to. At these words, Ahiravana was overjoyed as if mounds of "Chappa" have rained on the world (as if the world has rained "chappa"). At this site where Mother Bandi was he brought and placed Akshat (uncooked rice grains), sandalwood, food and delicious dishes. Shree Hanumanji sat down and ate to his fill. Ahiravana became very glad in his heart. Then Ahiravana sent his messengers there, telling them to bring over lots of delicious dishes. The joyful messengers went to the temple and speedily brought back delicious dishes. They arranged them in the central place. Shree Hanuman became invisible and had his meal. Sitting down, Shree Hanuman ate all the food with great interest and happiness. Ahiravana was pleased at this. Having fixed the time on the auspicious day, Lord Raam was bathed. Ahiravana felt great pleasure then and ordered the demons, "having bathed Raam properly, bring Him over quickly". They immediately went and bathed Lord Raam. They placed a flower-garland on the chest of Lord Raam and then made Him stand at the sacrificial site. Ahiravana drew out his sword and stood at the head of the Lord. He spoke to the Lord, "You call whosoever to help You; otherwise the time of Your death has arrived. Do not delay now". Then the Lord uttered the "Stuti" (praises) of Mother Bandi. At that very time, Mother Bandi came to the aid of the Lord. She came there roaring and blessed the Lord with her Darshana (Visitation). Mother Bandi who rides the lion appeared there and gave support to Shree Raam in His time of hardship. Lord Raam said, "O Mother Bandi, you have come to My aid, in My time of adversity". The katha of Mother Bandi was then recounted. He also gave the order to Shree Hanuman, go speedily and kill the demons. Immediately the son of Lord Murata got up and attacked the demons. Shree Hanuman then fought with Ahiravana and snatched Ahiravana's own sword. Ahiravana tried to escape but the son of Murata

threw him on the ground and holding him by the leg, rotated him in circles. He killed him along with Lakhan Sena. All this he could do because of the greatness of Mother Bandi. Lord Raam said, "O Mother Bandi you came to My aid in the time of hardship." Because of that Shree Hanuman devised so many tricks to kill these demons. Then Shree Raam and the devas sang Ma Bandi's eulogies. Hail, Hail and Hail yet again; the devas rained flowers over the Ahiloka (world of the serpents). The Lord after considering the matter praised Mother Bandi, "O Devi you are praise worthy indeed. In such a time of adversity, you came and was helpful to Me. O goddess Bhavani; you are the rescuer of the world. You are the Adi Parameshwara (Origin, the supreme controller); you yourself are the storehouse of good behaviour and merits". So the Lord chanted Mother Bandi's "Stuti" (sang her praises). Mother Bandi riding the lion blessed everyone with her darshan. This sacred katha I recounted with one consideration. The beautiful form in which the Kumari appeared there, the lustre of Mother Bandi is beyond description; her delicate body and her excessive beauty. A thin yellow garment was shining on her and sacred toe rings were ringing with a tinkling sound. In her hands she was carrying the Shankara (conch), Chakra (wheel) and Trishul (trident). Sixty four yoginis were accompanying Devi. She came to the Lord in this way. On seeing Devi, the Lord became overjoyed. With the Shankha, Chakra and Trishul in her hands Mother Bandi gave her blessings. Blessed is the might of Mother Bandi. Shree Raam then prostrated to Mother Bandi. Shree Raghunatha was singing her praises and Mother Bandi gave Shree Raam her blessings. "All Your aims would be fulfilled. The son of Pavana would always be accompanying You. All Your troubles would be destroyed. If one acts accordingly he gets the results. At all the places, You would succeed definitely". Having spoken like this, Mother Bandi then left to Mount Kailash. When Jagadamba (The Mother of the World) went to her residence, there were the sounds of Hail in all the three worlds. Thirty three crores (33 x 10 million) of Devi's and Devas all of them chanted the name of Adi Bhavani. Such a goddess is Mother Bandi; she always brings about the beneficial. After Mother Sharada had left to Mount Kailash, Sage Narada, with folded hands came in front of Raghunayaka; he then began to describe the merits of Mother Bandi. "Listen O Lord, I relate with description the type of role that Mother Bhavani played there. At one time, when there was darkness all around, the demons appeared and caused massacres". "Day and night they were causing heavy disturbances. The devas went and fought fiercely. No religious preaching was held and the demons destroyed everything. Then all the devas jointly went to Lord Shiva and with folded hands requested Lord Shiva", "O Lord Shumbhu, please listen to our prayer. The demons are causing heavy disturbances. O Lord, please find some means by which all the demons can be destroyed. Otherwise, accommodate us at your own place, so that we would find refuge here and would always chant your name". Then Lord Shiva said, "Listen devas; go and serve Mother Bandi. For sure she will destroy all the demons because whenever there is some adversity, there and then she comes to one's rescue. Devi Jagadamba would immediately become pleased. Go speedily do not delay" Then the whole crowd of devas departed to the residence where Adi Kumari resides. Without delaying, they riding in their vehicles went where Mother Bandi - the

Jyothi (light) was gracing. The Devas excessively sang her praises, "O Adi Kumari, you are blessed. Lord Shiva has sent us to you. Therefore we all have come here to kindly request your assistance". All the Devas, chanted the name of Adi Bhavani. "O rescuer of the world, O destroyer of the demons, O goddess who fulfils all desires; come to our help now as we loudly call out to you O Devi. Rescue us from our hardships and save our army which tried to kill the demons. Do win all the battles for us".

Chaupaaee (Quadruplets).

When the devas sang her "Stuti", Mother Bandi gave her blessings to all of them. "Go to your palaces, O devas, do not get frightened. I will have my breakfast only when I have killed all the demons". Having said this, her lion immediately came there and then Mother Bhavani changed into her terrible form. They came where there was a huge demon-army. Going near them, they made a piercing sound (chikari). Hearing the chikar, the demons rushed there. Without delay, they approached Mother Bandi. From all sides they encircled all the paths. The magnificence of the demon-army cannot be described. Crores of demons became of one opinion. With the aim of fighting they went near Mother Bandi. Then Mother Bandi devised a way. She fabricated chariots which were illusionary. Establishing safeguards for 64 Yojanas, Kumari herself forced her way into the demon-army. At that moment, Mahishasura (The Buffalo-Demon) appeared there. He had brought a huge army with him and then heavy fighting broke out. The Kumari, who was riding the lion then fought back. The demons ran away with their mouths wide-open. The Kumari killed some with her trident and they fell dead on the ground. The war continued for three-Pahar (3/4 th of a day). Streams of blood started to rain, the earth began to shake on all its four sides and in all four directions the demons were making their horses leap. Mother Bandi was displaying her majestic valour. O Bharata, a very fierce battle was being fought. Crores of demons fell down dead on the ground. Mother Bandi felled them after killing them with her trishula (trident). It looked as if clouds were thundering in the sky. Mahishasura and the demons cried out. The demon, shouting all the time, started to run away. Then the Sinhavahini (the one who rides a lion) killed him. At once Sinhavahini Devi cut off Mahishasura's head. All the devas and sages started singing her "Stuti" (praises). After cutting Mahishasura's head she made a garland of heads. This garland was looking very beautiful on the chest of Mother Bandi. In this way, Mother Adi Kumari (the Virgin) riding forth in the battle, seated on the lion, destroyed Mahishasura. All the devas were singing her "Stuti" and they were chanting "Victory, victory". Stuti (Eulogy) Hail Hail Hail to Mother Chandi, who is looking majestic in her ferocious form. She rides on the lion, and holds a dagger in her hand. Displaying the kalas she mesmerizes everybody. She killed Mahishasura and tore him apart. She loves to obliterate the existence of demons. After doing this, she becomes resplendent. Blessed be the queen of the three worlds, the dancing Adi Bhavani. The toe rings are ringing and its sound are very pleasant. The ringing anklets are graceful. O Mother, the protector of the world show mercy on us and destroy all snares of life. O Durga, give rest to us at your place and fulfil all desires rising in our minds. Such is the glory of Mother Bandi which is

being sung by all the devas, the sages and human beings. Mother Bandi has made a garland of mundas (heads) having cut the heads of the demons. Chaupaaee (Quadruplets)... When Raktabija the king of the demons, heard this, he came there at once with his army. The drums sounded from all directions. The magnificence of the demon army is beyond description. Fierce battles started to take place. The demons being called out one by one were killed. Then Mother Bandi threw her Trishul (trident) and killed lakhs of demons. When even a single drop of blood of Raktabija's fell, crores of demons were born. Many days were past, when this battle was being fought. All the citizens of three worlds became full of fear. The earth was overwhelmed with demons. The army of the demons was beyond description. There was dense darkness and rain poured from the skies. O Bhavani please put on the form of Kalika. Kill the demons one by one. O Adi Kumari, please drink the blood of the demons. On hearing these words her mouth, full of teeth grew and at once Mother Bandi put on the form of Kali. When Mother Bandi became Mother Kali in form, she performed extraordinary deeds which became well known in the three worlds. She extended her head throughout the three worlds, and then this astounding event happened. Mother Bandi then spread out her tongue to bite the demons and became overjoyed drinking their blood. Then Raktabija rushed to the front and holding his dagger, he attacked Mother Bandi. Then Mother Bandi devised a trick. In a moment she made the lion fight the demon. The lion killed him by attacking his chest and the nocturnal being, all distorted fell on the ground. In this way Mother Bandi destroyed Raktabija. The devas and the sages rained Stuti's (praises) on Mother Bandi.

Stuti (Eulogy)

Hail, Hail, Hail to Mother Kali, the intoxicated on whose chest the mundamala (necklace of bare heads) is looking graceful. Hail to the Ishwar (controller) and Parameshvari (supreme ruler), the goddess is looking graceful riding the lion. Mother Karatangi holding her sword and attacking Page 8 with it was roaming about. She killed Mahishasura and torn apart the demons, the chitrarangi (the multicoloured one) did not leave any demons alive. The supreme goddess is grace itself. Hail to Ambika Devi who is bestower of joy to her devotees.

Chaupaaee (Quadruplets)

Shumbha and Nishumbha received news of the destruction of the demons and immediately rushed to where Mother Bandi was. They remembered Raktabija and becoming very disturbed, rushed there. The demons, excessively enraged attacked and roared very near to her. Then the demon army made a great show, all of them clapping and beating their thighs. Then Mother Bandi devised a means and rotated her chakra on all sides, holding it on her nail. She threw the chakra in the midst of the demon army and lakhs of fighters fell down within a second. The demons attacked from all the sides. One could not make out whether it was day or night. Shumbha and Nishumbha then rushed to fight Mother Bandi. Then Mother Bandi threw her trishula (trident) and in this way Adi Kumari who was riding on the lion in the battle, killed Shumbha and

Nishumbha as well. Jagadamba, Jagajanani and Bhavani, thus Lord Brahma describing her chanted her Stuti.

Stuti (Eulogy)

O protectress of people, Amba, Kali, you are so graceful even in your terrifying form. In your left hand there is a mundamala which is looking graceful; your form is fierce and frightening. With your right hand you have destroyed the demons; you are the Adishakti, the Parameshvari. You brought about the destruction of all the demons; hail, hail, hail to you O Mother, the ruler of the whole world. In this way you killed Shumbha and Nishumbha, O Mother Bandi you are most praiseworthy. When this news reached Chanda and Munda they rushed to the battlefield in great anger.

Chaupaaee (Quadruplets).

Chanda and Munda at once, asked for their chariots and had Viravana summoned speedily. They said to Viravana "A woman had destroyed the demons therefore you accompany us both. They got killed by someone who was herself only woman. Calling forth for your army, have the March sounded". When Viravana received this order, he had his army summoned to his side. Then the demon, putting fast horses to his chariot marched forth, taking with him his army of crores. Crores of them tied their waists and rode on the vehicles. The light shrank in the sun and there was darkness all around. In this way Viravana approached Mother Bandi. Killing again and again he rushed to the front. A fierce fight started and there was a destructive battle. The devas were frightened of the darkness. O Jagadamba, O Jagajanani, O Bhavani, come on the lion and kill the demons. In this way Viravana and the demon army was destroyed. Then Chanda and Munda thought over it gravely. If we run away, limitless harm would come to us. They thought up many ideas in their minds. Going in front of her they prayed give us the charity of life, we would go back to our homes. Then Mother Bandi balanced her trishula (trident) and making a chikara (shriek), chopped their heads and their heads felled on the ground. Then all the sages and the devas chanted Stuti's and with folded hands, offered her their services.

Stuti (Eulogy)

Victory, Victory to the intoxicated one who is extremely powerful whose form is graceful, who is the supreme ruler. Fierce Bhutas are sounding the Bheri; their form is fierce and frightening. All Bhutas and Pretas are chanting and the Yoginis are singing mangalas (auspicious songs). The sacred toe rings were ringing with a tinkling sound. All the devas, men and sages were rejoicing. The beauty of the crown of moon and kundalas was looking graceful and she was wearing a pitabara (yellow garment). Her eyes were shining and the words were sweet; she had destroyed crores of demons. Mother Bandi's tongue was lustrous, her face was carefree; the yogin was drinking in every "ghata". O Maheshvari, O Maya who have destroyed Raktabija please now be merciful. Lord Shiva and Sage Sanaka and others were asking for the boon of Abhaya (freedom from fear), Lord Narayana was singing Mother Bandi's merits as well.

Chaupaaee (Quadruplets).

When Sage Narada related this katha, Lord Raghunatha felt great pleasure. Praiseworthy is the glory of Mother Bandi by listening to her katha, ones delusions are diminished. Let us go where the sages have performed the puja. There is no one else like Mother Bandi. Sage Narada said to the Lord, O Raghunatha Gosain (Master) come speedily. She, whose name is Adi Bhavani, is the philanthropist in all the three worlds. The Ardhangi of Lord Shiva, who has come to the left, will definitely fulfil all your desires.

Dohaa (Couplet)

She will fulfil all your ambitions; now do not delay at all. O Lord, let us go speedily and see the feet of Mother Jagadamba. When Sage Narada spoke like this, the Lord became thrilled and engrossed in affection. He had brought delicious dishes of various sorts and lots of fragrant flowers for offering. He arranged beautifully the "thali" (Large brass or copper plate) filling it with gold. Then along with Lord Giridhari (Lord Krishna) He departed for performing her Puja. The Lord with Narada Muni went to Mount Kailash where Mother Sharada was residing. Then meditating with concentration of His mind, speech and deeds, He reached Mother Bandi's place. The halo (orb) of grace at the site where Mother Sharada was staying was beyond description. That atari (balcony) was encrusted with jewels in which numerous pearls were interwoven. There the jharokha (windows opening for viewing) was constructed of crystal and there were numerous pillars of gold. Therein Mother Bandi resided and in all the four directions, the singing bees were indulging in playful antics. Praiseworthy is the glory of Mother Bandi and yet again praises her. The behaviour towards her should be that like that of the Lord. Thrilled and overwhelmed with affection, the Lord performed her worship in accordance with various rites. Carrying the delicious dishes He placed them in front of her, with folded hands He entreated her. Mother Bhavani was pleased and thrilled and the bestower of boons, spoke these words. "O Gosain, I will grant whatever You ask of me, You have performed my worship with all Your mind and heart." Then the Lord said, "Kindly listen, O Jagadamba, where stands my worship, O support of Lord Shiva, grant Me a boon which would bring about great "Kalyana" (well being)." "You have served me in many ways. The desire of Your heart will be fulfilled O Lord, wherever adversity falls on You, there I will go and stand by You". Having bowed the Lord then departed. The glory of Mother Bandi had a fond place in the heart of the Lord. Whosoever reads it believing it to be true, in his heart, with him Mother Bhavani becomes pleased. While speaking, doing his work, if one concentrates with his mind on this katha, he will surely fulfil his heart felt desires.

Dohaa (Couplet)

A man should read the katha of Mother Bandi, with a glad heart and fixing his mind in it. By the powers of Mother Bandi that man is able to get across the Bhavasagar (the ocean of existence).

Vindhyeshvaree Chaaleesaa

(40 couplets to the glory of Vindhyeshvari)
(The goddess who reigns at Vindhya Mountains)

Bowing again and again to Vindhyeshvari, repeated bowing to the Mother of the world, the one who never delays in the purposes of the saints.

Chaupaaee (Quadruplets).

Hail again and yet again to the Vindhyachala queen. Hail again and again to the Mother who rides on the Lion, Hail and hail again to the one who bestows joy to the three worlds. O remover of miseries, hail to you, the goddess of the world. Hail and hail and hail yet again to the one who is served alike by the devas and the demons. Your glory is limitless and unfathomable. Even Lord Shesha's thousands of mouths fails in describing you. O Bhavani, relieve the humble of their ills. A benefactor equal to you has been seen nowhere. Mother Bandi you fulfil everyone's aspirations. Your glory is unlimited and famous throughout the world. The person, who meditates on you, immediately achieves the desired result. You only are Vaishvavi (the consort of Lord Vishnu), you yourself are Rudrani (the consort of Lord Rudra, the ferocious form of Shiva) you are only Sharada and Brahmani (the consort of Lord Brahma) Ramaa, Radhika, Shyama and Kali - you only are the protectress of the saints. O Uma, Madhavi, Chandi and Jvala, become merciful to me quickly. You alone are the empress of Hinglaj; you only are Shitala and Vidyani. O Durga, the destructor of durg (hardships) and the Mother, you veritably are Lakshmi, the bestower of happiness on people. You are only Jahnavi and Utrani. Also Hemavati, the mother and Nirvani (bestower of Nirvana - salvation), O Barahinna who bears eight arms, who is venerated by Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva Themselves. Chausatni (sixty-four) goddesses, Kalyani (beneficent), Gauri, Mangala and the depository (store-house) of all merits, Patana, Mumba and the Yaksha Kumari (damsel), O Bhadrakali, do listen to our entreaty. O bearer of the Vajra, O annihilator of sorrow, preserver of life (age) who resides at Vindhya, Jaya and Vijaya, Vaitali, Kamaksha, Chandika, Kripali, Mother, sugandha (with pleasant fragrance) and vikarali (one of terrifying appearance). You only are Sankata and the remover of troubles also. O Bhavani you have innumerable names; how can an ignorant human being describe you. O Mother, whoever is blessed with your favour, realises whatever he undertakes. O Empress, bestow your kindness on me; O Mother, render whatever I utter sidha (true) O Mother, whosoever meditates on you, his welfare always materialises. Even in a dream who chants your name, he is never afflicted by hurdles. A man whose debts are limitless, he should recite this katha one hundred times. A man who recites this katha himself and also makes others recite the eulogies of the goddess, he attains various types of joys in this world. O brother, whosoever is afflicted by maladies, can get rid of them by chanting her name (Japa). The person who is in excessive 'Bandi' (captivity), and does a thousand recitations of this katha, would definitely be released from Bandi (captivity); O brother, believe that I am speaking the truth. Whosoever is suffering from any affliction should definitely

remember and chant the name of Mother Bandi. Brother, whosoever is not blessed with a son, he should try praying to Mother Bandi. Whosoever gets the recitation done for five years and feeds the brahmanas in the Navarattras, Mother Bhavani surely becomes pleased with him and bestows a meritorious son to him. He should come and make an offering of Dvaja (flag/banner) and coconut; he should also perform puja as well, observing all the requisite rites. Every day he should recite this katha with concentration and affection. There is no other way.

This is the Vindychala Chalisa, by reciting this Chalisa, a pauper becomes a king.

Dohaa (Couplet)

Hail, hail and hail yet again to Bhavani, the Mother. Kindly bestow your favour on me.

*****End of Bandi Path*****

Simple and easy way of performing Mother Bandi's prayers:- Print the above picture in this article. After having a bath, you should wear fresh clothes. Sit facing East. Offer incense/agarbatti, lamp, or flowers 7 times in a clockwise direction to the picture of Mother Bandi. Then kindly read the Paath (Katha) on Bandi Mata from pages above. After you finish reading the Bandi Paath bow down on the floor and ask Mother Bandi for forgiveness for any wrong doings and thank Mother Bandi for this opportunity to read her Katha... and arise to end. This method you can perform almost daily or when you have the time.

An elaborate way:- This method you can perform like a few times a year or when the opportunity or need arises.

A Detailed Mother Bandi Puja...

Choose an auspicious day to perform this prayer. You can ask your priest for these days and times. After having a bath, you should wear fresh clothes. Have all the requirements for the Puja ready beforehand. Sit facing East.

Sip water from the palm of the right hand, chant

Chant Om Vishnu and sip water from the base of the thumb of your right hand. Wash hands Chant Om Vishnu and sip water from the base of the thumb of your right hand.

Wash hands Chant Om Vishnu and sip water from the base of the thumb of your right hand. Wash hands and wipe your hands with a towel now.

Say in English "O Lord Krishna, O Lord Chitragupta on this day (whichever day you are performing the puja), month (which ever month you are performing the puja), (your name) I am performing my Bandi Puja. Then at your prayer place, sprinkle water (with a pinch of turmeric in it) to purify the place. Place banana leaves on the floor to make a bedi (a place where the prayer is going to be performed). Then sprinkle ata (flour) and Hurdi (Manja/turmeric) on the banana leaves. Please use your discretion when doing this. Place a framed picture of Mother Bandi on the bedi and in front of that place 9 sets for example:- On the banana leaf place two Purees then on top of the Puri's add one betel leaf, one betel nut, one teaspoon Halwa, a few channa, (sweet rice-optional)

one dot of sindhur/Tikli, 2 red bangles, and then some cut fruits. You must have 9 sets in all. Note when setting this, have one set in front of Mother Bandi's picture and the other 8 in front of that one set... In a 5L bucket add water and then add the Dhaar mixture. Make sure you have 9 lotas of mixture in the bucket. Add some flowers petals to this... Place one lota Dhaar in front of Mother Bandi's picture.

On a tile/brick place 9 pieces of camphor and place 2 cloves per camphor on it. On the bedi place a Lord Ganesh murti. Take a betel leaf and on top of the betel leaf place a betel nut, some uncooked rice and flower petals and pray to Shree Ganeshji "Om ganapataye aavaahayaamee sthapayamee" and keep on the bedi. Offer Lord Ganesh incense, lamp and flowers. Then offer him 4 drops of water, panchamrit, chandan dot, sprinkle rice and then flower petals, Tulsi leaf, incense, lamp and some sweet rice and then betel leaf and betel nut and then finally lamp. Then offer Lord Ganesh his favourite food viz. kheer (sweet rice), sugar candy and laddus. Take another betel leaf and on top of the betel leaf place a betel nut, some uncooked rice and flower petals and pray to the 9 planets. Leave on the bedi... Take a little rice and every time you say namah offer on the betel leaf...

Om grinih sooryaaya namah

Om som somaaya namah

Om ang angarkaaya namah

Om boom budhaaya namah

Om brim brihaspataye namah

Om shum shukraaya namah

Om sham shanaish-charaaya namah

Om ram raahave namah

Om kem ketave namah

Mother Bandi is now invoked and worshipped. Pray to Mother Bandi asking her to please come to the bedi and accept your prayers.

Take another betel leaf and on top of the betel leaf place a betel nut, some uncooked rice and flower petals and pray to Mother Bandi

"Om Hrim shreem Durge smritaa harasi bheeti-ma- shesha-jantoh svasthaeih smritaa mati-mateeva shubhaam dadaasi daaridhra dukha bhaya haarini kaa tvadanyaa sarvo-prakaa-raka-ranaaya sadaardra chittaa – Om Bandi mata aavaahayaamee sthapayamee" - and place in front of the picture.

Now chant the following: -

1) Om swagatam su swagatam - Om Bandi-yai namah

(Swagatam means O Mother Bandi I welcome you.)

Now garland the framed picture.

Then offer flower or flower petals.

2) Om idam pushpam – Om Bandi-yai namah. (Pushpam = flowers)

Then offer incense (Dhoopam = incense)

3) Om tato dhoopam aghraa-payaami – Om Bandi-yai namah.

Then offer lamp (Deepam = lamp)

4) Om prat-yaksha deepam darshayaami – Om Bandi-yai namah.

You offer the above items by turning the items seven times around the picture.

5) Om naivedyam samar-payaami – Om Bandi-yai namah

Offer cut fruit or sweets like gulab jamun, jalebi, and so forth) (Naivedyam = food)

You can also place a small lota/chumbhu of milk next to the picture.

6) Offer prayers for forgiveness

Om yaani kaani cha paapaani janmaantara kritaanee cha, taani sarvaani vinashyanti
pradakshinaa pade pade //

On a tile/brick place 9 pieces of camphor and place 2 cloves per camphor on it. Light this. Once this is done and you are satisfied then turn the lota 9 times around the camphor fire and drop 9 little drops. Once this is done place the lota back by the picture. Then offer your personal prayers to Mother Bandi. Ask Ma for whatever you want and Ma being so merciful will grant what you desire. But be careful what you desire for. Now read the Bandi Path (pages 2-12) above. After you have read the Bandi path you can chant (or play on a cd/cassette player) the Durga Chalisa or any mantras of Durga/Bandi Devi (this is optional).

Aarti: Finally, perform the Aarti for Mother Bandi. In a thari (tray) place some flower petals and in the middle of the thari place a lamp and light it. As you offer the Aarti to the Mother ring the small bell. Below is the Bandi Aarti and the link to download the MP3 of the Aarti...

Jai Ambe Gauree // Maiyaa Jai Shyaamaa Gauree,

Tumko Nisadina Dhyavata X 2 // Hari Brahmaa Shivaree. Om Jai Ambe Gauree

Maanga Sindoor Viraajata // Teeko Mrida Mad Ko, Maiya...

Ujjwala Se Dou Nainaa X2 // Chandra vadana Neeko. Om Jai Ambe Gauree

Kanaka Samaana Kalevara // Rakta ambara Raajai, Maiya...

Rakta Pushpa Gala Maalaa X2 // Kanthan para Saajai. Om Jai Ambe Gauree

Kehree baahana Raajata // Khadga Khappara Dhaaree, Maiya...

Sura Nara Munijana Sevata X2 // Tinke Dukha Haaree. Om Jai Ambe Gauree

Kaanana Kundala Shobhita // Naasaa-gre Motee, Maiya...

Kotika Chandra Divaakara X2 // Samaraajata Jyotee. Om Jai Ambe Gauree

Shumbha-Nishumbha vidhaare // Mahishaasura Ghaatee, Maiya...

Dhoomra-vilocana Nainaa X 2// Nisadina Madamaatee. Om Jai Ambe Gauree

Chanda Munda Sanhaare // Shonita Beeja Hare, Maiya...

Madhu Kaitabha Do-u maare X 2 // Sura Bhaya Heena Kare. Om Jai Ambe Gauree

Brahmaa-nee Rudraanee // Tuma Kamalaa Raanee, Maiya...

Aagama Nigama Bakhaanee X2 // Tuma Shiva Pataraanee. Om Jai Ambe Gauree

Chaun-satha Yoginee Gaavata // Nritya Karata Bhairon, Maiya...

Baajata Taala Mridanga X2 // Aura Baajata Damaroo. Om Jai Ambe Gauree

Tuma Hee Jagakee Maataa // Tuma Hee Ho Bharata, Maiya...

Bhaktana Kee Dukha Harataa X2 // Sukha Sampati Kartaa. Om Jai Ambe Gauree

Bhujaa Chaara Ati Shobhita // vara mudraa dhaaree, Maiya...

Manavaan-chita phala Paavata X2 // Sevata Nara Naaree. Om Jai Ambe Gauree
Kanchana thaala Virajata // Agara Kapoora Baatee, Maiya...

Shree Maalaketu Me Raajata X2 // Kotiratana Jyotee. Om Jai Ambe Gauree
Shree Ambe-jee Kee Aartee // Jo Ko-ee Nara Gaave, Maiya...

Kahate Shivaa-nanda Swaamee X2 // Shukha Sampati Paavai. Om Jai Ambe Gauree
To hear the Mother Chalisa please click on this link... hold the CTRL (control) button
down and click on the link. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y6KNM5sk9E> And once
that is done bow down on the floor and ask for forgiveness for any wrong doings and
thank Mother Bandi for this opportunity to read her Katha... and arise to end.
Thereafter offer the Dhaar at your Thaan (a place where the Dhaar to the Mother is
offered). Offer 9 lotas of Dhaar.

A humble piece of advice... if you like you can record the whole katha and upload it on
to your IPod or Mp3 player and you can hear to it while driving to work, or while
working you can have your earphones on and listen to Ma's Katha. Just a thought.

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