

Arjuna's Hymn to Mother Durga (Arjuna Krta Devi Stotram)



From the Mahabharata - Bhishma Parva- Section XXIII of Bhagavad Gita Parva.
Translated by Shree Kisari Mohan Ganguli.

Spoken by Shree Arjuna on the eve of the battle of Kurukshetra between Pandavas and Kauravas. (Bhishma Parva Chapter 23 verses 4-16). This section is the chapter that immediately precedes the Bhagavad Gita in the Mahabharata.

Lord Krishna said to Shree Arjuna: "Purify yourself, O mighty-armed one, on the evening of this great battle and compose a hymn to Durga for achieving victory over your enemies".

Sanjaya said: "Thus addressed on the eve of battle by Shree Vasudeva endued with great intelligence, Pritha's son Arjuna, alighting from his chariot, recited the following hymn with palms pressed together".

Shree Arjuna Uvaccha - Shree Arjuna said:

Namaste siddhasenaani aarye mandaravaasini/
Kumaari kaali kaapaali kapile krsna pingale //1//

"I bow to you, O foremost of Siddhas, O Noble One that dwells in the forest of Mandara, O Virgin, O Kali! O wife of Kapala! O you of a black and tawny hue.

Bhadra-kaali namastubhyam mahaakaali namo'stu te/
Candi cande namastubhyam taarini vara-varnini//2//

I bow to you. O Beneficent Kali, I bow to you, O Maha-kali, O wrathful One.

I bow to you. O Tara the saviour, the great boon bestowing one.

Kaत्यायानि महाभहागे काराली विजये जये/

Shikhi-piccha-dhvaja dhare naanaabharana bhooshite//3//

O Durga! Great Being, the fierce bestower of victory! O personification of Victory!
O you that bears a banner of peacock plumes, O one decked with every ornament.

Attashoola praharane khadga khetaka dhaarini/

Gopendrasyaanuje jyeshthe nanda-gopa-kulodbhave//4//

O you that wields an awful spear, the holder of sword and shield,
O you that were born as the younger sister of the chief of cow-herds (Lord Krsna),
O eldest sibling, born in the family of the cowherd Nanda!

Mahishasrk priye nityam Kaushiki peeta vaasini/

Attahaase koka-mukhe namaste'stu rana-priye//5//

O you who are always fond of buffalo's blood, born of Kusika's clan, dressed in yellow
robes, having assuming the face of a wolf you devoured the Asuras!

I bow to you who are fond of battle!

Ume shaakambhari shvete krsne kaitabhanaashini/

Hiranyaakshi viroopaakshi sudhoomraakshi namo'stu te//6//

O Uma! O Sakambhari! O you that are white in hue, and also black!

O slayer of the Asura Kaitabha! O yellow-eyed one!

O you that see everything! O you of eyes that have the colour of smoke, I bow to you!

Vedashruti mahaapunye brahmanye jaatavedasi/

Jambookataka caityeshu nityam sannihitaalaye//7//

You are the Vedas, the Srutis, and the greatest virtue! You are propitious to
Brahmanas engaged in sacrifice. You are all knowing, you are ever present in the
sacred abodes erected to you in cities of Jamvudwipa, I bow to you!

Tvam brahma-vidyaa vidyaanaam mahaanidraa ca dehinaam/

Skanda maatar bhagavati dure kaantaravaasini//8//

You are the Knowledge-of-the-highest-truth among sciences, and you are that sleep of
creatures from which there is no waking.

O mother of Skanda (Lord Muruga), possessor of the six (highest) attributes of Divinity,
O Durga, that dwells in the most inaccessible regions.

Svaahaakaarah svadhaa caiva kalaa kaashtaa sarasvatee/

Saavitri veda-maataa ca tathaa vedaanta ucyate//9//

You are called Swaha, and Swadha, and the subtle divisions of time such as Kala, and
Kashta. You are the goddess of knowledge: Saraswati, and the mother of the Vedas, and
the personification of Vedanta.

Stutaasi tvam mahaadevi vishuddhenaantaaratmanaa/

Jayo bhavatu me nityam tvat prasaadaad ranaajire//10//

With inner mind purified, I praise you, O great goddess; let victory always attend me
through your grace, on the field of battle.

Kaantaara bhaya durgeshu bhaktaanaam caalayeshu ca/
Nityam vasasi paataale yuddhe jayasi daanavaan//11//

In inaccessible regions, where there is fear, in places of difficulty, in the abodes of your worshippers and in the nether regions (Patala), you always dwell. And in battle you always defeat the Danavas (a demon race).

Tvam jambhanee mohinee ca maayaa hreeh shreestathaiva ca/
Samdhyaa prabhaavatee caiva saavitree jananee tathaa//12//

You are the unconsciousness, the sleep, the illusion, the modesty, the beauty of all creatures. You are the twilight, and the radiant light of day! You are Savitri, and you are the mother of all creation.

Tushtih pushtir dhrtir deeptish candraaditya vivardhinee/
Bhootir bhootimataam sanhkye veeksyase siddhacaaranaih//13//

You are contentment, development, fortitude and light. You increase the radiance of the Sun and the Moon. You are the prosperity of those that prosper. The Siddhas and the Charanas behold you in deep contemplation!

Sanjaya continued: Knowing the measure of Partha's devotion, Durga who is always graciously inclined towards humans, appeared in the space and in the presence of Govinda, said these words.

The Goddess said: "Within a short time you shall surely conquer your foes, O Pandava. O invincible one, you have Narayana (Lord Krsna) as your help. You are incapable of being defeated by foes, even by Indra — the wielder of the thunderbolt himself."

Having said this, the boon-giving Goddess disappeared soon. The son of Kunti, however, obtaining that boon, regarded himself as successful. He then mounted his own excellent chariot. And then Krishna and Arjuna, seated together, blew their celestial conches.

The person, who recites this hymn rising at dawn, is freed from fear at all times.

Some notes FYI to ponder on....

Arjun showed so much respect to Mother Durga. This is a lesson that many Hindu's need to learn these days because there is so much divisions amongst us Hindus and the other religions are picking us off one by one. This should stop!!! There is a Hindu group that forbids any worship other than Lord Krsna and yet here The Supreme Personality of Godhead Shree Krsna Himself says to Shree Arjun to call upon His younger sister (Mother Durga) to help him (Arjun) in the battle. Shree Arjun is showing to the world that respect should be shown to all. You think Lord Krsna will be happy when His younger sister is being belittled. I think not! Every year after Kartik (Damodara) month – (October-November) for a month devotee's esp. in the Vrndavana area pray to Mother Katyayani in the month of Margasirsa (Keshava) (November-December). Mother Katyayani is the 6th of the 9 forms that Mother Durga displays. Over 5000 years ago the gopis prayed to Katyayani Devi to obtain Shree Krsna as their beloved. These prayers are continued to this day.

The spiritual form of Mother Durga is Yogamaya. The external form of Mother Durga is Mahamaya, the illusory energy. In the Brahma Vaivarta Purana (Krsna-Janma-Khanda, 118.35) Mother Durga talks with Lord Shiva about how she is an expansion from the highest realms and explains herself in this way: "I am Mahalakshmi in Vaikuntha, Srimati Radharani in Goloka Vrndavana, Shivaa [connected with Shiva] in the region of Shiva, and Sarasvati in the abode of Lord Brahma." Thus, from the highest levels of the spiritual domain she expands herself to include all other shaktis, or potencies. Mother Durga is the warden of the material world. Durga means "fort, prison house". Durga also means "Dur" difficulty and "Ga" means going so Durga also means "one who is difficult to know". So this material world is a mega prison house where one who has committed a great sin is sent. What is this great sin I am talking about? Well at one stage we were very envious of Lord Krsna and thought that we are greater than Lord Krsna and due to this grave sin we were cast into this prison house we suffer in this material world. And guess what most it seems have not learnt their lesson. Don't you find so much of envy, egoism still taking place? It seems this world is being engulfed with hate and enviousness. In this material world Mother Durga punishes us with the Trishul (the 3-pointed spear), which she holds in her hand. The 3-pointed Trishul represents the three fold miseries of life, which are as follows: - miseries caused by the higher beings, miseries caused by natural disasters and finally miseries caused by envious people. Now in the prison if the warden is favourable to one then that person's prison life can be heavenly, but if one is not in favourable terms with the warden, then life can be worse than hell. That's why we should be very humble towards Mother Durga. And remember that she is no ordinary personality. One of her names in the Durga Sahasranama is "Vaishnavi" - the female devotee of Lord Krsna. Now when one serves his sentence he is sent to the spiritual world. Lord Krsna would not have given this important job to just anyone other than the most qualified personality who is also great devotee of Lord Krsna. In the Markandeya Purana there is a matter of 700 verses glorifying Ma Durga... This is called the Durga Path or Durga Saptashati. And in the Durga Path chapter 2 this is what is stated "Of yore when Mahishasura was the lord of asuras and Indra the lord of devas, there was a war between the devas and asuras for a full hundred years. In that the army of the devas was vanquished by the valorous asuras. After conquering all the devas, Mahisasura became the lord of heaven (Lord Indra). Then the vanquished devas headed by Lord Brahma, the lord of beings, went to the place where Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu were. The devas described to them in detail, as it had happened, the story of their defeat brought by Mahishasura. 'He (Mahishasura) himself has assumed the jurisdictions of Surya, Indra, Agni, Vayu, Chandra, Yama and Varuna and other (devas). Thrown out from heaven by that evil-natured Mahisha, the hosts of devas wander on the earth like mortals. All that has been done by the enemy of the devas, has been related to you both, and we have sought shelter under you both. May both of you be pleased to think out the means of his destruction.' Having thus heard the words of the devas, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva was very angry, and their faces became fierce with frowns. There issued forth a great light from the face of Lord Vishnu who was full of intense anger, and from that of Lord

Brahma and Lord Shiva too. From the bodies of Lord Indra and other devas also sprang forth a very great light. And all this light united together. The devas saw there a concentration of light like a mountain blazing excessively, pervading all the quarters with its flames. Then that unique light, produced from the bodies of all the devas, pervading the three worlds with its lustre, combined into one and became a female form; the manifestation of the lights of other devas too (contributed to the being of the) auspicious Devi. Then looking at her, who had come into being from the assembled lights of all the devas, the immortals who were oppressed by Mahishasura experienced joy. The bearer of Pinaka (Lord Shiva) drawing forth a trident from his own trident (view picture below) presented it to her; and Lord Vishnu bringing forth a discus out of his own discus (view picture below) gave her. Lord Varuna gave her a conch (view picture below), Lord Agni a spear/sword (view the picture below); and Lord Maruta gave a bow as well as two quivers full of arrows (view the picture below).



Lord Indra, lord of devas, bringing forth a thunderbolt out of (his own) thunderbolt and a bell from that of his elephant Airavata, gave her. Yamaraj gave a staff/club (view picture below) from his own staff of Death, Lord Varuna, the lord of waters, a noose; and Lord Brahma, the lord of beings, gave a string of beads and a water-pot (view picture below)". So from the above you can see what an important personality Mother Durga really is... This has been a very humble rendition to our most merciful Mother Durga.

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