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durgAstutiH Essence of devI mAhAtmya kathA

दुर्गास्तुती देवीमाहात्म्यकथसाररुपा

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दुर्गास्तुती देवीमाहात्म्यकथसाररुपा



कल्पान्ते मधुकैटभासुरपराभूतस्य धातुः स्तवैः  
प्रीता पङ्कजलोक्यनस्य नयनान्निर्गत्य निद्रामयी ।  
तौ युद्धे परिमोक्ष्य घातितवती तेनैव विश्वेश्वरी  
रोद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ १ ॥

Being pleased by the praises sung by Brahma who was troubled  
by the asuras Madhu and Kaitabha at the end of a kalpa, She,  
the supreme Devi, supporter of the worlds, emerged out of  
MahaVishnu's eyes, who was in mystic slumber. Deluded by  
Mahamaya, the evil asuras, Madhu and Kaitabha, were then slayed  
by MahaVishnu. Let Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop  
the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

त्रैलोक्ये मडिषासुरप्रमथिते सम्भूय संश्रिततां  
देवानामपि सा विनिर्मितवपुस्तैर्दत्तभूषायुधा ।  
उच्यैर्नाद्युतैर्मडासुरभलैरारभ्ययुद्धोत्सवा  
रोद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ २ ॥

When Mahishasura was creating havoc in all the three worlds,  
the devas got together and requested Brahma, Siva and Vishnu  
for help. Then Goddess Durga was created and weapons were given  
by them. Let Goddess Durga, whose battle attire is accompanied  
by the loud cries of the devas, become a fort for me to stop  
the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

निःश्चासप्रभवैश्च भूतनिवडैर्विध्वस्तदैत्योत्तरा  
डत्वा त्रिसुरमुत्क्षपय्य समरे सिडेन तं यामरम् ।  
आशूदूकरालबाह्वलबिडालादीनरीन् क्षिण्वती

रोद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ ३ ॥

The sighs heaved by the Goddess turned into battallions and with them she killed the army of asuras. Then She killed ChikShura, the general of the asura army. Her lion jumped on Chamara, another able member of the asuras and killed him in a battle. Within moments She also destroyed the enemies udagra, karAla, bAShkala, biDAIa and others. Let Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

प्राप्तं क्षोभितविश्रमाशु मडिषं संनाशयन्ती ततः  
सिंहीभूतमथो नराकृतिमिभाकारं लुवायाकृतिम् ।  
आकाभ्याङ्घ्रितलेन निर्गतममुं भूयोऽसिना छिन्दती  
रोद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ ४ ॥

When Mahisha who shook the entire world approached the Devi, She destroyed him. But, he then took the form of a lion, then came in the form of man, elephant and back to his original form. She then attacked him with her foot and cut him up with Her sword. Let Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

निःशेषामरशक्तिरूपिणि शिवे माये मडाविडमे  
श्रीवागादिविभूतिरूपिणि रणे विद्युत्पानुग्रहे ।  
शूलाद्यैरपि पालयेति द्विविधैर्नीतादिशन्ती वरं  
रोद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ ५ ॥

" You are the personification of the power of the entire host of devas, auspicious one, mAya - the consort of the parabrahman, brave one, in a battle You are the form of LakShmi, Sarasvati and other manifestations, yet, immediately like a lightning, You grace people due to compassion, protect us with trident and other weapons. Thus when the devas praised You, You gave them boons. Let that Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible

army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

दृष्यच्छुम्भनिशुम्भविष्मथिरङ्गिष्ठैः सुरेन्द्रैः स्तुता  
 पार्वत्या वपुषोऽवतीर्य ललिताकारा डिमाद्रेस्तटे ।  
 ओलाडेविविमोडितत्रिभुवना सा यद्गमुद्गोक्षिता  
 रोद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ ६ ॥

Praised by the devas who were suffering because of their defeat at the hands of the arrogant shumbha and nishumbha, a gentle form emerged out of pArvati at the slopes of Himalayas. Sportingly She attracted all the three worlds and was seen by chaNDa and muNDa. Let that Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

यद्गवेदितरूपजातमदनस्तम्भेन शुम्भेन य  
 द्वाग् दूते प्रडिते नियुद्धविजयी भर्ता ममेत्यूचिषी ।  
 युद्धेच्छुं डिल धूम्रलोचनमथो सैन्यान्वितं धूवती  
 रोद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ ७ ॥

Being informed by chaNDa of the Devi's beautiful form, shumbha became desirous of attaining her and immediately sent a messenger. She sent him back with the message that only the one who defeats her in a battle can become her husband. Enraged by her answer, shumbha sent dhUmralochana, who wanted to fight. Devi destroyed dhUmralochana along with his army. Let that Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

यद्गो मुद्गयते समेयुषि भवैः कालीमलीकान्तरात्  
 सृष्ट्वा भक्षितसैन्यशस्त्रकुलया तौ घातयन्ती तथा ।  
 प्राप्ते शुम्भभवे य केसरितुनः काली रवोद्धोषिनी  
 रोद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ ८ ॥

When chaNDa and muNDa came with their forces, She created kAli from her forehead. kAli then destroyed the army and its weapons and then killed chaNDa and muNDa. Later when Shumba's army

approached, kAli expressed her anger by roaring aloud. Let that Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

ब्रह्माण्डादिषु संगतासु शिवदूर्ती य स्वशक्तिं तदा  
सृष्ट्वा तत्प्रहितेन्दुमौलिवयसा दैत्यैः प्रवृत्ते रणे ।  
कुम्भ्यन्मातृअणार्दितं रिपुबलं दृष्ट्वा प्रवृष्टाशया  
रोद्धुं धोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ ८ ॥

Then shivadUti (one who sent Siva as messenger) - her own power was created from combining the powers of all the devas of the brahmANda. Then She was called to battle by the asuras who were incited by the words of shiva (lord with the moon on his head) who was sent by Her. She became delighted on seeing the army being attacked by the angry mothers - the manifestations of the devas' powers. Let that Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

प्राप्तं संयति रक्तबीजमसुरं मातृप्रलारोद्धल-  
द्रक्तोद्भूतभटौघपूर्वाभुवनं भीतिप्रदं पश्यताम् ।  
काल्या तत्क्षणापीतनष्टरुधिरं शस्त्रोत्तरौर्निघ्नती  
रोद्धुं धोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ १० ॥

The devas next saw the asura raktabIja, who came to the battlefield and who created fear by filling earth with warriors (of his kind) who sprung from his blood that oozed out of him when he was struck by the shaktis. Then as and when Devi attacked raktabIja, kAli drank his blood and ultimately he perished. Let that Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

घोरे शुम्भनिशुम्भयोरथ रणारम्भे निशुम्भासुरं  
भङ्गाद्यैः कृतयुद्धमात्तपरशुं सम्मोक्ष्य आणोत्करैः ।  
शुम्भं शक्तिशरीघभीषणरणं शूलादितं तन्वती  
रोद्धुं धोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ ११ ॥

Next was the terrible battle with shumbha and nishumbha. nishumbha who fought with an axe and arrows was struck unconscious by Devi with a sword. Then with the trident She struck shumbha who was fighting ferociously with 'shakti' - indra's weapon and with arrows. Let that Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

भूयः प्राप्सिनिशुम्भमुक्तमभितश्चक्रायुधं छिन्दती  
 भद्रुगच्छिन्नगदं सशूलमथ तं शूलेन भित्त्वरसि ।  
 वक्षोनिर्गतमन्यदस्य य वपुः भद्रुगेन निष्कृन्तती  
 रोद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दूर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ १२ ॥

Again, nishumbha sent forth many chakras at the Devi which She broke. She broke his gada with Her sword and then tore his chest with Her trident. Another form of his came from his chest and was immediately killed by Devi with her sword. Let that Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

पञ्चास्येन य मातृभिश्च मथिते सैन्ये समन्वयेषुषः  
 शुम्भस्यान्यबलावलम्बवयसा देवीर्विलास्य स्वयम् ।  
 शस्त्रास्त्रोत्तरभीषणं शिरतरं तेनाडवं तन्वती  
 रोद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दूर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ १३ ॥

When the different shaktis and Her lion were fighting the asuras, shumbha accused the devi of depending on another's strength. So She merged all other manifestations into Herself and fought for a long with shumba who fought with many kinds of weapons (shastra) and astras (arrows released after invoking a mantra). Let that Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

छिन्नास्त्रेण तलप्रहारमथितेनानेन धृत्वा रुषा  
 व्योमान्तं गमिता नियुद्धमधिकं कृत्वाथ निष्पात्य तम् ।  
 शूलेन प्रविदार्य सर्वभुवनं निर्व्याकुलं कुर्वती

रोद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ १४ ॥

shumba's weapons were destroyed and he was hit by Devi with her palm. An angry shumbha took Her to the sky and fought fiercely. Devi then decided that She had fought enough and killed him with Her trident and made the earth free of distress. Let that Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

आपन्नार्तिहरे प्रसीद शुभदे विश्वोऽसि नारायणि  
 ब्रह्माण्यादितनो प्रपालय भयाखूलादिघाटादिभिः ।  
 रोगादीञ्जलि सर्वदायिनि वरं देहीति दैवैः स्तुता  
 रोद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ १५ ॥

Remover of the miseries of those who are distressed, Bestower of auspicious things, be pleased. nArAyaNi, You are the entire world. brahmANi, the first being, protect us from fear with Your weapons like trident and others and kill all diseases. O Giver of everything, give us boons. Thus She was praised by the devas. Let that Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

भूयश्चापि तदा तदा शिपुबलं हन्तास्म्यहं चिन्तिता  
 मन्माहात्म्यकथापरानपि सदा सर्वत्र रक्षाभ्यहम् ।  
 तेषां याभिमतं ददाभ्यभिलमित्युक्त्या ततोऽन्तर्हिता  
 रोद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ १६ ॥

Whenever I am remembered, I will again kill the host of asuras. Always and everywhere I will protect those who are involved in the stories describing My greatness. And I will give everything that they wish for. So saying She disappeared. Let that Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

माहात्म्यं च सुमेधसानुकथितं श्रुत्वा महीभृद्भिः  
 सख्याद्रौ विहितत्रिवर्षतपसोः प्रत्यक्षतामेयुषी ।

भूभर्त्रे ददती पुनर्मनुपदं वैश्याय ओधप्रदा  
शेद्धुं घोरकृतान्तसैन्यमिड मे दुर्गेव दुर्गायताम् ॥ १७ ॥

Hearing the greatness of Devi as related by the RiShi sumedhas, king suratha performed tapas on the mountain sahyAdri for three years and got a vision of the Goddess. She gave his kingdom back to suratha and the boon that he will be born to Lord sUrya and his wife savarNA and will be known as sAvarNi and become the next manu. She also gave the boon of self-realisation to the vaishya. Let that Goddess Durga become a fort for me to stop the terrible army of kRitAnta, the god of death.

श्रीदुर्गास्तुतिपद्यसमदशकं नित्यं पठन् मानवो  
मुक्त्वा मृत्युभयं विडाय विपदं लब्ध्वाभिलं काङ्क्षितम् ।  
मुक्तिं यापि लभते मुक्तिनिलये देव्याः कृपागौरवा-  
न्नःशेषं कृलमश्रुवीत गिरिजामाहात्म्यपाठोद्भवम् ॥ १८ ॥


By reading the seventeen verses of shrIdurgAsrutI daily, man is freed from fear of death, leaves behind difficulties, gets all that he wishes for and attains liberty. And in that state of liberation, due to the grace of the Goddess, he enjoys in its entirety the fruit that arises out of reading the greatness of Goddess girijA.

इति दुर्गास्तुतिः समाप्ता

With this, the hymn durgAstutiH concludes.

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