Shri Mahakalabhairava or Mahakala Stotram

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It is said that Bhagavan Mahakal narrated this to Bhagavati Bhairavi. The chanting of this stotra achieves benefits of performing puja of Mahakal and gives happiness.

Commentary about the equivalence if Mahakal and Mahakalabhairava:

Bhagwan Maheshwara assumes the form of a Linga which itself has as many as 25 variations in terms of different shastras and agamas. These include somasakanda, kalyanasundara, trimurti, bhairava and so on. Bhairava occupies the 21st position in the aforesaid 25 variations. There are five major forms of Bhairava viz., Bhairava, vaTuka, kshetrabalaka, AbatdutdAranar, and brahmashirascheta (who removes one of the heads of Bhagwan Brahma to remove the latter's arrogance). According to this sampradaya, Bhairava is Maheshwara Himself.

Per the scripture AbhidanachintAmani, Kali Devi assumes a form derived from a spark out of Mahadeva's third eye. This spark gets smeared with the (AlakAla) poison and becomes Kali Devi to kill TarakAsura. The fire emanating from the anger of Kali killed Tarakasura; it later became a child to be fed by Her. Mahadeva integrated both Kali and Her son into
Himself. Thereafter, Mahadeva released the 8 forms of Bhairava from Himself. At the
time when this yuga is sought to be dissolved (sarva samhAram), as per instructions of
Mahadeva, Bhairava would roam around with His vedagnALi (dog) and decimate the world
with the fire emanating from His eyes.

Since Bhairava has been created by Mahadeva, he is one of the five shivakumArA-s:
Ganapati, Bhairava, vIrabhadra, skandA and ayyanAr. kAla Bhairava is one of the forms
of bhairava. He rules Kasi. He is called Kala Bhairava because he holds the kAlachakra
that controls the nine planets. He holds the Brahma kapala in His hands; He wears the
snake as the holy thread.

" "
– From Sri Bhairavar in Tamil by Swarnapuri Sridharan.

We call Kala Bhairava as Maha Kala Bhairava with a superlative.

Sri Mahakala of Ujjain is one of the jyotrilinga-s of Mahadeva. He is Bhagwan Himself
in a different form and not His son. Bhairava acts at the instance of Mahadeva.

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