Shri Mahakalabhairava or Mahakala Stotram

श्रीमहाकालभैरवस्तोत्रम् अथवा श्रीमहाकालस्तोत्रम्

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ॐ महाकाल महाकाय महाकाळ जगत्पते ।
महाकाल हायोगिन महाकाल नमोऽस्तु ते ॥ १॥
महाकाल महादेव महाकाल महाप्रभो ।
महाकाल महारूढ महाकाल नमोऽस्तु ते ॥ २॥
महाकाल महाजन महाकाल तमोऽपहनु ।
महाकाल महाकाल महाकाल नमोऽस्तु ते ॥ ३॥
भवाय च नमस्तुर्भयं शरायं च नमो नमः ।
रुद्राय च नमस्तुर्भयं पशुनां पतंगे नमः ॥ ४॥
उग्राय च नमस्तुर्भयं महादेवाय वै नमः ।
भीमाय च नमस्तुर्भयं ईशानाय नमो नमः ॥ ५॥
ईशानाय नमस्तुर्भयं तत्पुरुषाय वै नमः ॥ ६॥
सयोजनात नमस्तुर्भयं शुक्रवर्ण नमो नमः ।
अधः कालांग्रुःरूराय रुद्ररुपाय वै नमः ॥ ७॥
स्थित्युत्पतिलवानं च हेतुरुपाय वै नमः ।
परमेश्वररूपस्तव नीलम एवं नमोऽस्तु ते ॥ ८॥
पवनाय नमस्तुर्भयं हुताशन नमोऽस्तु ते ।
सोमरूप नमस्तुर्भयं सूर्यरूप नमोऽस्तु ते ॥ ९॥
यज्ञनाम नमस्तुर्भयं आकाशाय नमो नमः ।
सर्वरूप नमस्तुर्भयं विश्वरूप नमोऽस्तु ते ॥ १०॥
वाहरूप नमस्तुर्भयं विष्णुरूप नमोऽस्तु ते ।
रुद्ररूप नमस्तुर्भयं महाकाल नमोऽस्तु ते ॥ ११॥
स्थावराय नमस्तुर्भयं जन्माय नमो नमः ॥
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 somAskanda, 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.

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– 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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