

Composer: P.V.R. Narasimha Rao
Date: 2011 June 29

Metre: Chaamara (plume)

Deity:

Kalaratri literally means deep darkness. Kalaratri is one of the divine Mother's forms. Kalaratri symbolizes the state of Shakti where there is no activity in Aatman, i.e. all the objects within manifested Aatman have merged back in Aatman and lost individual identity they had before.

Verse:

shaMkarIM shubhaMkarIM kiMkarAbhayaMkarIM|
traijagad-vashaMkarIM staumi kAla-sharvarIM||

शंकरीं शुभंकरीं किंकराभयंकरीं।
त्रैजगद्वशंकरीं स्तौमि कालशर्वरीं॥

Meaning:

To the beneficent one [shaMkarIM], to the one who brings auspiciousness [shubhaMkarIM], to the one who protects and causes fearlessness in [abhayaMkarIM] her servants/slaves [kiMkara], to the one who brings under control [vashaMkarIM] all the three worlds [traijagad], I pray [staumi] to that Kalaratri [kAla-sharvarIM].

Commentary:

The expression "kiMkarAbhayaMkarIM" needs some elaboration.

We are all slaves of Shakti. Though we are all parts of Aatman, we consider ourselves to be different individuals, we perceive many beings/objects within undividable Aatman, find some attractive and some repulsive, develop desires and notions like happiness and sadness, etc. All this is under the tremendous power of Shakti or divine Mother. When the big force within ocean (which is not different from ocean) causes waves and ripples on its surface, a ripple may think of itself as a ripple separate from ocean and look at ripples around it with attraction/repulsion and may want to move closer to one ripple or get away from one ripple etc. As it tries to move in specific ways, its agenda may clash with the agenda of the oceanic force and it may move here and there and become disoriented. Just as these ripples and waves are slaves of the oceanic force, we are all slaves of Shakti/Prakriti/Mahamaya.

When Mother Kalaratri takes control over the cosmos, it is like the oceanic force calming down and all waves and ripples becoming still. All beings (slaves of Shakti) cease activities and lose their fears and other agendas. They are all in bliss. She takes control of all the worlds. Of course, this applies to Mother Kalaratri taking control over the inner cosmos as well!