

Composer: P.V.R. Narasimha Rao
Date: 2011 June 6

Metre: Bhujanga Prayaata (serpentine motion)

Verse:

anIshAM vidhAtrIM manIShApradAtrIM
aghAshAniyantrIM mahAmohahantrIM
mahATTATTahAsAM vinaShTAShTapAshAM
mahAkAlakAntAM bhaje kALikAM tAM

अनीशां विधात्रीं मनीषाप्रदात्रीं।
अघाशानियन्त्रीं महामोहहन्त्रीं।
महाट्टाट्टहासां विनष्टाष्टपाशां।
महाकालकान्तां भजे कालिकां तां॥

Meaning:

Who is the supreme of all [anIshAM], the source of all [vidhAtrIM], bestows [pradatrIM] wisdom [manIShA], restrains [niyantrIM] evils and sins [agha] and desires and expectations [AshA], kills [hantrIM] great delusion [mahAmoha], has a supremely loud laughter [mahATTATTahAsAM], destroys [vinaShTa] the eight [aShTa] bondages [pAshAM], is the consort of [kAntAM] Mahakala or Great Time personified [mahAkAla], I pray to [bhaje] that [tAM] Kalika [kALikAM].

Commentary:

Most of the things above are obvious. The Mother is being extolled as the supreme beyond all and the source of all. She bestows great wisdom that allows one to control one's evil tendencies, conditioning and expectations. She destroys the great delusion with which one's mind is infatuated.

The third line needs some commentary. The reference to "supremely loud laughter" is not just indicative of the fierce personality of Kalika, but also represents the primordial sound at the source of time and space. As one enters samadhi and reaches a state where there is no space, time and qualities, one crosses over the source of space and time. The great sound there is kind of like the "big bang" postulated by modern scientists. The mahAnAda at the source of space and time is likened here to the laughter of Kalika, the consort of the great Lord of Time. When she is happy, she takes you to the source of space and time!

Tantra refers to "Ashta Pasha" or eight nooses - ghR^iNA (aversion), lajjA (shame), bhaya (fear), sha~NkA (doubt), jugupsA (disgust), kula (attachment to a group based on activity), jAti (attachment to a group based on birth) and shIla (good character and modesty!!). Kalika destroys the eight nooses so that one can be liberated. Please note that even modesty is a bondage that blocks liberation. However, it is a good idea to keep that bondage and work on others first. It can be the last bondage to overcome, like in the case of Ramakrishna Paramahansa!