



Devi Suktam

(As described in the Xth canto of the Rg Veda)

Translated by Rajkishore Mishra

This Suktam comprises eight hymns. It was first visioned by wise Vak, daughter of a great saint Ambhrna. This ancient-most Devi Sukta is indeed a gateway to Saptasati Candi. It is described in the Candi that Maharaja Suratha and Vaisya Samadhi meditated on the Mother Eternal by chanting the Devi Suktam.

The Text

*Om aham rdrevirvvasuviscara-
myahamadityeirta visvadeveih |
Aham mitravarunobha vibha-
rmyahamindragni ahamasvinobha ||1||*

The Rdra-s (Eleven in number, i.e., Aja, Ekapada, Ahivradhna, Virpaksa, Raivata, Hara, Vahurpa, Tryamvaka, Savitra, Jayanta and Pinaki); the Vasu-s (Eight in number, i.e., Bhava, Dhrva, Soma, Visnu, Anila, Anala, Pratyusa and Prabhava); the Adityas (Twelve in number, i.e., Aruna, Surya, Vedajna, Tapan, Indra, Ravi or Vamana, Gabhasti, Yama, Hiranyareta, Divakara, Citra & Visnu starting from the solar month of Magha), the Visvadeva-s (Thirteen or twentyeight in number) - are but my diverse manifestations. In me are present Mitra, Varuna, Indra, Agni and the twin Asvinikumara-s.

*Aham Somamahanasam vibha-
rmyaham tvastaramuta pusanam bhagam |
Aham dadhami dravinam havismate
suprave yajamanaya sunvate ||2||*

In me are present *Somadeva* (the presiding deity of *Soma-rasa*), the slayer of enemies; *Tvasta* (manufacturer of divine weapons), *Pusa* (protector of the living world or the sustaining force of the Earth) and *Bhaga* (the deity who grants affluence). I offer merits of *Yajna* to my devotees who prepare the *Somarasa* and please gods through oblations in the sacrificial fire.

*Aham ratri sangamani vasunam
chikitusi prathama yajniyanam |
Tam ma deva vyadadhuh purutra
bhuristhatram bhuryavesayantim ||3||*

I lord over the whole universe. I am Supreme Erudition. I am the first venerable deity in all sacrificial rites. I offer prosperity. I am present in all beings in various forms. All gods and devotees venerate me everywhere.



*Maya so annamatti yo vipasyati
yah praniti ya iim srnotyuktam |
Amantavo mam ta upaksiyanti
srdhi srta sradhivam te vadami* ||4||

The being who feeds himself, who sees, who hears what is told and who sustains life - only owes it to my grace and powers. One who fails to perceive me (as the guardian of sensory organs and life force) lives a dissipated life. O' glorious friend (Individual Soul), listen to me. I am telling you about the Supreme Knowledge (*brahmatattva*) which can be gained through loving eagerness.

*Ahameva svayamidam vadami
justam devebhirta manusevih |
yam kamaye tam tamugram krnami
tam brahmanam tamrsim tam sumedham* ||5||

I have myself expounded this knowledge of the Absolute Brahman which is venerated both by men and gods. I make him great whomso I desire. I make him Brahma (Creator) or a Rsi (knower of transcendental knowledge) or an erudite scholar.

*Aham rdraya dhanuratanomi
brahmadvise sarave hantava u |
Aham janaya samadam krnomyaham
dyavaprthivi a vivesa* ||6||

I used to provide a bow-string to Rdra to slay the demon who defies the brahmana (as She did at the time of killing of Tripurasura by Rudra). I wage a war to protect the mankind. I have access both to the mundane world and the world beyond (i.e. the firmament).

*Aham suve pitaramasya murdhan
mama yonirapsvantah samudre |
Tato vitisthe bhuvananu visvo-
tamum dyam varsmanopasprami* ||7||

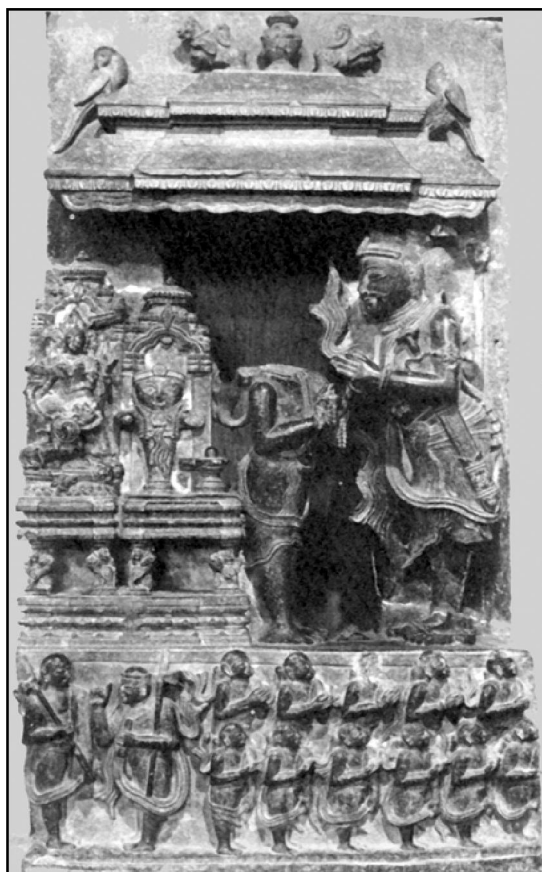
I have procreated the firmament, stationed on the crest of the Earth. The supreme cosmic consciousness (*brahmacaitanya*) which is at the centre of the Pervasive Intelligence is my *Yoni* and for that alone, I have entered into all beings (all worlds) and as such, I am present in all forms. Moreover, physically (or by my illusive existence) I permeate through this world.

*Ahameva vata iva prava-
myarabhamana bhuvanani visva |
Paro diva para ena prthi-
vyeitavati mahina sam vabhuva* ||8||

While creating the whole universe I blow myself through it like the wind. I have transcended the world and the firmament by dint of my powers, and verily, I am the Universe.



Stone Panel of Konark Temple depicting the Holy Trinity : Siva Linga, Jagannath and Mahisamardini Durga



Stone Panel from Konark, now in the National Museum, New Delhi depicting King Narasimha-I worshipping Mahisamardini Durga, Jagannath and Siva Linga as Holy Trinity, Circa : Mid-13th century A.D.