



Worship of Mother Kali

In every aspect of creation and evolution, a phenomenon of destruction necessarily preceding a new birth is found. In the realm of spirituality, when the seeker has set himself to rise into the transcendental state of *paripoornata* (all-perfection), fullness, bliss, eternal life and infinite peace, light and joy, he finds that the lower aspect of his personality is trying perpetually to keep him bound to ignorance, darkness, delusion and *anatmic* tendencies. This lower aspect of the individual is known as the *pashu* (animal), which need be destroyed and given as *pashu bali* (sacrifice) on the altar of *Daivi Shakti* (the Divine Power).

One part of the seeker, feels that he should free himself from the base aspect of his personality. Yet, there is another aspect of delusion, *moha* and attachments, which make it difficult for him to completely destroy his lower self, his attachments, cravings and *trishna* (desires). While he wants Mother Kali to come and do the work of destruction, at the same time he clings to his lower self.

An aspirant must resolutely be prepared to do the preliminary breaking process that is absolutely essential before he can be free to rise up into the empyrean realm of the spiritual consciousness. If earnestness makes him ready to die to his lower self, then only he can be called a real worshipper of the fearful Divine Mother Kali, the consumer of all the blackness in the form of impurities of the soul. She is terrible, fearful and destructive to all that is lower, impure and unspiritual in us, all that is base and bestial in us. The individual finds that he cannot fight and overcome these enemies through his own puny individual efforts. Therefore comes the necessity of worship of the Mother who is capable of doing *pashu vadh* (destruction of the animal), and She may release him from the clutches of the evil and impure in him, Her love and compassion for us do the work of destroying all the *shadripus* (six-fold enemies: desires of passion, anger, greed, infatuated delusion, arrogance and envy) that form our lower aspect.

He is the real worshipper of the Divine Mother who sets himself resolutely to crush out all attachments, delusion, cravings, likes and dislikes, and to annihilate egoism. The Sadhana that he does to destroy the impurities, and to burn up his egoism and the lower nature may constitute the real worship of Mother. Worship of Mother is a process that constantly goes on to resolutely oppose the cravings and attachments.

God Bless You!

■ Swami Chidananda