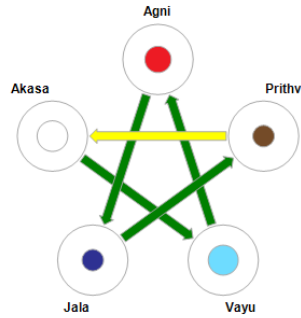




*Kali Amman*

The concept of Mother worship has existed since the beginning of time. Adi Para Shakthi, as Divine Mother, is portrayed as cosmic energy in its dynamic form, This Divine mother takes many forms, commonly known as Kali Amma, Muthumarie Amma, Meenakshi Amma, Durga Amma, Luxmi Amma, Saraswathi Amma.

Kali Amma comprises the Pancha Maha Butha or Five Elements, Fire (Agni), Water (Jala), Earth (Bhu/Pritivi), Air (Vayu), Ether (Akasha). Scripture states that Lord Brahma created the Universe, but Mother Adi Para Shakti gave the Life/ Energy/ Power to every existence.



Being the Mother of the universe, She is ever ready to heed the call of Her devotees. One of this instances is the well-known but un-deciphered form of Kali Amma (Kali Amma)

Various names concludes the various tasks or aspects which Kali Amma has/will fulfill;

Pratyangira Devi, Aghora Kali, Badra Kali, Angalaeshwari, Durga, Narashimbika, Bhairavi, Bhuvaneshwari, Chamundi etc.

***Irrespective of the name you call, She is 1- Kali Amma***

Kali Amma teaches that pain, sorrow, decay, death, and destruction are not overcome by denying or explaining them away. These are inevitable parts of life and denying them is futile. For us to realize the fullness of our being and to realize our potential, we must accept these parts of existence. Kali Amma's gift is freedom. The freedom of the child to revel in the moment, obtained only after confrontation with or acceptance of death. Kali Amma is Mother, not because She protects us from the way things are, but because She reveals our mortality to us and releases us to act fully and freely; She releases us from the web of pretense, practicality and rationality. Of all the Devi forms, Kali Amma is the most compassionate because She provides liberation to Her children. A soul who engages in spiritual practice to remove the illusion of the ego sees Kali Amma as sweet, affectionate, and overflowing with love for Her children.

Kali Amma comes from the Sanskrit root word *Kal* which means *time*. There is nothing that escapes the all-consuming march of time. Kali Amma is the most misunderstood of the Hindu goddesses. The Encyclopedia Britannica is grossly mistaken in the following quote, "Major Hindu goddess whose iconography, cult, and mythology commonly associate her with death, sexuality, violence, and, paradoxically in some of her later historical appearances, motherly love."



**Shree Kali Amma Amman Mandir (NPO Reg Nr: 161-393)**

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**ஓம் அதி பாரா சக்தி**

**வாழ்க காளி அம்மா**



It is partly correct to say Kali Amma is a goddess of death but She brings the death of the ego as the illusory self-centered view of reality. Nowhere in the Hindu stories is She seen killing anything but demons (Characterized by ego and greed) nor is She associated specifically with the process of human dying like the Hindu god Yama (who really is the god of death). It is true that both Kali Amma and Namah Shiva are said to inhabit cremation grounds and devotees often go to these places to meditate. This is not to worship death but rather, it is to overcome the I-am-the-body idea by reinforcing the awareness that the body is a temporary condition. Namah Shiva and Kali Amma are said to inhabit these places because it is our attachment to the body that gives rise to the ego. Shiva and Kali Amma grant liberation by removing the illusion of ego.

Of all the forms of Devi, She is the most compassionate because She provides *moksha* or liberation to Her children. She is the counterpart of Shiva the destroyer. They are the destroyers of unreality. The ego sees Kali Amma and trembles with fear because the ego sees in Her its own eventual demise. A person who is attached to his or her ego will not be receptive to Kali Amma and she will appear in a fearsome form. A mature soul who engages in spiritual practice to remove the illusion of the ego sees Kali Amma as very sweet, affectionate, and overflowing with incomprehensible love for Her children, Thus explaining Guru's Phrase, Your mother is your mother, irrespective of what she looks like or how cheeky she looks/ is.

Kali Amma wears a garland of skulls and a skirt of dismembered arms because the ego arises out of identification with the body. In truth we are beings of spirit and not flesh. So liberation can only proceed when our attachment to the body ends. Thus the garland and skirt are trophies worn by Her to symbolize having liberated Her children from attachment to the limited body. She holds a sword and a freshly severed head dripping blood. As the story goes, this represents a great battle in which she destroyed the demon Raktabija (Blood Seed). Her black skin represents the womb of the quantum unmanifest from which all of creation arises and into which all of creation will eventually dissolve. She is depicted as standing on Shiva who lays beneath Her with white skin (in contrast to Her black or sometimes dark blue skin). He has a blissful detached look. Shiva represents pure formless awareness sat-chit-ananda (Truth/ being-consciousness-bliss) while She represents "form" eternally supported by the substratum of pure awareness.

By not understanding the story behind Kali Amma it is easy to misinterpret Her iconography. Attaching the idea of sexuality to Kali Amma has no basis in Her at all. There is nothing that associates Her with sexuality in the Hindu stories. In fact it is just the opposite. Kali Amma is a Loving Mother.

The notion that She is the goddess of death, sex and violence is simply utter nonsense. When we study the life of the great saint Ramakrishna or the great poet saint Ramprasad (both famous Kali Amma worshippers), or listen to the traditional Hindu devotional songs to Kali Amma, there is no hint of this death-sex-violence notion. Kali Amma is the goddess of enlightenment or liberation.





### Kali Amma Yantra



Worship of Kali Amma takes many forms. One form is *puja*, or showing reverence through invocation, ritual and prayer. The rituals of Kali Amma puja are plain and simple. Elaborate cooking or preparation is not needed to satisfy Kali Amma. Even a glass of Water will fill her stomach, more so with the contentment of the devotion of her children. Kali Amma Symbolizes the blood which flows in our body. Associated with the age that we live in Kali Yuga (Age of Time) many Blood related diseases plague our existence such as; Anemia, Cancer, Hodgkins Disease, HIV/AIDS, Hemochromatosis etc. To Worship Kali Amma, you release the pain and difficulties that are associated with these types of diseases. When you bow at her feet, she will protect you from all the negative forces that consume you.

Hosting a Jundha (Bamboo Flag pole) in her Divine name can aid in all sicknesses and difficulties – Bamboo Symbolizes our Spinal column. The Spinal column is known as Merudhanda or axis to the universe. Your spine is one dimension of the human body that determines which direction you go .i.e Spiritual and Health. Within the spine, if you know the physical construction, there are two holes on either side which all your nerves/neurons run through, much like a pipe. These two holes are known as the Ida and Pingala (right side and left side), as per the law of duality, must exist together in order to function. Much like Male and Female, Negative and Positive, Ying and Yang, Shiva and Shakti and so on. Along the Spinal column you get intervals, through which your neurons run. These neurons send signals from your brain to the rest of your body, telling it how to move. Protected by the Spinal Cord. By hosting a bamboo you are praying for a renewed source of health, so that you may have a long healthy life ahead of you. Energy also transfers into your body by means of your spine (Yoga/ Chakras). All the prayer that goes into this Jundha prayer will transfer into you, by means of positive energy.

Nama Smarana (Repetition) of her beautiful name can aid in all sicknesses and difficulties which we face with each and every day.

### Festival of Diwali

Diwali is a Hindu Festival. Women decorate their homes with rice paintings and sand mandalas; men light clay lamps to show their ancestors the path to heaven. Children shoot off fireworks. More than one billion Hindus all over the world celebrate the new year with fun, food and festivities. For good luck, they worship Kali Amma, the Universal Mother Goddess, seeking Her blessing on this new moon night in October or November.

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Diwali is the celebration of the victory of good over evil. Everyone, early in the morning of this festival of light, greets their families and friends, forgetting and forgiving the wrongdoings of others. They take an oil bath, prepare sweet meats and pray to Kali Amma to destroy their ignorance as well as grant blessings. The night sky is lit with fireworks to chase away evil spirits. Diwali is the harvest celebration for the farmers. They place oil lamps in the rice fields to kill seasonal insects and offer fruit, flowers, fragrances and food to Kali Amma, the manifestation of Mother Earth, for Spiritual/ Material Growth.

The incarnation on this planet of Kali Amma is our mother- Mother's Day, when women are presented with new clothes and jewelry and treated with great reverence can be called as a form of worship to our divine Kali Amma.

Many other Pujas, worshipping Kali Amma can be learnt. Shree Kali Amman Mandir hosts many such festivals, glorifying and worshipping Kali Amma throughout the year. Follow [www.skam.co.za](http://www.skam.co.za) or Shree Kali Amman Mandir FB Page.

The mantra Om Kali Amma vibrates with Her power and transports you to Her domain. With every inhalation say to yourself silently Om Kali Amma and feel Her infuse your body with Her power, radiance and love. With every exhalation, silently breathe out Om Kali Amma and feel Her presence fill the universe around you. Breathe in Om Kali Amma and drink in Her elixir. Breathe out Om Kali Amma and float like a bubble in the ocean of the Divine. Allow your ego to sleep and the Divine to awaken within you. –Guru Prakash Diar

Kali Amma is our Divine Mother and Goddess  
Vazhga Kali Amma Vazgha



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