

BODY AND COSMOLOGY IN
KASHMIR ŚAIVISM

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Text and Translation of the 'Hymn to the Circle of Deities Situated in the Body' (Dehasthadevatācakrastotra) attributed to Abhinavagupta.

Translation:

1. I praise Ganapati¹ whose body is the inhaled breath, worshipped at the beginning of a hundred systems, who delights in granting desired gifts, and who is praised by the multitude of divine and semi-divine beings.
2. I praise Vatuka called the exhaled breath who removes and carries away men's misfortune, whose feet are worshipped by the line of perfected ones, the hordes of yoginīs and the best of heroes.
3. I praise Ānandabhairava, made of consciousness. The goddesses of the sense faculties constantly worship him in the lotus of the heart with the pleasures of their own perceptual fields/ bodies.
4. I praise constantly him whose form is devotion, the pure sat guru. By the power of his light he illumines the universe which is the path of Śiva for the devotees.
5. I praise Ānandabhairavī whose form is awareness, who continually amuses herself with the arising,

maintenance, and tasting of the universe as her play.

6. I continually bow to Brahmānī, whose form is intellect/higher mind, situated on the petal of the Lord of Gods [i.e. Indra in the east], who worships Bhairava with flowers of certainty.
7. I eternally praise Mother Śāmbhavī, whose form is the ego, situated on the petal of fire [i.e. Agni in the south-east], who performs worship to Bhairava with flowers of egoism.
8. I eternally praise Kumārī whose nature is the mind, situated on the southern petal, who gives offerings to Bhairava with flowers of thought construction.
9. I bow eternally to Vaisnavī, the power whose form is sound, situated on the south-west petal, who makes offerings to Bhairava with flowers of sound.
10. I honour Vārāhī bearing the form of the sense of touch, situated on the western petal, she delights Bhairava with flowers of touch which captivate the heart.
11. I praise Indrānī whose body is sight and whose body reclines on the lotus of the north-west, who worships Bhairava with the most beautiful and best forms/colours.
12. I honour Cāmundā called the sense of taste, whose abode is the support of the Lord of the World

[i.e. Kubera in the north], who eternally worships Bhairava with the sustenance of the manifold six flavours.²

13. I honour always Mahālaksmī called the sense of smell, situated on the petal of the Lord [i.e. Śiva in the north-east], who makes offerings to Bhairava with flowers of manifold fragrances.
14. I praise constantly the Lord of the body called the self, conferring perfection, worshipped in the six systems and possessed of the thirty six tattvas.
15. I praise the wheel of deities within the body, eternally arisen, trembling, the essence of experience, the end of everything and constantly present.

Sanskrit Text:

1. asurasuravṁdavanditam abhimatavaravitarane niratam /
darśanaśatāgrya pūjam prānatanam ganapatim vande //
2. varavīrayoginīgana siddhāvalipūjitānghriyugalam /
apahrtavinayijanārtim vatukam apānābhidham vande //
3. ātmūyavisayabhogair indriyadevyah sadā hrdam bhoje /
abhipūjayanti yam tam cinmayam ānandabhairavam vande //
4. yad dhībalena viśvam bhaktānām śivapatham bhāti / tam aham
avadhānarūpam sadgurum amalam sadā vande //

5. udayāvabhāsacarvanalīlam viśvasya yā karoty anīsam /
ānandabhairavīm tām vimarśarūpām aham vande //
6. arcayati bhairavam yā niścayakusumaih sureśapatrasthā /
pranamāni buddhirūpām brahmānīm tām aham satatam //
7. kurute bhairavapūjam analadalasthā 'bhimānakusumair yā /
nityam ahankrtirūpām vande tām śāmbhavīm ambām //
8. vidadhāti bhairavārcām daksinadalagā vikalpakusumair yā /
nityam manah svarūpām kaumārīm tām aham vande //
9. nairrtadalagā bhairavam arcayate śabdakusumair yā /
pranamāni śabdarūpām nityam tām vaisnavīm śaktim //
10. paścimadigdalaśansthā hrdayaharaih sparśakusumair yā /
tosayati bhairavam tām tvagrūpadharām namāni vārāhīm //
11. varatararūpaviśesair mārutadigdalanisanna dehā yā / pūjayati
bhairavam tām indrānīm drktanum vande //
12. dhanapatikisalayanilayā yā nityam vividhasadrasāhārah /
pūjayati bhairavam tām jihvābhikhyām namāni cāmundām //
13. Īśadalasthā bhairavam arcayate parimalair vicitrair yā /
pranamāni sarvadā tām ghrānābhikhyām mahālakṣmīm //
14. saddarśanesu pūjyam sadtrimsattattvasamvalitam /
ātmābhikhyam satatam ksetrapatim siddhidam vande //
15. sansphurad anubhavasāram sarvāntah satatasannihitam / namni
sadoditam ittham nijadehagadevatācakram //

Notes:

1. Ganeśa or Ganapati is one of Śiva's two sons.
2. The six flavours (rasa-s) are: sweet (madhura), sour (amla), salt (lavana), pungent (katuka), bitter (tikta) and astringent (kasāya).