



## 1. Smashana

*She shines her blessing of divine deconstruction, clearing away that which undermines your confidence and inhibits your activity on your life path. With the courage born of unconditional trust, you can accept her fierce intervention in your life with openness to the positive changes that shall emerge as a result.*

Smashana Kali is fierce. Her presence indicates radical divine intervention. It may at first be experienced as a shock and some form of upheaval. She dwells in the taboo lands of the cremation grounds. Hers is the teaching that divine timing must prevail, and sometimes, certain involvements or circumstances must end. We cannot control the workings of destiny, but we can choose how we respond to the essential ending of a chapter in our lives.

Smashana can appear when we are in difficult times due to the loss of a loved one or the failure of something we had counted on, or even a more subtle, inner experience of an ending we cannot link to an external event. Her presence is an indication that life as you have known it will change radically. This can be a welcome release from difficult times and prolonged cycles of suffering. Smashana is not quiet and subdued in the cremation grounds. She is wild and vital. She brings energy and aliveness to situations where there would otherwise be none. She brings

about an end to stagnation that has been depleting your life force.

An upheaval can give rise to uncertainty about how to manage the transition and what will come next. We must remember that in the tantric teachings, cremation grounds are not only places of death but of liberation. Kali teaches that sometimes, what we have loved needs to be released so a greater love can manifest in a new form. We cannot always know why that needs to be, but we can trust Kali is acting for our benefit.

We may have a fear around letting go, just as many beings fear the ultimate act of letting go – the release of the body into death itself. Kali is not a goddess of actual death. She is the goddess of the spiritual and symbolic death of the ego. Her presence is about endings that lead to beginnings. Her presence is not about death, but transformation. She not only brings to an end that which obstructs our spiritual fruition, she also manifests the path from release to re-emergence. Dwelling in the lands of the dead, she is the sacred feminine chariot that carries the soul beyond the threshold of one life cycle or chapter into the next. If you know you have come to the end of the road in some significant way and are awaiting clarity on how to cross the threshold toward whatever is next, her presence will make the path known to you.

Her appearance is the portent of powerful change. Although we may not welcome it at first, we can know that because it is initiated by her, wild wisdom and divine love are its underlying purpose. As we move with the changes taking place within and likely also around us, we will eventually recognise the blessings that have transformed our lives for the better.

## INVOCATION RITUAL

Take a moment to connect with your heart, perhaps by placing your hand at your heart for a moment. Say the following invocation:

*Beloved Ma, Smashana Kali, Vama Kali, you raise the sword of divine truth in your right hand. My heroic heart, yearning for freedom, truth and love beyond all else, leaps with joy at the sight of you! The lotus flowers of compassion fall, reminding me that your ferocity is divine love in action. You wield the swords of severing grace. Obstructions and defilements submit to your blade. I bear the loss that follows your intervention with dignity. I offer to you all pain and fear that may arise through this process. My heartfelt offerings are testaments to my loving trust in your wisdom. May your power bring freedom to all beings. Jai Ma Kali!*

In whatever way is appropriate for you, prostrate yourself before her wild essence. That may mean bowing your head to your hands in prayer, imagining and intending that you are bowing before her divine will. It may involve laying your entire body facedown on the floor, forehead to the ground, completely surrendered to her. Do what feels authentic and sacred for you at this moment.

Then be seated, or stand once more and raise your hands, palms open and facing upward, as if offering all your attachments to her. She knows which to accept and which to sever at this time. Do so with trust in your heart.

You have completed your ritual of invocation.



## 2. Vishvamata

*With her protection, even significant uncertainty does not need to be wrought with despair. There is a pathway that can shift your devastation into a palpable experience of being protected and guided through a difficulty. Trust where you are being led. Grace shall come from this.*

The Divine Mother sees our capacity for breathtaking transformation and spiritual awakening, often far more than we recognise in ourselves. To fulfil our inner purpose, and move beyond unnecessarily restrictive self-imposed limitations, we need her. When we hold back, gripping on to what is familiar, she lovingly forces our hand. Under her influence, we do not evade what is required of us. We find the inner strength to move directly through what we once denied ourselves the right and opportunity to overcome.

You are encouraged to develop the confidence and commitment necessary to undertake the tasks that challenge and yet also inspire you. Do not allow yourself to be intimidated by the prospect of failure or opposition. Stay true to your path and progress, step by step. Trust your capacity to grow into the fulfilling manifestation of your heartfelt aspirations.

Although you may be in circumstances you would prefer not to be in, you are in a position of unrealised spiritual power. You will gain benefit from what is transpiring. When the

relevant learning and personal growth have been acknowledged and integrated, these circumstances will give way to a more favourable situation.

When Vishvamata appears, it not only signifies that we have the capacity to move through a situation we have avoided dealing with in the past, but that we can do so in a far gentler and more graceful manner than expected. You have the power of the Divine Mother's wisdom and blessing within you. Do not underestimate her. Do not underestimate yourself.

When we are willing to look at ourselves rather than other people or external circumstances as the primary source of our pain, Vishvamata, the Cosmic Mother, appears with a genuine desire for you to heal and outgrow the causes of suffering. She is Kali as a sweet saviouress and beloved Soul Mother. She becomes Kripadhara, or the 'vessel of compassion'. We can go to her and receive as much love, support, kindness, protection and anything else we need. The babies that hang from her ears are invitations to approach her as a child would approach its mother – with complete trust and positive expectation.

If we have had issues with mother figures, her presence triggers healing. Mother issues can impede our ability to trust and feel that we are safe and belong. They make it hard for us to feel that our inner life is valuable and worthy of attention, that we are truly loved and valued just as we are, and able to rest within ourselves feeling that we are enough. The Divine Mother does not struggle with human limitations. We can go to her wounded and messy, and she will receive, heal and love us without judgement.

Her expression, semi-wrathful yet serene, reminds us that her ways strengthen our boundaries against that which cannot

support the soul. She will not hesitate to strike at what could harm us. She also dissolves the defences we have unconsciously set up against life so that we soften and become eager to participate in our life journey. When we are not hardened, corrupted or rendered bitter by life experiences, we can be more open, like a curious child, and be guided more easily by our hearts along the unique and empowering life path the Divine Mother offers us.

### INVOCATION RITUAL

Connect to your heart in whatever way works best for you. Say the following invocational prayer:

*I bow to thee, Kali Ma, cosmic queen and supreme yogini of all hearts. You know how to overcome the ways in which I delude, deny and diminish myself, where I am complicit in deceptions that can only birth sorrow. You are gentle and sweet, even as you lead me into direct confrontation with that which I have tried to avoid. Your compassionate wisdom is unwavering. Through your fierce devotion to my heart's liberation, I shall overcome even the deepest wounds within myself. Vishvamata, Kripadhara, in your kindness, you require me to cross the threshold from fear to trust and blissful peace in the sanctuary of you. You know my capacity and how to evoke my potential into expression, even more than I do. With perfect trust in your wisdom, I shall not turn away from what is before me. I shall successfully navigate and triumph over all soul challenges, through your grace, for the spiritual benefit of all beings.*

Place your left hand over your heart. Raise your right hand high to the heavens above, reaching for her. Feel that she grabs hold of your right hand. Slowly guide your right hand, with her hand resting atop of it, until it covers your left hand at your heart. Feel, sense and receive her spiritual protection of your heart. She is with you.

You have completed your sacred ritual.



### 3. Kaladhara

*She is not bound by appearances, opinions or material limitations. She is both the void and the infinite creative potential that arises from it. Do not be afraid of uncertainty. If you feel you are without resources, take comfort now. Where there is lack, she restores abundance. She can bring forth exquisite blessing and glorious manifestation from the sacred expanse of nothingness. Your soul can rely upon her completely. Cast your fears away. Hers is the power of the Universe, combined with the generosity of grace.*

When hope is lost, and a way forward cannot be sensed, Kaladhara arises as a reminder of the endless creativity and resourcefulness of the Divine Feminine. Her love will always find a way. If the way does not yet exist, then it shall be created. If you cannot see or feel how to move from where you are now to where you want to be, Kali's wisdom and grace manifest to provide what is needed at the perfect time. Prepare yourself by regularly connecting to your heart as you remain open to receive inner guidance on how to proceed. Also, take rest and be at peace in your connection with her. If inhibiting or obstructing forces are at work, she knows how to use them so that we grow stronger rather than weaker, and when the time is right, annihilates them, thus ceasing their influence over us or our affairs.

The presence of Kaladhara reassures us that during those times when nothing appears to be happening in our outer world, there can be much of value taking place at an inner level. It is possible to learn how to see, sense and feel the subtle inner workings of the soul. It requires a willingness to withdraw our faith from appearances and to no longer limit our sense of what is real to the physical world. We can practise dropping beneath the limited perceptions of the five senses by willingly entering into the sacred darkness of unknowing, the cosmic void.

When one sense is minimised, others are heightened. When we are willing to let go of the idea that the physical world is absolute, we can develop our innate capacity for extraordinary, extrasensory perception and tune into the sixth sense of the soul. We can learn to trust what we intuitively sense, even in the absence of external confirmation.

When we intuit at such a level, we gain the ability to recognise the truth beyond appearances. Rather than seeing the surface of the earth as barren and becoming desperate, we can joyfully sense that within the depths of the soil, a seed is gathering life force and will soon crack open to become a lush green shoot then a plant that blooms with flowers and fruit. Kaladhara brings guidance that something barely discernible is stirring within, which has the potential to become a beautiful manifestation. She reminds us that nothing is ever hopeless, no matter how much the mind may believe so. Through trust in her, we become an active expression of the solution to any difficulty.

Kali Kaladhara bears the crescent moon. The moon in crescent form shows us there is light but not full clarity. It does not mean that clarity does not exist, that the full light of the sun no longer exists, but that for a time, there can only be

partial vision or understanding. This need not be a concern because we can trust in the Divine Mother who has complete understanding always. Where we are lacking in skill or capacity in any given moment, she more than makes up for the deficit. If what you sense lacks clarity, you need not worry. Even those with excellent perception cannot know certain things, and that is no reason to be concerned. We can trust that the Divine Mother knows what is happening and what is needed. When the divine timing is right, you shall see the greater picture more clearly. Until then, proceed with care and only do what feels necessary in the moment, understanding that you shall have a different perspective later.

The oracle of Kaladhara marks the ending of a cycle after the full moon when things have gone as far as they can go, and the initiation of a fresh cycle following the black or new moon when what has fallen away shall rise again in revised form. Our beloved Kali Kaladhara, cosmic lunar priestess, is Bhairavi: she who controls the changes taking place in the Universe and our lives. We can trust her timing and our own process. Stay true to your inner work and know that your efforts shall bear fruit.

### INVOCATION RITUAL

Speak, sing or whisper this prayer of invocation, from your heart:

*Kaladhara, universal priestess of the Sacred Feminine. Garbha, cosmic womb, divine creatrix. Devi, who is before the beginning and after the end and within all between. I seek refuge in you, offering all to you that I may bear the pain of loss and open to the bliss of rebirth. You dwell in the endless vastness, beyond all that is. You are the reminder of infinite*