

The Devi Mahatmyam  
(Durga Saptasati)  
700 slokas on Sri Durga

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# **Meditation on MahaKali— Om Namaha MahaKali**

## Chapter 1 of 12

A Sage, Markandeya, relates to his disciple the story of how Savarni becomes the Manu of the 8th Manvantara by the grace of MahaMaya.

In very, very, ancient times, a good King, one Savarni by name, defeated by his enemies, retires to the forest, encounters the Sage Medhas, and is invited to remain a while at the ashram. Ruminating on his troubles, the King speaks with a merchant who has recently come: “Why are you here?” says the King. The Merchant, whose name happens to be Samadhi, tells of his wife and sons who have appropriated his wealth and cast him out.

Noting the coincidental nature of their predicaments, the two decide to approach Medhas and inquire as to WHY each of them have come upon such evil times. Medhas begins to explain the nature of the world of attachment and maya ending with the explanation that MahaMaya is verily the Divine Mother, and how she creates the entire Universe. Intrigued Savarni asks, “Who is this goddess whom you call MahaMaya? What is her nature, and from whence does she originate?”

Medhas describes the Devi with a story of after the deluge when the Universe is one ocean. Vishnu, stretching out to rest upon the serpent Shesha, falls into a mystic slumber when two asuras, Madhu and Kaitabha, spring from the dirt in Vishnu’s ears seeking out with intent to kill Brahma, who rests in a lotus at the end of Vishnu's silver cord spinning out of his navel.

Afraid for his life, with Vishnu his protector deep asleep, Brahma invokes the Devi, Vishnu’s Yoganidra (which truly means- his sleep), with prayers and hymns calling for her help. The Devi withdraws her nature from Vishnu who awakens to fight the demons for 5,000 years.

Being worn out by the fight and deluded by Devi, the monsters demand that Vishnu ask a boon of them! Of course, there is no greater boon than to be slain by Vishnu. Yet, Madhu and Kaitabha, seeing the world flooded by water and wishing to live, ask to be slain at a spot where the earth is not covered with water. Saying, Svaha-So Be It! Vishnu hoists the demons upon his hips, throwing his spinning discus out into space where it boomerangs back cutting off the heads of the asuras.

*Thus end Chapter 1 - Chapters 2-12 will be updated as released.*