## אָקָש בְּהָאיירָאב

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आकाश भैरव

. اکاش بھرو

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## Akash Bhairav



Aakash bhairav during Indra Jatra

**Akash Bhairav** is a Hindu deity; one of the different forms of Bhairava.<sup>[1]</sup>

The head of the Aakash Bhairav was dug up several hundred years ago in Kathmandu. The head sits in a Hindu temple in Indra Chowk Kathmandu not far from Durbar Square. It is taken out once a year on the occasion of Indra Jatra Festival and is blessed by the Kumari — the living goddess who lives in the nearby Kumari Chowk. This ceremony is held in the month of August/September In the period of ceremony large number of prayers come to visit the Aakash bhairav. During the ceremony prayers offers peda(sweets made from milk), flowers, money and several others things. <sup>[2][3]</sup>

## 1 Mythology

The Akash Bhairab is said to be the kirati king yalamber himself. He is believed to have gained the powers through tantric worshipping. During the famous battle of the Mahabharat, the first king of Kirat dynasty, Yalambar in disguise of Bhairab, went to the battlefield to help the losing party. When Lord Krishna heard of it, he promptly chopped Yalambar's head, which reached Kathmandu through the sky, hence the name given as the sky god or the Akash Bhairab.

## 2 Iconography

Aakash Bhairav is often depicted in Buddhist iconography by a large blue head with fierce face, huge silver eyes and a crown of skulls and serpents. The deity head resides on a silver throne that is carried by lions, accompanied by Bhimsen (Bhima) and Bhadrakali on either side. The idol face is understood to represent the mask that King Yalamber wore on his way to the Kuruktsetra. The Indrachowk idol is somewhat milder in demeanor than many of the Buddhist idols. Lord Aakash Bhairav, the 'god of the sky', is also regarded by Nepalis as a progenitor of the Maharjan caste, especially the peasant groups. Pictured on Aakash Bhairav's head is an image that the Buddhists identify as Buddha, and the Hindus identify as Brahma, thus making the idol of Yalamber/Barbarika/Aakash Bhairav worshipable by all. <sup>[4]</sup>

## 3 Worship

The traditional Akash Bhairav Puja is accompanied by Upasana and Anusthan. Sacred water, sandalwood, flowers, fruits, incense and naibedya are some of the offerings for this puja. Legend has it that worship of the Bhairav is usually a mark of safety and strength. In the Nepali imagination, the Akash Bhairav symbolizes protection and goodwill for the nation and its people.

Religion, nation, people, belief, faith and traditional thanksgiving are all interwoven in this manifestation of Bhairav worship. The Akash Bhairav is also believed to be the jeevan tatwa. Culturalism and culturality are integrally bound in Bhairav worship and the temple itself. It stands as a grand testament to a cultural personification of Upasamhar. For eight days during the Indra Jatra, celebrations in the temple comprise of adorning the temple and the deity. This is followed by the Tantrik Puja, the Sagun Puja and the Kal Puja. The worshipper and the deity are held together in a uniquely 'reciprocal' dynamic. <sup>[5]</sup>

In September 2007 Nepal's state-run airline confirmed that it had sacrificed two goats to appease Akash Bhairab, whose symbol is seen on the company's planes, following technical problems with one of its aircraft. <sup>[6]</sup>

## 4 References

- [1] http://shaligramrudraksha.com/?page\_id=2024
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- [3] http://culturalheritage-nepal.blogspot.com/2013/03/ akash-bhairab-god-of-sky.html
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- [5] http://himartsoc.blogspot.com/2008/09/ akash-bhairav-temple-in-kathmandu.html
- [6] Goats sacrificed to fix Nepal jet, BBC News, 5 September 2007.

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## Akasha

"Akasa", "Akash" and "Aakash" redirect here. For other uses, see Akasha (disambiguation).

Akasha (or Akash,  $\bar{A}k\bar{a}sa$  [aakaaza] IPA: [a:ka: $\int$ ], आ-काश) is the Sanskrit word meaning *"aether"* in both its elemental and metaphysical senses.

## 1 Meaning in different philosophies

#### 1.1 Hinduism

In Hinduism, Akasha means the basis and essence of all things in the material world; the first material element created from the astral world, (Akasha (Ether), Earth,Water,Fire,Air,) in sequence). It is one of the *Panchamahabhuta*, or "five elements"; its main characteristic is *Shabda* (sound). In Sanskrit the word means "space", the first element in creation. In Hindi, Marathi and Gujarati, and many other Indian languages, the meaning of Akasha has been accepted as sky.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Nyaya and Vaisheshika schools of Hindu philosophy state that Akasha or aether is the fifth physical substance, which is the substratum of the quality of sound. It is the *One, Eternal*, and *All Pervading* physical substance, which is imperceptible.<sup>[2]</sup>

According to the Samkhya school of Hindu philosophy, Akasha is one of the five Mahābhūtas (grand physical elements) having the specific property of sound.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### 1.2 Jainism

Akasha is space in the Jain conception of the cosmos. It falls into the *Ajiva* category, divided into two parts: *Loakasa* (the part occupied by the material world) and *Aloakasa* (the space beyond it which is absolutely void and empty). In *Loakasa* the universe forms only a part. Akasha is that which gives space and makes room for the existence of all extended substances.<sup>[4]</sup>

### 1.3 Buddhism

In Buddhist phenomenology Akasha is divided into limited space (ākāsa-dhātu) and endless space (ajatākasā).<sup>[5]</sup> The Vaibhashika, an early school of Buddhist philosophy, hold Akasha's existence to be real.<sup>[6]</sup>

Ākāsa is identified as the first arūpa jhāna (arūpajhāna), but usually translates as "infinite space."<sup>[7]</sup>

### 1.4 Cārvākism

Adherents of the heterodox Cārvāka or Lokāyata philosophy of India hold that this world is made of four elements only. They exclude the fifth element, Akasha, because its existence cannot be perceived.<sup>[8]</sup>

## 1.5 Theosophy

Main article: Akashic records

The Western religious philosophy called Theosophy has popularized the word Akasha as an adjective, through the use of the term "Akashic records" or "Akashic library", referring to an ethereal compendium of all knowledge and history.

#### 1.6 Modern Paganism

It is believed by many modern Pagans that the Akasha, Spirit, is the Fifth Element. Scott Cunningham describes the Akasha as the spiritual force that Earth, Air, Fire, and Water descend from. Some also believe that the combination of the four elements make up that which is Akasha, and that Akasha exists in every living creature in existence; without Akasha, there is no spirit, no soul, no magic.

The Five Elements are worked with to create positive changes on earth. This is done through meditation to bring about beneficial changes in one's life. Akashan spirituality is holistic.

Practitioners learn to maintain mental and physical health through meditation, exercise, ritual and diet. They are expected to have a profound commitment to their life path.

The upward point of the pentacle, the pentagram or five pointed star within a circle, represents Akasha. The others represent Fire, Earth, Air and Water. While Earth is considered "north"; Fire is "south"; air is "east"; Water is "west", while Akasha is "center".<sup>[9]</sup>

## 2 See also

- Ākāśagarbha
- Akashic records
- Classical element
- Ervin László

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- [6] Encyclopedia of Asian Philosophy By Oliver Leaman, Contributor Oliver Leaman, Taylor & Francis, 2001, ISBN 0-415-17281-0, pg. 476
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- [8] The Tale of Carvaka by Manga Randreas, Mangalakshmi Ravindram, iUniverse, 2005, ISBN 0-595-34955-2, pg, 270
- [9] Earth, Air, Fire & Water, Scott Cunningham (Llewellyn, 1995)

## 4 External links

- Akasadhikaranam
- Chandogya Upanishad I.9.1 translation

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## Bhairava

For the raga in Hindustani classical music, see Bhairav (raga). For the 2001 film, see Bhairav (film).

**Bhairava** (Sanskrit: भेरव ("Terrible" or "Frightful"))<sup>[1]</sup> sometimes known as **Kala Bhairava**, is a Hindu deity, a fierce manifestation of Shiva associated with annihilation.<sup>[2]</sup> He is one of the most important deities in Nepal, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand, who originated in Hindu mythology (Hindu aspects of worship of the Divine) and is sacred to Hindus, Buddhists and Jains alike.

## 1 Legends



Kalabhairava, chola period, 10th-11th century. Tamil nadu. India.

The origin of Bhairava can be traced to the conversation



Head of Bhairava, dated 11th-century CE

between Brahma and Vishnu recounted in the Shiv Mahapuran where Vishnu asked Brahma who is the supreme creator of the Universe. Arrogantly, Brahma told Vishnu to worship him, he being the supreme creator. One day Brahma thought, "I have five heads, Shiva also has five heads. I can do everything that Shiva does and therefore I am Shiva" Brahma had become a little egoistic. Not only had he became egoistic, he started to forge the work of Shiva. Brahma started interfering in what Shiva was supposed to do. Then Mahadeva (Shiva) threw a small nail from His finger, which assumed the form of Kala Bhairava, and casually went to cut the head of Brahma. The skull of Brahma is held in the hands of Kala Bhairava; Brahma Kapala in the hands of Kala Bhairava and Brahma's ego was destroyed and he became enlightened. Then onwards he became useful to himself and to the world and deeply grateful to Shiva. In the form of the Kaala Bhairava, Shiva is said to be guarding each of these Shaktipeeths. Each Shaktipeeth temple is accompanied



Bhairava with his consort, Bhairavi

by a temple dedicated to Bhairava.

## 2 Worship

See also: Bhairava Ashtami

His temples or shrines are present within or near most



Shri Swarna Kala Bhairava consecrated at Kaga Ashram, Thiruvannamalai, India

Jyotirlinga temples, the sacred twelve shrines dedicated to Shiva across India, including Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Varanasi and the Mahakaleshwar Temple at Ujjain, where at the Kal Bhairav Temple, he is worshipped by the Kapalika and Aghori sects of Shaivism, here one can also find the Patal Bhairav and Vikrant Bhairav shrines.<sup>[3][4]</sup> Kaal Bhairava temples can also be found around Shakti Peethas, as it is said Shiva allocated the job of guarding each of 52 Shakti Peethas to one Bhairava. As such it is said there are 52 forms of Bhairava, which are in fact considered as manifestation of Shiva himself.

Traditionally Kal Bhairav is the *Grama devata* in the rural villages of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, where he is referred to as "Bhaivara/Annadhani" *Vairavar*. In Karnataka, Lord Bhairava is the supreme God for the community commonly referred as "Gowdas", especially for the Gangadikara Gowda caste he is considered as the care taker and punisher.

Also another set of people in Kashmir that have their origin from Gorat, or the minister of Mata Sharika worship Bhairava during Shivratri<sup>[5]</sup>

The Hindu reformer Adi Sankara has written a hymn on Kala Bhairava of Kashi which is called as *Kala Bhairav Ashtakam*.<sup>[6]</sup>

## **3** Observances

*Bhairava Ashtami* commemorating the day Kal Bhairav appeared on earth, is celebrated on Krishna paksha Ashtami of the Margashirsha month of Hindu calendar with a day special prayers and rituals.<sup>[7]</sup>

## 4 Iconography

He is depicted ornamented with a range of twisted serpents, which serve as earrings, bracelets, anklets, and sacred thread (yajnopavita). He wears a tiger skin and a ritual apron composed of human bones.<sup>[8]</sup> Bhairava has a dog (*Shvan*) as his divine vahana (vehicle). Bhairavi is a fierce and terrifying aspect of the Devi who is virtually indistinguishable from Kali, with the exception of her particular identification as the consort of Bhairava.

Bhairava himself has eight manifestations i.e. Ashta Bhairava:

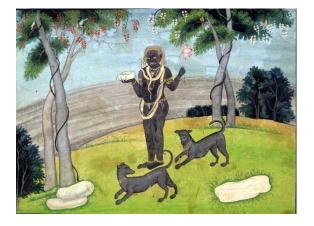
- Asithaanga Bhairava
- Ruru Bhairava
- Chanda Bhairava
- Krodha Bhairava
- Unmattha Bhairava
- Kapaala Bhairava
- Bheeshana Bhairava
- Samhaara Bhairava



Bhairava with vahana, shvana (dog) at Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

Kala Bhairava is conceptualized as the Guru of the planetary deity Shani (Saturn). Bhairava is known as Bhairavar or Vairavar in Tamil where he is often presented as a Grama devata or village guardian who safeguards the devotee on all eight directions (ettu tikku). Known in Sinhalese as Bahirawa, he protects treasures. Lord Bhairava is the main deity worshipped by the Aghora sect.

## 5 Temples



Kala Bhairava Kuladevata of Vaidya manetana Soratoor



Kalabhairava Temple, Ujjain



Old age Bhairon Baba temple at Langur patti, Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, India.

## **Uttar Pradesh**

- Kala Bhairava Temple, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Pracheen Bada Lal Bhairav, Vidhyanchal, Mirzapur district, Uttar Pradesh
- Kal Bhairav Temple, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
- Kal Bhairav Temple, Shrinagar district, mahoba, Uttar Pradesh
- Kaal Bhairav Temple, Balughat Shuklaganj, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh
- Bhairav Baba Temple, Meerut

#### Uttarakhand

- Bhairavnath Temple, Kedarnath, Uttarakhand
- Bhairava Temple, Near Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand
- Bhairav Temple, Bhairon Ghati, before Gangotri, Uttarakhand
- Bhairon Garhi, Gumkhal, Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand
- Eight Bhairava Temples, Almora, Uttarakhand
- Bhairav Temple, Bageshwar, Uttarakhand
- Kaal Bhairav Temple, Devprayag

#### Jammu and Kashmir

• Bhairav Temple, Vaishnodevi complex, Jammu and Kashmir

#### **Himachal Pradesh**

- Mahakal Vajra Bhairava Temple, Lahul Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh
- Batuk Bhairav Temple, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh

#### **Delhi and NCR**

- Kala Bhairava Temple, near Purana Qila, New Delhi, Delhi. Said to be established by the Pandava brothers during the building of their capital Indraprastha. Purana Qila is sometimes said to be their castle and the temple is situated in its backyard
- 'Pracheen' Bhairava Temple, Nehru Place, New Delhi, Delhi

#### Assam

• Maha Bhairav Temple, Tezpur, Assam

#### West Bengal

• Bhairavsthan, submerged temples of Telkupi, Near Dhanbad, West Bengal

#### Orissa

• Ajaikapada Bhairava Temple, Nuagaon, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha

#### Jharkhand

• Bhomia ji Temple at Jain Swetambar Kothi, Madhuban, Jharkhand

#### Rajasthan

• Shree Bhairav Nath Dham - a famous temple in India

Bagat Shree Shree Hemraj je Maharaj, Shyaroulidham, Wazirpur, Sawai-Madhopur, Rajasthan

- Chomukha Bhairavji Temple, Kharkhara, Khetri, Rajasthan
- Shri Kala Bhairava Temple, Amer Fort, Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Bhairuji Mandir, Village-Tehsil Ladnun, Nagaur, Rajasthan
- Kala-Gora Bhairav Mandir, Mandore, Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- Bhairav Mandir, Barli, Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- Kala Bhairav Temple at Toliasar, Sri Dungargarh, Rajasthan
- Kodamdesar Ramdevra Temple, Jaisalmer Highway, Rajasthan
- Sri Nakoda Bhairav Jain Temple, Barmer District, Rajasthan
- kodamdesar bhairav mandir, dist. Bikaner [rajasthan]
- Shri raktya bhairav mandir, mundali anta baran
- Shri Bavdi Vale Batuk Bhairava Temple, Kartarpura, Jaipur, Rajasthan

#### Madhya Pradesh

- Kala Bhairav Temple at Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
- Shri Kala Bhairav Naath Temple Adegaon Madhya Pradesh
- Shri Toriya Bhairav Temple, Panch Kuti Toriya, Datiya, Jhansi, Madhya Pradesh

#### Gujarat

- Bhairavnath Temple, Maninagar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- Shree Kala Bhairavnath Mahadev, NH-8, Bhairav Gaun, Kamrej, Surat, Gujarat
- Batuk Bhairav Temple, Bidada, Kutch district, Gujarat
- Kaal Bhairav Temple, Idar outskirts, Aravalli range, Gujarat

- Ashta Bhairav Temple, Sidhpur, Gujarat
- Bhairavnath Temple, Palitana, Bhavnagar district, Gujarat
- Bhairava Japa, sacred 'jumping rock', Girnar Mountain, Junagadh

#### Maharashtra

- Bhairavnath Mandir, Avasari (Khurd), Ambegaon, Pune
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- Kaal Bhairavnath Temple, Sonari-, Bhoom, Osmanabad
- The Kaal Bhairav Nath Mandir, Panchvati, Saptashrungi Devi on Rive Godavarinashik
- Bhairavnath Temple, Sinnar, Nashik, Maharashtra
- The Kaal Bhairav Nath Mandir Varne, Satara, Maharashtra
- Shri KalBhairavnath Jogeshwari Temple, A/P-Bavdhan, Tal-Wai, Dist- Satara famous for BAGAD RATH.
- Shri KalBhairavnath Mandir, Kasba Peth, Pune Maharashtra also known as Nava kal Bhairavnath Mandir .
- Shri Siddhanath Temple, Mhaswad, Tal-Man, Dist Satara Maharashtra
- Shri Bhairavnath Temple, Kikali, Tal-Wai, Dist Satara Maharashtra

#### Goa

• Kalabhairav Temple at Dhargal, Goa

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Sri Kalabhairava Swamy Temple at Kamareddy, Nizamabad district, Andhra Pradesh
- Naga Bhirava Kona, P.K.Padu, Somasila, SPSR Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh
- Bhairava sela or Bayyanna sela in Srisailam, Andhra Pradesh
- Kaal Bhairva Temple at Ratanpur, considered to be guardian deity of Mahamaya Temple
- Bhairava Kona, Near Pamur, Prakasam Dist, Andhra Pradesh

Kalabhairava Statue in Adavivaram, Visakhapatnam district

- Kala Bhairava in Mruthyujaya Swamy Temple, Yogimallavaram Village, Near Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
- Kala Bhairava Temple in Kajipalli Medak Mandal Andhra Pradesh
- Sri Santhana Prapthi Kaala Bhairava at Ramagiri, Andhra Pradesh
- Kala Bhairava in Valeeshwara swamy Temple in Ramagiri Village between Pitchatur and Nagalapuram [Pitchatur mandal] 2nd to Varanasi

#### Karnataka

- Shree Kala Bhairava Temple, Jadigenahally, Hoskote, Bangalore, Karnataka—This temple was built during Chola Dynasty.
- Kaala Bhairava Temple, Yana, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka
- Kalabhairaveshvara Temple at Adichunchanagiri, Karnataka
- Kaala Bhairava Temple, Dubalgundi, Near Homnabad, Bidar, Karnataka

• Kalabhairaveshvara Temple at Jogi Mutt, Kadri, **5.1 In the Kathmandu valley, Nepal** Mangalore, Karnataka

#### Tamil Nadu

- Sri Baala Kaala Bhairavar Temple at T.Vairavanpatty, near Thirukoshityur,Chola Temple Architecture and where Sri Govinda Dikshitar, the esteemed Minister of the three Tanjore Nayak Kings worshipped for victories.
- Kalabhairavar, Kayantha sthanam, Nanjundapuram, Coimbatore 641036 (near crematorium)
- Kalabhairav Temple at Adhiyaman Kottai, Dharampuri district, Tamil Nadu
- Kala Bhairava temple, Gadag, Karnataka
- Sri Kala Bhairava Temple pogular village, Gudiyattam, Tamil Nadu
- Sri Swarna Kala Bhairavar Peedam, Kaga Ashram, Thiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu
- Kala Bhairava Temple, Courtallam, Tamil Nadu
- Ashta Bhairavar at Sri Kamanada Eswar temple, Aragalur, Tamil Nadu
- Bhairavar Temple, Vairavan Patti, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu
- Bhairaveswarar Temple, Cholapuram, Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu
- Bhairava Moorthi (Bhairava Natha Moorthi) Temple, Morepalayam, Tiruchengodu Thaluk, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu
- Sri Vairavamoorthy, Illupaikudi Temple, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu
- Konguvadukanatha Swami, Kundadam, Dharapuram, Tamil Nadu
- Kala Bhairavar Temple, Pogular village, Gudiyattam Town, Tamil Nadu (3,000 years old, surrounded by mountains)
- Swarna Akarshana Bhairavar at Thadikombu Perumal Temple, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu - This is the only vishnu temple to have a Bhairava.
- Kaalabairavar Temple, Thiruneermalai, Chennai
- Maha Bhairava Rudhra Aalayam, Bhairavar Nagar, Thiruvadisoolam Road, Echankaranai, Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu- A holy place surrounded by hills

Bairavar koil, Thirupattur, Sivaganga district . Tamil Nadu

• Sri Bhairavar Malai Koil, a serene hill temple in less inhabitated area near venbedu village approx. 23 km from Chengalpattu & 8 km from Thiruporur.



Aakash bhairav during Indra Jatra festival

Bhairava is an important deity of the Newars. All the traditional settlements of Newars have at least a temple of Bhairava. Most of the temples of Bhairava in Nepal are maintained by Newar priests. There are several Bhairava temples in the Kathmandu valley.<sup>[9]</sup> Some of them are:

- The Kaal Bhairava temple in Hanuman Dhoka (Kathmandu Durbar Square) has a 12-foot (3.7 m) high stone image of Kala Bhairava sculpted in the 5th or 6th century and later rediscovered in paddy field in the 17th century CE by King Pratap Malla. It was believed that people die if they speak false in front of this sculpture. So, this temple served as the supreme court of Nepal for a long time.
- Akash Bhairava (Sava Bhakku Deva or Wanga Dya)
- Swet Bhairava
- Shanta Bhairava (Majipa Lakhey Dya)
- Kirtimukha Bhairava (inside the Pashupatinath Temple
- Unmatthta Bhairava (inside the Pashupatinath Temple)
- Bagh Bhairava temple of Kirtipur
- Batuk Bhairava temple, Lagankhel
- "Kaal Bhairicha Navane Changbhale"
- Pachali bhairav (Teku)
- tika bhairav
- mahangkal bhairav (Tudikhel)
- pachali bhairav (Koligram)
- Anand Bhairav(Gyaneshwor)

## 5.2 Bhairava temple in Brazil

• Kalabhairav temple in Brazil

## 6 Images of Bhairava

- Kali and Bhairava in Union, 18th century, Nepal
- 14th century Bhairava, Indonesia.

## 7 See also

- Ashta Bhairavar
- Aghori
- Muthappan
- Kapala
- Kapalika
- Aragalur
- Sirkazhi
- Kashmir Shaivism
- Akash Bhairav
- Bhairab Naach

## 8 References

- [1] For भैरव as one of the eight forms of Shiva, and translation of the adjectival form as "terrible" or "frightful" see: Apte, p. 727, left column.
- [2] For Bhairava form as associated with terror see: Kramrisch, p. 471.
- [3] Sunita Pant Bansal (2008). Hindu Pilgrimage: A Journey Through the Holy Places of Hindus All Over India. Pustak Mahal. ISBN 8122309976.
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- [5] Syed Siraj Ul Hassan (1920). The Castes and Tribes of H.E.H. the Nizam's Dominions, Vol. 1. Asian Educational Services. p. 482. ISBN 8120604881.
- [6] http://hindubhakti.blogspot.com/2011/08/ kala-bhairava-ashtakam.html
- [7] Dr. Bhojraj Dwivedi (2006). *Religious Basis Of Hindu Beliefs*. Diamond Pocket Books (P) Ltd. p. 172. ISBN 8128812394.
- [8] Bhairava statuette in copper from 15th-16th century Nepal, in collection of Smithsonian Institution. Accessed August 11, 2007.
- [9] http://shaligramrudraksha.com/?page\_id=2024

## 9 External links

- Bhairav Worship Chant Chalisa
- Obtaining a Yidam (Bhairava or Dakini) as a guide and protector (from wisdom-tree.com)
- Shri Bhairavnath Mandir Kikali

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