

Shree Kamalaambikayaa Kataakshitoam (Avarana 3 of Navavarana Krithis)

Ragam: Shankarabharanam (29th melakarta)

ARO: S R2 G3 M1 P D2 N3 S ||

AVA: S N3 D2 P M1 G3 R2 S ||

Talam: Rupakam (2 kalai)

Composer: Muthuswami Dikshitar

Version: D.K. Jayaraman (<https://youtu.be/-k9QMSDGFGA?t=1311> (21:50))

Lyrics / Meaning Courtesy: <https://guru-guha.blogspot.com/2007/09/dikshitar-kriti-sri-kamalaambikayaa.html>

Youtube Class: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36y4Xad83_M

Audio MP3 Class: <http://www.shivkumar.org/music/srikamalambikaya-shankarabharanam-class.mp3>

Pallavi:

SrI kamalAmbikayA kaTAKshitO(a)haM
saccidAnanda paripUrNa brahmAsmi

Anupallavi:

pAka SAsanAdi sakala dEvatA sEvitayA
pankajAsanAdi panca- kRtyAkRtbhAvitayA

Madhyama kAla sAhityam:

SOka hara catura padayA
mUka mukhya vAkpradayA
kOkanada vijaya padayA
guru guha tat-trai-padayA

CaraNam:

ananga kusumAdyashTa SaktyAkArayA
aruNa varNa saMkshObhaNa cakrAkArayA
ananta kOTyaNda nAyaka Sankara nAyikayA
ashTa vargAtmaka gupta-tarayA varayA

Madhyama kAla sAhityam:

anangAdyupAsitayA ashTa daLABja sthitayA
dhanurbANa dhara karayA dayA sudhA sAgarayA

Meaning: Courtesy <https://guru-guha.blogspot.com/2007/09/dikshitar-kriti-sri-kamalaambikayaa.html>

Sahityam: SrI kamalAmbikayA kaTAKshitO(a)haM

Meaning: I am blessed with merciful glances by Goddess Kamalamba.

kaTAKshitO-ahaM

- I am blessed with merciful glances

SrI kamalAmbikayA

- by Goddess Kamalamba.

Sahityam: saccidAnanda paripUrNa brahmAsmi

Meaning: She is the supreme being, filled with the bliss of existence and consciousness.

Asmi

- (Hence) I am

sat-cit-Ananda paripUrNa brahma - the supreme being, filled with the bliss of existence and consciousness.

Sahityam: pAka SAsanAdi sakala dEvatA sEvitayA

Meaning: She is the One served by all the gods led by Indra (slayer of the demon Paka),

pAka SAsana-Adi sakala dEvatA sEvitayA - (by) the one served by all the gods led by Indra (slayer of the demon Paka),

Sahityam: pankajAsanAdi panca- kRtyAkRtbhAvitayA

Meaning: She is the One meditated upon by the doers of the five cosmic actions, starting with the lotus-seated Brahma, pankaja-Asana-Adi panca-kRtyAkRti-bhAvitayA - the one meditated (bhAvitayA) upon by the doers (kRtyAkRti) of the five (panca) cosmic actions, starting with (Adi) the lotus-seated (pankaja-Asana) Brahma,

Sahityam: SOka hara catura padayA mUka mukhya vAkpradayA

Meaning: *The One whose feet are skilful at removing sorrows ... the One who granted eloquence to many led by the mute poet (Mooka kavi),*
SOKa hara catura padayA - the one whose feet (pada-yA) are skilful (chatura) at removing (hara) sorrows (SOKa),
mUKa mukhya vAk-pradayA - the one who granted (pradayA) eloquence (vAk) to many led by the mute poet (Mooka mukya - kavi),

Sahityam: *kOkanaDa vijaya padayA guru guha tat-trai-padayA*
Meaning: *The One whose feet surpass the lotus (in loveliness),... the embodiment of the three-word (Mantra) of Guruguha,...*
kOkanaDa vijaya padayA - the one whose feet (padayA) surpass (Vijaya) the lotus (kOkanaDa) in loveliness
guru guha tat-trai-padayA - the embodiment of the three-word (tat-trai-padayA) Mantra of Guruguha,

Sahityam: *ananga kusumAdyashTa SaktyAkArayA*
Meaning: *The One manifest as the eight goddess beginning with Ananga-kusuma,*
ananga kusuma-Adi-ashTa Sakti-AkArayA - the One manifest (AkArayA) as the eight goddess (ashTa Sakti) beginning (Adi) with Ananga-kusuma,...

Sahityam: *aruNa varNa saMkshObhaNa cakrAkArayA*
Meaning: *The One residing in the red-coloured Samkshobana Chakra, the Chakra that agitates or excites,*
aruNa varNa saMkshObhaNa cakra-AkArayA - the one residing in the red-coloured (aruNa varNa) Samkshobana Chakra, the Chakra that agitates or excites (AkArayA).

Sahityam: *ananta kOTyaNDa nAyaka Sankara nAyikayA*
Meaning: *... the consort of Shiva (Shankara), the lord of the infinite crores of universes,*
ananta kOTi-aNDa nAyaka Sankara nAyikayA - the consort (nAyikayA) of Shiva (Shankara), the lord (nAyaka) of the infinite crores (ananta kOTi) of universes (aNDa)

Sahityam: *ashTa vargAtmaka gupta-tarayA varayA*
Meaning: *... the immensely secret embodiment of letters grouped in eight sections (a,ka,ca,etc.)... the eminent one,...*
ashTa varga-Atmaka gupta-tarayA - the immensely (tarayA) secret (Gupta) embodiment (Atmaka) of letters grouped in eight sections (ashTa varga - a,ka,ca,etc.)
varayA - the eminent one,

Sahityam: *anangAdyupAsitayA ashTa daLAbja sthitayA*
Meaning: *.. the One worshipped by Manmatha and others, ... the One who resides in the eight-petal lotus,*
ananga-Adi-upAsitayA - the one worshipped (upAsitayA) by Manmatha (ananga) and others (Adi)
ashTa daLa-abja sthitayA - the one who resides (sthitayA) in the eight (ashTa) petal (daLa) lotus (abja)

Sahityam: *dhanurbANa dhara karayA dayA sudhA sAgarayA*
Meaning: *the One holding a bow and arrows in her hands, ... the ocean of the nectar of compassion.*
dhanurbANa dhara karayA - the one holding (dhara) a bow and arrows (dhanurbANa) in her hands (kara-yA)
dayA sudhA sAgarayA - the ocean (sAgarayA) of the nectar (sudhA) of compassion (dayA).

Pallavi:

SrI kamalAmbikayA kaTAKshitO(a)haM
saccidAnanda paripUrNa brahmAsmi

Sahityam: *SrI kamalAmbikayA kaTAKshitO(a)haM*
Meaning: *I am blessed with merciful glances by Goddess Kamalamba.*
kaTAKshitO-ahaM - I am blessed with merciful glances
SrI kamalAmbikayA - by Goddess Kamalamba.

O 1 2 3 4
SR ; ; G ; MG | R M G R S ; ; ; N R S N D S N P ||
SrI - - ka- ma- lAm- - - - - - bi- ka- yA- - -

D N - S,r G ; M ; | mdP ; ; mgR ; ; M G G R S ; N ; ||
Ka- TA - - kshi tO- - - (a)haM - - - - - Am ba-

SR ; ; G ; MG | R pm G rg rsS ; ; ; N R S N D S N P ||
SrI - - ka- ma- lAm- - - - - - bi- ka- yA- - -

D N – S,r G ; M ; | mdP ; ; mgR ; ; M G G R S ; N ; ||
Ka- TA -- kshi tO- - - (a)haM - - - - - Am ba-

SR ; ; G mp GR | sr rp gm rg rs ; ; ; N R S N D S N P ||
SrI - - ka - - ma - lAm - - - - - - - - - bi - ka - yA - - -

D N – S,r G ; M ; | mddp P ; mgR ; ; M G G R S rg rsS ,n ||
Ka- TA -- kshi tO- - - (a)haM - - - - - Am ba-

SR ; ; G , p mM ,g | R,m gG, R S ; ; ; N R S N D S N P ||
SrI - - ka - - ma - lAm - - - - - - - - - bi - ka - yA - - -

D N – S,r G ; M ; | mddp P ; mgR ; ; M G G R S rg rsS ,n ||
Ka- TA -- kshi tO- - - (a)haM - - - - - Am ba-

SR ; ; G ; M ,p | G ,m R ,g rs , ; ; ; N R S N D S N P ||
SrI - - ka - - ma - lAm - - - - - - - - - bi - ka - yA - - -

D N – S,r G ; M ; | mddp P ; mgR ; ; M G G R S rg rsS ,n ||
Ka- TA -- kshi tO- - - (a)haM - - - - - Am ba-

SR ; ; G ; M ,p | G ,m R ,g rs , ; ; ; N R S N D S N P ||
SrI - - ka - - ma - lAm - - - - - - - - - bi - ka - yA - - -

D N – S,r G ; M ; | mddp P ; mgR ; ; M G G R S ; S ,n ||
Ka- TA -- kshi tO- - - (a)haM - - - - - Sa- cci-

Sahityam: saccidAnanda paripUrNa brahmAsmi
Meaning: She is the the supreme being, filled with the bliss of existence and consciousness.
Asmi - (Hence) I am
sat-cit-Ananda paripUrNa brahma - the supreme being, filled with the bliss of existence and consciousness.

O 1 2 3 4
D ; ; ; dmP ; ; ; | M ; ; ; G ; M p g Gmp Gmr G R S ; ||
dA - - nan - - - da - - - pa - ri - - pU - - - - - rNa

N R S N D S N P | D N S – D N ; sn sr ; S ; ; rpmg rsS ,n ||
Brah - - - - - mA - - - - - smi - - - - - Am - ba - - (repeat Sri kamalAm...)

N R S N D S N P | D N S – D N ; sn sr ; S ; ; ; ; ; ||
Brah - - - - - mA - - - - - smi - - - - - (finish pallavi)

Anupallavi:
pAka SAsanAdi sakala dEvatA sEvitayA
pankajAsanAdi panca- kRtyAkRtbhAvitayA

Sahityam: pAka SAsanAdi sakala dEvatA sEvitayA
Meaning: She is the One served by all the gods led by Indra (slayer of the demon Paka),
pAka SAsana-Adi sakala dEvatA sEvitayA - (by) the one served by all the gods led by Indra (slayer of the demon Paka),

O 1 2 3 4
P ; ; ; M ; G ; | gpM G ; RG M dp M G – rGm mgR S ; ||
pA - - ka - SA - - - sa - nA - - - di - sa - ka - la -

S ; ; ; S R r s S | ; ; ; S ; ; ,n M ; G ; Mpg M ; ||
dE -- va - tA-- - - - - sE --- vi - ta - yA - - -

DP ; ; pmM ; G ; | gpM G ; RG M dp M G - rGm mgR S ; ||
pA-- ka - SA- - - - sa- nA-- - - di - sa-- ka-- la-

S ; ; ; S R rgmg | r s S ; ; S ; ; ,n M ; G ; Mpg M ; ||
dE -- va - tA-- - - - - sE --- vi - ta - yA - - -

Sahityam: pankajAsanAdi panca- kRtyAkRtbhAvitayA

Meaning: She is the One meditated upon by the doers of the five cosmic actions, starting with the lotus-seated Brahma, pankaja-Asana-Adi panca-kRtyAkRt-bhAvitayA - the one meditated (bhAvitayA) upon by the doers (kRtyAkRt) of the five (panca) cosmic actions, starting with (Adi) the lotus-seated (pankaja-Asana) Brahma,

O 1 2 3 4
P ; ; ; P D D P | ; ,d pmM ; M G M ; mdP P M gpM MR ||
Pan -- ka - jA- - - sa - - - nA- - - di-- pan- - - ca-

M G M ; P ; dpmg | M ; ; ; P ; ; ,n MP DN S ; ; ; ||
kR - - - tyA kR-- - - - - tbhA-- vi - ta - yA - - -

D P ; ; prssD ; D P | ; ,d pmM ; M G M ; mdP P M gpM MR ||
Pan -- ka - - jA- - - sa - - - nA- - - di-- pan- - - ca-

M G M ; P ; dpmg | M ; ; ; M P ; ,n MP DN S ; ; ; ||
kR - - - tyA kR-- - - - - tbhA-- vi - ta - yA - - -

Madhyama kAla sAhityam:

Soka hara catura padayA
mUka mukhya vAkpradayA
kOkanada vijaya padayA
guru guha tat-trai-padayA

Sahityam: SOka hara catura padayA mUka mukhya vAkpradayA

Meaning: The One whose feet are skilful at removing sorrows ... the One who granted eloquence to many led by the mute poet (Mooka kavi),

SOka hara catura padayA - the one whose feet (pada-yA) are skilful (chatura) at removing (hara) sorrows (SOka),
mUka mukhya vAk-pradayA - the one who granted (pradayA) eloquence (vAk) to many led by the mute poet (Mooka mukhya - kavi),

O 1 2 3 4
S ; N - R R - S N D | P D N ; S ; R - sn DP - M ; P dn dP ; ||
SO ka ha ra ca tu ra pa da yA mU-ka mu- - khya vAk- prada-yA--

Sahityam: kOkanada vijaya padayA guru guha tat-trai-padayA

Meaning: The One whose feet surpass the lotus (in loveliness),... the embodiment of the three-word (Mantra) of Guruguha,... kOkanada vijaya padayA - the one whose feet (padayA) surpass (Vijaya) the lotus (kOkanada) in loveliness
guru guha tat-trai-padayA - the embodiment of the three-word (tat-trai-padayA) Mantra of Guruguha,

O 1 2 3 4
mpS R G M - P D N | S rg rS , S D P M mgR rsS ; P D N ; ||
kO - ka na da vi ja ya pada- yA guru guha tat-- trai-- padayA-

Sahityam: Sri kamalAmbikayA kaTAKshitO(a)haM

Meaning: I am blessed with merciful glances by Goddess Kamalamba.

SR ; ; G ; M ,p | G ,m R ,g rs , ; ; ; N R S N D S N P ||
SrI - - ka - - ma - IAm - - - - - - - - bi - ka - yA - - -

D N - S ,r G ; M ; | mddp P ; mgR ; ; M G G R S ; S ,n ||
Ka - TA - - kshi tO - - - (a)haM - - - - - Sa - cci -

Sahityam: saccidAnanda paripUrNa brahmAsmi

Meaning: She is the the supreme being, filled with the bliss of existence and consciousness.

Asmi - (Hence) I am

sat-cit-Ananda paripUrNa brahma - the supreme being, filled with the bliss of existence and consciousness.

O 1 2 3 4
D ; ; ; dmP ; ; ; | M ; ; ; G ; M p g Gmp Gmr G R S ; ||
dA - - nan - - - da - - - pa - ri - - pU - - - - - rNa

N R S N D S N P | D N S - D N ; sn sr ; S ; ; ; ; ; ||
Brah - - - - - mA - - - - - smi - - - - -

CaraNam:

ananga kusumAdyashTa SaktyAkArayA
aruNa varNa saMkshObhaNa cakrAkArayA
ananta kOTyaNDa nAyaka Sankara nAyikayA
ashTa vargAtmaka gupta-tarayA varayA

Sahityam: ananga kusumAdyashTa SaktyAkArayA

Meaning: The One manifest as the eight goddess beginning with Ananga-kusuma, ananga kusuma-Adi-ashTa Sakti-AkArayA - the One manifest (AkArayA) as the eight goddess (ashTa Sakti) beginning (Adi) with Ananga-kusuma,...

O 1 2 3 4
S ; P ; ; ; pmM ; | G ; G R rp mg M ; ; ; G ,p mgR S ; ||
A nan - - ga - - ku su - mA - - - - - dya - - - - shTa

D ; N ; S ; ; ; | ; ; ; ; S M G ; Mpg G mr rG , ; ; ||
Sa - - - ktyA - - - - - kA - - - ra - - yA - - - - -

RS DP ; ; pmM ; | G ; G R rm mg M ; ; ; G ,p mgR S ; ||
A nan - - ga - - ku su - mA - - - - - dya - - - - shTa

S ,d N ; S rg rgmg | rsS ; ; S M G ; Mpg G mr rG , ; ; ||
Sa - - - ktyA - - - - - kA - - - ra - - yA - - - - -

S ; DP ; ; pmM ; | G ; G R rm mg M ; ; ; G ,p mgR S ; ||
A nan - - ga - - ku su - mA - - - - - dya - - - - shTa

S ,d N ; S rg rgmg | rsS ; ; S M G ; Mpg G mr rG , ; ; ||
Sa - - - ktyA - - - - - kA - - - ra - - yA - - - - -

Sahityam: aruNa varNa saMkshObhaNa cakrAkArayA

Meaning: The One residing in the red-coloured Samkshobana Chakra, the Chakra that agitates or excites, aruNa varNa saMkshObhaNa cakrAkArayA - the one residing in the red-coloured (aruNa varNa) Samkshobana Chakra, the Chakra that agitates or excites (AkArayA).

O 1 2 3 4
 N R S,n N P – D ; | N ; S ; S R G ,r R G M,g Gmp mgR ||
 A - ru- Na- var -- Na saM- - - - - kshO- - - -

S ; S ; S R G ; | M ; ; ; G ,m P ; ; ; - P sd dm P ; ; ||
 Bha Na ca - - - krA - - kA- - - - ra -- yA- - -

Sahityam: ananta kOTyaNDA nAyaka Sankara nAyikayA
Meaning: ... the consort of Shiva (Shankara), the lord of the infinite crores of universes, ananta kOTi-aNDA nAyaka Sankara nAyikayA - the consort (nAyikayA) of Shiva (Shankara), the lord (nAyaka) of the infinite crores (ananta kOTi) of universes (aNDA)

O 1 2 3 4
 S ; spM G ; G M | P ; ; ; ; ,m D ; ; ; P ; P M P ; ||
 A nan- - - ta - kO - - - - TyaN -- Da nA- - -

D ; N ; S ; ; ,n | S ,n S rg r s S ; ; N R S N DN ; ; ||
 ya ka San - - - ka -- ra - - nA- - - yi- ka - yA - -

Sahityam: ashTa vargaAtmaka gupta-tarayA varayA
Meaning: ... the immensely secret embodiment of letters grouped in eight sections (a,ka,ca,etc.)... the eminent one, ... ashTa varga-Atmaka gupta-tarayA - the immensely (tarayA) secret (Gupta) embodiment (Atmaka) of letters grouped in eight sections (ashTa varga - a,ka,ca,etc.) varayA - the eminent one,

O 1 2 3 4
 dP ; ; ; R ; rs ; | ; ; ; ; sp ; ; ; D ; N ; S ; ; ; ||
 a - - - shTa va- - - - rgA- - - tma ka gu

; ,n – N D P M - P dn | dmP ; ; ; ; ; G ; mpG Gmr rG, ||
 pta- ta - ra -- yA - - - - - va- ra-- yA- - -

Madhyama kAla sAhityam:

anangAdyupAsitayA ashTa daLABja sthitayA
 dhanurbANa dhara karayA dayA sudhA sAgarayA

Sahityam: anangAdyupAsitayA ashTa daLABja sthitayA
Meaning:.. the One worshipped by Manmatha and others, ... the One who resides in the eight- petal lotus, ananga-Adi-upAsitayA - the one worshipped (upAsitayA) by Manmatha (ananga) and others (Adi) ashTa daLa-abja sthitayA - the one who resides (sthitayA) in the eight (ashTa) petal (daLa) lotus (abja)

O 1 2 3 4
 S S pm; G ; M P ; | D N S ; S,n R – rg mgR S,n N D N ; ||
 A nan- -gA - dyu pA- si ta yA a - shTa da- LA—bja- sthita yA –

Sahityam: dhanurbANa dhara karayA dayA sudhA sAgarayA
Meaning: the One holding a bow and arrows in her hands, ... the ocean of the nectar of compassion. dhanurbANa dhara karayA - the one holding (dhara) a bow and arrows (dhanurbANa) in her hands (kara-yA) dayA sudhA sAgarayA - the ocean (sAgarayA) of the nectar (sudhA) of compassion (dayA).

O 1 2 3 4
 R , S , N D P – M M | P dn d P , R , S , - D , P , mp S R mp R S ||
 Dha nur bA - Na dhara kara- yA- da yA su - dhA sA-- ga ra- - yA -

Sahityam: Sri kamalAmbikayA kaTAKshitO(a)haM

Meaning: I am blessed with merciful glances by Goddess Kamalamba.

SR ; ; G ; M ,p | G ,m R ,g rs , ; ; ; N R S N D S N P ||
SrI - - ka - - ma - IAm - - - - - - - - bi - ka - yA - - -

D N - S ,r G ; M ; | mddp P ; mgR ; ; M G G R S ; S ,n ||
Ka - TA - - kshi tO - - - (a)haM - - - - - Sa - cci -

Sahityam: saccidAnanda paripUrNa brahmAsmi

Meaning: She is the the supreme being, filled with the bliss of existence and consciousness.

Asmi - (Hence) I am

sat-cit-Ananda paripUrNa brahma - the supreme being, filled with the bliss of existence and consciousness.

O 1 2 3 4
D ; ; ; dmP ; ; ; | M ; ; ; G ; M p g Gmp Gmr G R S ; ||
dA - - nan - - - da - - - pa - ri - - pU - - - - - rNa

N R S N D S N P | D N S - D N ; sn sr ; S ; ; ; ; ; ||
Brah - - - - - mA - - - - - smi - - - - -

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Alt Meaning (From Todd Mc Comb's web page:

<http://www.medieval.org/music/world/carnatic/lyrics/srao/kamala.html>;

Original: TK Govinda Rao's book):

Shri Kamalambika has cast Her gracious glance ("kata-akshi") on me ("to-aham"), and now I am identified ("asmi") with the nature of Absolute ("paripurna") Brahman ("brahma"), the fullness of existence ("sat"), consciousness ("chit") and bliss ("ananda").

Indra ("paaka-shaasana") and other ("aadi") celestials ("sakala devataa") attend ("sevitayaa") on Her.

She is adored ("bhaavitayaa") by Brahma ("pankaja-asana") and others ("aadi") who perform the Pancakritya, the five ("pancha") cosmic acts ("krut").

Her feet are adroit ("chatura") at removing ("hara") grief ("shoka").

She endowed ("pradayaa") the gift of speech ("vaak") in Mooka and made him a Kavi.

Her victorious ("vijaya") feet ("padayaa") are like red lotus ("kokanada").

She is the embodiment of the three-word ("traipadayaa") mantra Tat-Tvam-Asi imparted by Guruguha.

Her form ("aakaaryaa") is of eight ("ashta") Shaktis ("shktyaa"), Anangakusuma and the rest.

She is the color ("varna") of dawn, Aruna (i.e. red color).

She is enshrined ("arayaa") in the Samkshobhana Chakra.

She is the consort ("nayikayaa") of Shankara, who is the Lord ("naayaka") of innumerable universes ("ananta-kotyananda").

She is of the nature ("aatmaka") of eternal and hidden ("gupta") Aштavarga, the eight ("ashta") groups ("varga") of alphabets.

She is worshipful ("tarayaa varayaa"), seated ("sthitayaa") on an eight-petalled ("ashta-dala") lotus ("abja").

She is worshiped ("dyupaasitayaa") by Ananga the Cupid.

She holds ("dhara") in her hand ("karayaa") a bow ("dhanur") and arrows ("baana").

She is an embodiment ("saagarayaa") of the nectar ("sudha") of compassion ("dayaa").

Notes from Sri Dikshita Kirtana Mala by Sri. A. Sundaram Iyer:

3rd Avarana Keertanam:

1) *The following are the essence of the "Brahman":*

- a. "Sath" is the everlasting imperishable quality
- b. "Chith" is the revealer
- c. "Anandam" manifests the enjoyment.

2) *All things in the universe manifest the above essential qualities.*

3) *Immovable things reveal the subsistence ("sath") quality in greater measure than other qualities. Movable things reveal the knowledge ("chith") quality in greater measure than other qualities. The Gods reveal the bliss ("anandam") quality in greater measure than other qualities.*

4) *This 3rd avarana is called Sarva Samkshobhana chakra (the agitator of everything).*

5) *By reciting this mantra 15 lakh times, one shall achieve*

- a. True wisdom
- b. All auspicious things with the aid of Sri Lalita Mahatripurasundari

Thanks to Mrs. Janaki Krishnamoorthy for the following notes based upon “KritiManiMaalai” (Dikshitar edition) by Ranga Ramanuja Iyengar and “Yantra” by Madhu Khanna (Thames and Hudson Limited, Publishers)

Sri Chakra, A brief introduction

The Saktam sect of Hinduism approaches the Brahman or Absolute consciousness through the worship of Sri Tripura Sundari, the Supreme Mother. She is the source of all creation. In Her knowledge aspect, She is called Sri Vidya. The Sri Yantram is the most celebrated of all yantras and is employed in Sri Vidya Upasana. Yantra and mantra together represent the union of space and sound. They are inseparable, with mantra being the soul and yantra being the body of Subtle Sound (Nada Brahman). Yantras are geometric objects (involving shapes of triangle, squares and circles) in either 2 or 3 dimensions.

They are used as an aid in meditation and in tantric worship practices. In most yantras for meditation, the stages of progression from material or gross to subtle are clearly marked. Closed, concentric circuits (mandalas) of various geometric shapes correspond to the planes of consciousness of the sadhaka. Each enclosure is an ascent of one’s being, a way station, toward the innermost, the Absolute Unity.

The Sri Yantra is composed of interpenetrating triangles, symbolizing the unity of Siva and Sakti.. The four upward pointing triangles emanate from the Siva Principle and denote the individual soul and its vital energies. The five downward pointing triangles represent the Sakti principle and from them arise the five material elements (Pancha Bhootas, earth, water, fire, air and space). All the vowels and consonants in Sanskrit are inscribed in the vertices of the Sri Yantra. The Sri Yantra also has nine circuits (avaranas). In each of the enclosures specific deities are invoked, each circuit being considered as a cosmological form which supports devata-clusters, or groups of goddesses. The deity-clusters are like veils concealing the yantra’s innermost essence. After the sadhaka has invoked all the devatas in the prescribed manner for meditation, he reaches a level of consciousness in which all the devata-circles are fused to become the presiding deity at the center of the yantra. Gradually, this central deity itself disappears and merges into the center of spiritual consciousness, the Bindu (the focal point or center) of the yantra and the highest psychic center between the adept’s eyebrows.

A spiritual journey is taken as a pilgrimage in which every step is an ascent to the center, a movement beyond one’s limited existence. Traditionally such a journey is mapped in nine stages, and each of these stages corresponds with one of the nine circuits of which the yantra is composed. Starting from the outer square and moving inwards, the nine rings bear specific names, related to their characteristics.

(1) The first Avaranam is Bhoopuram and the Chakram is Trailokyamohana chakra ‘enchants the three worlds’; The yogini is Prakata, the mental state of the aspirant is Jagrata, Chakra Iswari is Tripura and the Saktis are 28 that include the ten starting with Anima, the eight starting with Brahmya and the ten Mudra Saktis. [**ANANDA BHAIRAVI: Kamalamba Samrakshatu**]

(2) The second Avaranam is Shodasa Dalam, and the Chakram is Sarvasapariapuraka chakra, ‘fulfills all expectations’; The yogini is Gupta Yogini. The mental state is Swapna, the Chakra Iswari is Tripurasi and the Saktis are the sixteen starting with Kamakarshini. [**KALYANI: Kamalambam Bhajare**]

(3) The third Avaranam is Ashtha Dalam; The Chakram is Sarvasamkshobana chakra, ‘agitates all’; the Yogini is Gupta Tara Yogini. The mental state is Sushupti, the Chakra Iswari is Tripura Sundari and the Saktis are the eight starting with Ananga Kusuma. [**SHANKARABHARANAM: Shree Kamalaambikayaa Katakshitoam**]

(4) The fourth Avaranam is Chaturdasaram; the Chakram is Sarvasaubhagyadayaka chakra, ‘grants excellence’; the Yogini is Sampradaya Yogini. The mental state is Iswara Vicharam, Chakra Iswari is Tripura Vasini and the Saktis are the fourteen starting with Samkshobhini. [**KAMBODHI: Kamalaambikaayai Kanakamshukaayai**]

(5) The fifth Avaranam is Bahirdasaram; the Chakram is Sarvarthasadhakachakra, is the ‘accomplisher of all’; the Yogini is Kulotteerna yogini. The mental state is Guroopa Sadanam; the Chakra Iswari is Tripura Sri and the Saktis are the ten starting with Sarva Siddhi Prada. [**BHAIRAVI: Shree Kamalaambikaayaah Param Nahire**]

(6) The sixth Avaranam is Antardasaram; the Chakram is Sarvaraksakara chakra, ‘protects all’; the Yogini is Nigarbha Yogini. The mental state is Upadesam; the Chakra Iswari is Tripura Malini and the Saktis are the ten starting with Sarvagnya. [**PUNNAGAVARALI: Kamalaambikaayaastava Bhaktoham**]

(7) The Seventh Avaranam is Asthakonam; the Chakram is Sarvarogahara chakra, ‘cures all ills’; the Yogini is Rahasya Yogini. The mental state is Mananam; the chakra Iswari is Tripura Siddhaa and the Saktis are the eight, starting with Vashini. [**SAHANA: Shree Kamalaambikaayaam Bhaktim Karomi**]

(8) The eighth Avaranam is Trikonam; the Chakram is Sarvasiddhiprada chakra, ‘grants all perfection’; the Yogini is Ati Rahasya Yogini. The mental state is Nitidhyasanam; the Chakra Iswari is Tripuramba and the Saktis are the three starting with Kameshwari. [**GHANTA: Shree Kamalaambike Avaava**]

(9) The ninth Avaranam is the Bindu and the highest Chakram is Sarvanandamaya chakra, ‘replete with bliss’. The mental state is Savikalpa Samadhi; the Chakra Iswari is Maha Tripura Sundari and the Shakti is Maha Tripura Sundai, the very personification of Para Brahman. [**AHIRI: Shree Kamalaambaa Jayati**]

At the periphery of the Sri Yantra, the square, the adept contemplates his own passions such as anger, fear, lust, etc., to overcome or conquer them. The eight psychological tendencies that are considered obstacles of the mind are also invoked, as eight Matrika Saktis, in the second line of the outer periphery. Either they flank the four 'doors' of the yantra or they are invoked in the square band (bhupura). Generally they are what we experience of the world through sense-activity and the cravings of our egotism.

Note on Sri Kamalamba Nava Avarana Kritis

A spiritual aspirant needs to seek a guru and be initiated into the esoteric practice of Sri Vidya Upasana. The practice itself requires strict adherence to lists of Do's and Don't's. Most people would find that the task of finding the guru and the rigors of the practice are difficult. Sri Muthuswamy Dikshitar was a great Devi Upasaka and was well versed in all aspects of Sri Vidya Upasana. Out of his devotion to Sri Kamalamba, (one of the 64 Sakti Peethams in India), the celebrated deity at the famous Tyagaraja Temple in Tiruvallur and his compassion for all bhaktas, Sri Muthuswamy Dikshitar composed the the Kamalamba Nava Avarana kritis, expounding in each of the nine kritis, the details of the each avarana of the Sri Chakra, including the devatas and the yoginis. Singing these kritis with devotion, sraddha and understanding would be the easy way to Sri Vidya Upasana for most people.

The set also includes a dhyana kriti, a mangala kriti and traditionally sung on the nine days of Navaratri. One starts with the Ganasa kriti followed by the guru kriti (to Sri BalaSubrahmanya) and continues with the dhyana and each of the avarana kritis. The rendering concludes with the mangalam kriti.