

*Alan Spence***Kali**

I am your wildest dream, your worst nightmare,
and if you pray to me, be sure your prayer
is pure as fire, essential as the air
you breathe, then know me, always, everywhere.

My darkness is a lustre, deep and rare.
The universe is tangled in my hair,
I shake it, shake it, shake it out, and there
it dazzles, beautiful beyond compare.

See, round my neck, this garland that I wear,
not flowers but skulls - my enemies beware.
I dance my demons down, I am the slayer
of multitudes - defy me if you dare.

But love me, child, adore me, hold me dear
and in my sweet embrace know who you are.
Sing *Kali Kali Kali Ma Amar*.
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Alan Spence is an award-winning Scottish poet and playwright, novelist and short story writer. He is Professor Emeritus in Creative Writing at the University of Aberdeen and is currently the Edinburgh Makar (Poet Laureate). With his wife Janani he runs the Sri Chinmoy meditation centre in Edinburgh.