

KALI's KILLER THUGS

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Worshippers of Kali – the monstrous goddess of destruction and demon-slayer, initiated India's Thug cult, who sacrificially strangled many thousands of victims, becoming the original killer cult. Thugs existed as a clandestine sect for almost a thousand years, longer than any other known killer cult. The full body-count of Thuggee victims, like its real origins, remains an unsolved mystery, but the cult spread across India like a plague. Their *modus operandi* grew increasingly gruesome and ruthless, joyfully massacring women, children and babies. This reign of terror only terminated when the British army hunted-down and hanged some four-thousand prototype, group serial killers. Incredibly, even now this cult remains shrouded in secrecy, yet they created a terrorist conspiracy with international links. Today this legacy is more relevant than ever.

You must go much further back for the full story, to the dawn of time, pre-history, the age of mythology...

Kali's Eternal Death Dance

Our planet was being laid waste by evil demons, Shumbha and Nishumbha, whose power proliferated. They were fearless and ruthless, possessing divine protection and knowing mortals couldn't kill them. The finest generals led massive armies into battle against them but all were routed. Even the gods were powerless against them and fled heaven as the demons advanced. In a last bid for salvation, the gods summoned the goddess to save the universe from demonic tyranny and destruction.

Parvati – the goddess, bathed in the Ganges and heard their prayers; she magically created another goddess from her body. Ugly, blackened and grotesque in appearance, she was named "Kalika". After vowing to exterminate the demons, she was approached by Shumbha's messenger, offering the goddess Shumbha's hand in marriage. Kalika replied she would marry whoever defeated her in battle. Shumbha was infuriated and sent another envoy. Kalika hummed and sighed as she roasted him alive!

Suddenly an army of raging demons attempted to storm Kalika's Calcutta fortress. But her mighty lion saw them off. Then demon generals Chunda and Munda, manoeuvred their armies to outflank Kalika and besiege her. Kalika assessed the logistics and changed tactics. While chanting herself into a trance, her forehead was torn open and a new goddess crawled out. Clad in tight-fitting tiger skin, she held aloft a shimmering sword and noose. Her fierce onslaught caught the enemy off-guard; they retreated in disarray. Amidst confusion, Chanda and Munda were captured, and decapitated at Kalika's command.

The strongest demon – Raktabij, protected Shmbha from Kalika's advance. But Kalika was not daunted and engaged Raktabij in savage combat. As she slashed deeply into the demon's flesh, blood oozed from his wounds. When each drop hit the earth, it exploded and mutated into another raging demon. Warrior demons proliferated and Kalika realised the more she wounded Raktabij, the more demons amassed against her. Again Kalika deployed Chamunda, to extend her gigantic tongue and lick-up every drop of Raktabij's cursed blood, before any touch the ground. Having accomplished this, they watched Raktabij, scream in agony and die. His multitudes of bloody offspring were maddened and approached Kalika, who sweated profusely. She wiped her brow and from her sweat two loyal disciples arose, to each she handed a noose. They charged the demons, strangling all without spilling a drop of blood; for this service, Kalika rewarded them with the right to kill in perpetuity and benefit from the spoils, but warned them to obey her omens.

Meanwhile Shumbha and Nishumbha's armies ambushed Kalika, riding defiantly atop her lion. The gods looked-on helplessly as their champion prepared to meet her fate; although their powers were depleted, they realised one chance remained. If they all pooled together their remaining abilities and invested it in Kalika, she might muster enough strength for a final struggle. Bramhadev evoked his power on a swan; Shankar's purveyor rode on a bull. A peacock represented Kartikaya's virginal force, while an eagle soared with Vaishnavi's strength, and Aindri's power came via an elephant. Kalika felt rejuvenated and another ferocious battle raged as Kalika's new strengths mercilessly massacred demon hordes. Shumbha watched fearfully as his superior tactical ability and combat experience was outmanoeuvred. Then reconnaissance reported Nishumbha had been slain....