

Mala (impurity) in Kashmir Shaivism

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Mala (impurity) cannot be explained like something physical.

Mala is very subtle, i.e., neither formless nor with form.

Mala is simply absence of knowledge, it not something substantial.

Āṇavamala – feeling of being incomplete (shrunk) – a limitation in one's Being.

Māyīyamala – relative feeling of differentiation – “this is mine, this is not mine.”

Karmamala – personal feeling of limitation – “I am happy, I am sad,” etc.

Māyīyamala and *Kārmamala* function together and have their basis in *māyā* (illusion).

Āṇavamala is the foundation of these two *malas* and has its basis in *viññānakala* (just above *māyā*).

All these *malas* come out from *svātantrya śakti* (Lord Śiva's universal independent freedom).

See [Kashmir Shaivism – the Secret Supreme](#), chapter 7