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#### MARIAMMAN

THE GODDESS OF RAIN

# ADI SHAKTHI THE GODDESS OF RAIN FORM

MARIAMMAN, MUTHU
MARIAMMAN, MARIYAIEE, ARE THE
VARIOUS NAMES USED TO CALL
THE GODDESS OF RAIN, IS
CELEBRATED AND ADORNED AS
THE CONSORT OF LORD SHIVA IN
HINDUISM. SHE IS ALSO MUTHU
MARIAMMAN BECAUSE SHE IS THE
GODDESS OF SMALLPOX.

## MARIAMMAN



THIS GODDESS IS POPULABLY BEING WORSHIPPED BY THE GREAT HASS OF PEOPUL FOR THAN IN AND SINCE SHE IS GODDESS OF POOR AND YILLAGE PEOPLE HER PRINE TEMPLES ARE SITUATED IN YARIOUS PARTS OF THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY. MARIAMMAN IS THE SYMBOL OF SACRIFICE AND MOTHERHOOD AND SHE WILL OFFER ABUNDANT WEALTH AND GOOD HEATTH TO HER FAITHFUL DEVOTESS. THOSE DAYS SHE WAS ALSO WORSHIPPED AS THE GOODDESS ONE WIS OWN WILL SAVE HER PEOPLE FROM THE VIRAL DISEASES LIKE SMALLPOX, MEASLES AND CHICKEMPOX. MARGOS TREE AND LEAVES, TURMERIC POWDER AND RAIN ARE THE THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH COUNTRY METALEMENT AND THE WIRE THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH

IN LEGEND IT IS TOLD
THAT SHE IS THE
OTHER INCARNATION

OTHER INCARNATION
OF GODDESS
SHAKTHI, THE
CONSORT OF LORD

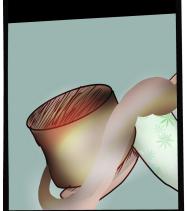
SHIVA. THERE IS AN INTERESTING STORY ABOUT THIS GODDESS.

ONCE LORD SHIVA AND GODDESS SHAKTHI TOOK THE INCARNATION OF SAINT JAMADHAKNI AND RENUKADEVI ON THE EARTH.

THEY HAD FIVE SONS NAMELY VISU, VISWAS, VISWARUBAN,
PARANJOTHI, AND PARASURAMAN. SHRI RENUKADEVI DID ALL THE
FAYORS TO HER HUSBAND SAINT JAMADHAKNI.



SHE HAD GREAT SPIRITUAL POWER AS SHE WAS ABLE TO MAKE A POT OUT OF FRESH MUD IN WHICH HE USED TO CARRY WATER FOR POOJA ACTIVITIES AT THEIR HOME.



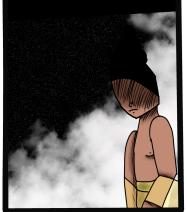
SHE REPORTED HER HUSBAND THAT SHE WAS DISTURBED BY AN ANIMAL AND SO SHE COULD NOT BRING THE WATER TO HOME. BUT THE SAINT KNEW THE TRUTH BY HIS GNAN AND BECAME FURIOUS.



HE ASKED HIS FIRST FOUR SONS TO CUT OFF THE HEAD OF THEIR MOTHER. BUT, THEY REFUSED TO DO THAT. THE SAINT CURSED THEM AND CALLED OUT HIS YOUNGETS SON PARSURAMAN WHO VALUED THE WORDS OF HIS FATHER. ONCE HIS FATHER TOLD TO CHOP OFF THE HEAD OF HIS MOTHER, HE IMMEDIATELY RUSHED TO CHASE RENUKADEVI.



THE PITY RENUKADEVI RAN FOR LIFE SEKING OTHERS HELP. ON HER WAY SHE MET AN ARUNDATHI GIRL AND STOOD BEHIND HER. ON SEING THE MERCIESS ACTIVITY OF PARASURAMAN, ARUNDATHI GIRL REFUSED TO LEAVE RENUKADEVI DESPITE THE WARNING OF PARASURAMAN.



AT THE END PARASURAMAN CHOPPED OFF THE HEADS OF BOTH OF THEM AND BROUGHT THEM TO HIS FATHER WITH GRIEVE. SEEING THIS THE SAINT APPRECIATED HIS SON AND BLESSED HIM WITH BOON.

PARASURAMAN FELL ON THE FOOT OF HIS FATHER TO GIVE LIFE BACK TO
HIS BROTHERS MOTHER AND ARUDATHI GIRL.

HE GAVE HIS SON HOLY WATER WHICH WOULD BE POWERFUL TO FIX THE HEADS OF WOMEN. AFTER GETTING THE HOLY WATER HE SAVED HIS BROTHERS AND RUSHED TO THE SPOT WHERE HE KILLED HIS MOTHER AND



BUT IN CONFUSION HE CHANGED THE HEADS AND BODIES AND HIXED HIS MOTHER'S HEAD ON THE BODY OF ARUNDATH GIRL FROM THAT DAY RENUKADEYI, THE INCARNATION OF GODDESS SHAKTHI GOT THE BODY OF ARUNDATHI GIRL AND BEGAN TO BE HUMBLY WORSHIPPED AS SHRI MARIAMMAN.





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#### **GODDESS USHA**

THE BRINGER OF DAWN

#### **USHA**

USHA IS REGARDED AS THE DAUGHTER OF THE HEAVENS, SISTER OF THE NIGHT, CONSORT OF THE SUN AND THE MOTHER OF THE ASHWINS, THE VEDIC GODS AND SHE ARRIVES EVERYDAY RIDING A CHARIOT DRAWN BY HER SONS.



SHE IS SIMPLY GLOWING AND IS
WELL ADORNED. THOUGH
CONSIDERED SHY AND DELICATE, SHE
IS BELIEVED TO BE A GRACEFUL
DANCER.



SHE IS ALSO HIGHLY POPULAR AS THE PRECURSOR TO THE DAY, AS IT IS USHA WHO LEADS THE SUN INTO THROWING HIS GLANCE ON THE EARTH AND THUS, REVEAL HIS

IMMENSE POWER AND WARMTH TO THE BEINGS OF THE WORLD

THE SACRED VEDAS REFER TO HER MORE THAN 300 TIMES AND CELEBRATE HER

GREATNESS IN AS MANY AS 20 HYMNS AS PER THEM. SHE DRIVES AWAY DARKNESS AND

BANISHES THE EVIL SPIRITS REPRESENTED BY IT. SHE THUS REMOVES INERTIA. GALVANIZES PEOPLE INTO ACTION AND SETS THINGS IN MOTION TOWARDS POSITIVE OUTCOMES.

USHA IS RANKED AS A DIVINITY IN HER OWN RIGHT. SHE IS REGARDED AS A CELESTIAL YOGINI, A FORM OF GODDESS , WHO IS HELD AS SPIRITUAL AS A DEVI OR EVEN MORE. BEING A SORT

OF A YOGINI, USHA IS ALSO A FEMININE DIVINITY WHO AWAREN THE NOBILITY FROM THE INNER MOST DEPTHS OF THE HUMAN SOUL. SHE IS THE FORCE THAT PROPELS EVEN THE GODS INTO ACTION. AS THE MOTHER OF THE ASHWINS, SHE IS ALSO WORSHIPPED AS THE SHAKITH, THE POWER THAT CAN HEAL. CIVE BOONS, BESTOW SIDDHIS, THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND BLESS PROFILE WITH IMMENSE KNOWLEDGE AND GRACE



USHA IS ALSO THE EMBODIMENT OF THE DESCENDING, EARLY MORNING SUNRAYS, REFERRED TO AS DAWN. SHE ALSO REPRESENTS THE USHA KAAL, THE TIME JUST BEFORE AND AROUND THE DAYBREAK, THAT IS CONSIDERED VERY AUSPICIOUS. AS THE ONE WHO BRINGS IN A FRESH DAY ON TO THE EARTH, HER RAYS OF THE EARLY MORNING LICHT EMIT ON US GREAT ENERGY AND WARMTH, AND INTRODUCE US TO OUR OWN TRUE REALITY, AS TRANSCENDENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS. GODDESS USHA IS RECARDED AS ONE WHO CAN SATISTY THE

LONGINGS OF THE WORLDLY BEINGS, ADD STRENGTH AND ENLIVEN THEIR SPIRITS. SHE IS WORSHIPPED BY SACES, ASCETICS AND COMMONERS ALIKE, FOR BRINGING IN LIGHT AND REMOVING DARKNESS, AND ALSO FOR BESTOWING A LONG AND PURPOSEFUL LIFE.





## **GODDESS VAC**

**SPOKEN WORDS** 

## VAC

THE MYSTERIES SURROUNDING SPEECH SPEAKS OF THE TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF GODDESS VAC. VAC MEANS SPEECH. IT IS BELIEVED THAT GODDESS VAC INSPIRES TRUTH. HER NUMINOUS PRESENCE HELPS ONE TO HEAR, GRASP AND SEE THEREBY EXPRESSING THE TRUE NATURE OF THINGS THROUGH WORDS. SHE IS THE PROMPTER AND VEHICLE OF EXPRESSION. SHE IS ASSOCIATED WITH RSIS AND THE RITUALS THAT CAN CAPTURE THE TRUTH OF THER VISIONS. SHE IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF RELIGIOUS POETIC VISIONARY EXPERIENCE OF THE SACRIFICIAL BITUALS.



SHE IS CONSIDERED AS THE PROVIDER OF VISION. GODDESS VAC IS CONSIDERED AS A HEAVENLY QUEEN, THE QUEEN OF THE CODDS. SHE IS KNOWN TO BESTOW IMPORTANT POWERS. SHE IS ELUCIDATED AS AN ELECANT WOMAN, COURTLY AND ADORNED WITH GOLD. SHE IS BENIGN AND COPIOUS. SHE ENDOWS THE RICHES OF LANGUAGE AS WELL AS IS PRAISED FOR GIVING LIGHT AND ENERGY. ACCORDING TO A HYMN SHE IS THE PROVIDER OF FOOD. SHE IS A NOURISHING AND PERVASIVE DEITY. SHE STIMULATES ORGANIC GROWTH THEREBY PROVIDING BLESSINGS OF LANGUAGE AND VISION. AT TIMES SHE IS A LISO INVOKED AS SHE JA LAGUAGE AND VISION. AT TIMES SHE IS ALSO INVOKED AS SHE ALAGUAGE AND VISION. AT TIMES SHE IS ALSO INVOKED AS



SHE IS ALSO CONSIDERED AS MOTHER AS IT IS SHE WHO
GIVES BIRTH TO THINGS BY NAMING THEM. YAC IS
CONSIDERED AS BOUNTEOUS WHO PROVIDES LOFTY
DISCERNING VISION OF RSI, RITUAL FORMULAS OF PRIEST,
COLLOQUIAL LANGUAGE OF PEOPLE. IN THE BRAHMMAS
HER CHARACTER IS WELL DEVELOPED. THERE SHE IS
ASSOCIATED WITH BITUAL AND CREATION. HER VITALITY IN
RITUAL AND CULTS HAS BEEN EMPHASIZED IN MYTHS.

AS SHE IS ALSO CONSIDERED AS THE CREATOR IT IS BELIEVED THAT SHE HAS CREATED THE THREE VEDAS. THE THREE ARE THE RIG VEDA YAULUR VEDA AND SAMA VEDAS SHE IS ALSO KNOWN TO HAVE ENTERED THE PLACE OF VEGETATION THUS ENLIVENING IT. IN OTHER TEXTS PRAJAPATI IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO GOODESS VAC.



IN THE VEDAS VAC PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT SHE IS CO ETERNAL WITH PRAJAPATI. IT DOES SEEM FROM THESE TEXTS THAT THEY HAVE AN EXALTED POSITION. VAC IS DESCRIBED IN THE RIG VEDA AS SPEECH, TRUTH AND PERCEPTION WHICH ALLOWS ONE TO TURN DIVINE KNOWLEDGE INTO WORDS. EVENTUALLY SHE WAS SYNCHRONIZED WITH THE GODDESS SARASWATI, RULER OF KNOWLEDGE. VAC IS THE SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE IT TO OTHERS.





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## **ANNAPURNA DEVI**



LORD SHIVA AND GODDESS PARVATI
USED TO PLAY THE GAME OF DICE. ONCE
THEY WERE PLAYING AND THE GAME
BECAME VERY INTERESTING. THEY
STARTED BETTING. PARVATI KEPT HER
JEWELS AND SHIVA KEPT HIS TRIDENT.
SHIVA LOST THE GAME AND HE LOST HIS
TRIDENT. SO IN THE NEXT GAME HE BET
HIS SNAKE TO GET BACK THE TRIDENT.
HE LOST IN THIS GAME TOO. HE PLAYED
MORE AND BET MORE AND KEPT ON
LOSING. EVENTUALLY HE LOST
EVERYTHING INCLUDING HIS BEGGING

BOWL.



SHIVA FELT VERY HUMILIATED AND WENT TO DEODAR FOREST TO MEET LORD VISHNU. LORD VISHNU APPROACHED SHIVA WHO TOLD HIM EVERYTHING ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED. LORD VISHNU THEN TOLD SHIVA TO PLAY THE GAME AGAIN. HE TOLD HIM THAT HE WILL WIN BACK EVERYTHING HE HAD LOST IN THE NEXT GAME. SHIVA TOOK LORD VISHNU'S ADVICE AND WENT BACK TO PLAY THE GAME AGAIN.

GODDESS PARVATI BECAME SUSPICIOUS OF SHIVA'S SUDDEN TURN OF FORTUNES THAT LED HIM TO WIN BACK EVERYTHING. SHE CALLED HIM A CHEAT. THIS LED TO AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM. FINALLY, LORD VISHNU APPEARED AS HE COULD NOT TAKE THE FICHT ANYMORE. HE TOLD THEM THAT THE DICE IN THE GAME HAD MOVED ACCORDING TO HIS WISH AND THEY WERE ONLY UNDER AN ILLUSION THAT THEY HAD BEEN PLAYING.



TO THIS SHIVA ADDED THAT EVERYTHING MATERIALISTIC WAS JUST AN ILLUSION OR MAYA. EVERYTHING THAT WE POSSESSED WAS AN ILLUSION. EVEN THE FOOD WE ATE WAS MAYA. THIS MADE GODDESS PARVATI ANGRY. SHE DID NOT AGREE THAT FOOD WAS AN ILLUSION. SHE SAID THAT CALLING FOOD AN ILLUSION WAS EQUIVALENT TO CALLING HER AN ILLUSION. SO IN ORDER TO SHOW LORD SHIVA AND THE WORLD HER IMPORTANCE SHE DISAPPEARED SAYING THAT SHE WANTED TO SEE HOW THE WORLD WOULD SURVIVE WITHOUT FOOD.



HER DISAPPEARANCE MEANT THAT
NATURE CAME TO A STANDSTILL.
THERE WERE NO CHANGES IN
SEASONS. EVERYTHING BECAME
BARREN. THE LANDS BECAME
INFERTILE. NOTHING GREW
ANYMORE. THIS LED TO SEVERE
DROUGHT AND A HUGE SHORTAGE
OF FOOD.



THE GODS, HUMANS AND DEMONS ALL KEPT PRAYING FOR FOOD. GODDESS PARVATI HEARD THE PRAYERS AND SHE COULD NOT SEE HER CHILDREN PERISHING OUT OF HUNGER. SO SHE APPEARED IN KASHI (VARANASI) AND STARTED DISTRIBUTING FOOD.



SHIVA REALIZED HIS MISTAKE AND THE FACT THAT HE WAS INCOMPLETE WITHOUT SHAKTI. SO HE APPEARED BEFORE GODDESS PARVATI IN KASHI WITH A BEGING BOW. IN HIS HANDS. HE SAID HER THAT HE HAD REALIZED HIS MISTAKE THAT FOOD COULD NOT BE DISMISSED AS AN ILLUSION AND IT WAS REQUIRED TO NOURISH THE BODY AS WELL AS THE INNER SOUL. SINCE THEN GODDESS PARVATI IS WORSHIPPED AS THE GODDESS PARVATI IS WORSHIPPED AS THE GODDESS OF FOOD – ANNAPURNA DEVI. IT IS BELIEVED THAT IF THE FOOD IS COOKED WITH A SPIRIT OF HOLINESS IT BECOMES SACRED AS ANAPURNA DESSES IT





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#### STORIES OF LUCKSHMI



#### LAKSHMI AND THE OWL

EVERY PERSON HAS A DESIRE TO GET WEALTH AND WEALTH. FOR THIS PEOPLE WORSHIP GODDESS LAKSHMI AND LORD GANESHA. IT IS A RELIGIOUS BELIEF THAT IF A PERSON IS BLESSED BY GODDESS LAKSHMI, THEN THERE IS NEVER ANY SHORTAGE OF WEALTH AND PROSPERITY IN HIS LIFE. MAA LAKSHMI IS WORSHIPED AS THE GODDESS OF WEALTH AMONG THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HINDUISM.

JUST AS IN HINDUISM, THE VEHICLE OF ALL THE GODS AND GODDESSES IS SOME ANIMAL OR BIRD. SIMILARLY, GODDESS LAKSHMI CHOSE THE OWL BIRD AS HER VEHICLE. LET'S KNOW THE MYTHOLOGICAL STORY BEHIND MAA LAKSHMI CHOOSING HER VEHICLE OWL.



AFTER THE CREATION OF NATURE AND ANIMALS AND BIRDS, WHEN ALL THE GODS AND GODDESSES WERE CHOOSING THEIR VEHICLES, THEN MATA LAKSHMI CAME TO THE EARTH TO CHOOSE HER VEHICLE, THEN ALL THE ANIMALS AND BIRDS PRESENTED THEMSELVES IN FRONT OF MAA LAKSHMI AND URGED THEMSELVES TO CHOOSE THEIR VEHICLE, THEN LAKSHMI JI TOLD ALL THE ANIMALS AND BIRDS THAT I ROAM THE EARTH ON THE NEW MOON OF KARTIK MONTH, AT THAT TIME WHICHEVER ANIMAL AND BIRD WILL REACH THEM FIRST, I WILL MAKE IT MY VEHICLE.



AMAVASYA NIGHT IS VERY DARK. THAT IS WHY ON THIS NIGHT ALL THE ANIMALS AND BIRDS ARE LESS VISIBLE. WHEN MOTHER LAKSHMI CAME TO EARTH ON THE NEW MOON NIGHT OF KARTIK MONTH. THEN THE OWL FIRST SAW MOTHER LAKSHMI AND SHE REACHED MATA LAKSHMI BEFORE ALL THE ANIMALS AND BIRDS BECAUSE THE OWL IS VISIBLE EVEN AT NIGHT. PLEASED WITH THESE QUALITIES OF OWL, GODDESS LAKSHMI CHOSE HIM AS HER RIDE. SINCE THEN MATA LAKSHMI IS ALSO CALLED ULUK VAHINI.

ACCORDING TO MYTHOLOGICAL BELIEF, OWL IS THE MOST INTELLIGENT NOCTURNAL ANIMAL. OWL ALREADY GETS THE KNOWLEDGE OF PAST AND FUTURE.

OWL RIDING ON GODDESS LAKSHMI IS CONSIDERED A

SYMBOL OF AUSPICIOUSNESS AND WEALTH IN

INDIAN CULTURE.
SEEING AN OWL ON

THE NIGHT OF DEEPAWALI IS CONSIDERED TO BE A SIGN OF LAKSHMI'S

ARRIVAL.





ACCORDING TO STORIES MOST OF US WOULD HAVE SEEN THE CALENDER OR PICTURE IN WHICH GODDESS LAKSHMI IS SITTING NEAR THE FEET OF VISHNU WHO IS SLEEPING ON A SERPENT BED IN MILK OCEAN AND MASSAGING HIS FEET, GODDESS LAKSHMI IS THE GIVER OF WEALTH AND THE WEALTH HAS ONLY ONE PURPOSE TO SERVE THE SLEEPING DIVINITY IN EACH OF US.THE SAME GODDESS LAKSHMI RIDES THE OWLOWLS ARE THE PEOPLE DRIVEN BY MONEY THEIR ONLY AGENDA IS MONEY AND CREATE A LINEAR, BORING AND MONOTONOUS WORLD.OWLS CANNNOT SEE IN DAYLIGHT .IN WISDOM FOR THEY DONT UNDERSTAND IF THEY HAVE MONEY OF THE WHOLE WORLD LEAVE THIS EARTH TO BE BORN AGAIN IN SLUMS CAN THEY LAY CLAIM?



HERE IN LIES THE JUSTICE OF OMNIPOTENT.ALMIGHTY GOD.OWLS ALSO QUESTION THE DIVINITY AND THOUGH THEY HOARD EVERYTHING YET ONLY A SPIRITUAL PERSON CAN FEEL THE BLISS OF STARS .SKY . MOON.THIS MYSTICAL WORLD AND BEYOND LET THE MONEY SUSTAIN YOU ,SERVE YOUR CAUSE AND NOT RULE YOUR HEAD ONLY BY LIVING IN WISDOM, REMOVING THE THICK VEIL OF MAYA THE THINGS CAN BE SEEN IN PURE AND MAGICAL CONSIQUENESS SADLY THE OWLS ARE RULING SO INPLACE OF SEEING VRINDAVAN EVERYWHERE ,EVEN THE KUNJ GALL OF VRINDAVAN ARE STENCHING AND SMFILING

## LAKSHMI AND THE FARMER





ONE DAY BHAGAVAN VISHNU WAS GETTING READY TO ROAM ON EARTH. GODDESS LAKSHMI. HIS CONSORT, TOO WANTED TO GO ALONG WITH VISHNU. BHAGAVAN AGREED TO GODDESS LAKSHMI'S WISH BUT ON ONE CONDITION THAT WHILE ON EARTH SHE SHOULD NOT LOOK TO THE NORTH SIDE, SOON THE DIVINE COUPLE LEFT VAIKUNTA AND REACHED EARTH.



GODDESS LAKSHMI WAS ENAMORED BY THE BEAUTIFUL EARTH. ANIMALS, FLOWERS, TREES, AND PLANTS MADE HER FORGET ABOUT THE CONDITION PUT BY VISHNU. SHE LOOKED ALL AROUND. WHEN SHE LOOKED TO THE NORTH SIDE, SHE SAW A BEAUTIFUL FARM. SHE WENT INTO THE FARM, PLUCKED A FLOWER, AND RETURNED TO BHAGAYAN VISHNU.



GODDESS LAKSHMI WHO WAS EXTREMELY
HAPPY SAW TEARS IN THE EYES OF
BHAGAVAN. SOON SHE REALIZED THAT SHE
HAD MADE THE MISTAKE OF LOOKING TO
THE NORTH SIDE.

BHAGAVAN VISHNU THEN TOLD GODDESS LAKSHMI THAT SHE BROKE THE CONDITION AND SHE VENTURED INTO THE PROPERTY OF SOMEONE AND TOOK SOMETHING WITHOUT THE PERSON'S PERMISSION. FOR THESE MISTAKES, SHE NEEDS TO STAY IN THE HOUSE THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY FOR THREE YEARS.



GODDESS LAKSHMI AGREED. SHE WENT TO THE FARMER'S HOUSE AND LORD VISHNU TO VAIKUNTA.

THE FARM BELONGED TO A POOR FARMER NAMED MADHAY, WHO LIVED IN A SMALL HUT. HE HAD A WIFE, TWO SONS AND THREE DAUGHTERS. HE OFTEN FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO FEED HIS FAMILY.



MADHAY WAS MOVED BY THE SAD CONDITION OF THE WOMAN AND TOLD HER THAT SHE CAN STAY IN HIS HUT AS HIS FOURTH DAUGHTER. GODDESS LAKSHMI STARTED STAYING IN THE HUT AND DOING FARM AND HOUSEHOLD WORKS.

SOON THE FORTUNE OF MADHAY STARTED CHANGING; HE GOT A GOOD PROFIT FROM THE FLOWERS HE HAD GROWN ON HIS SMALL FARM. HE THEN BOUGHT A COW WITH THE PROFIT. SOON THE COW MADE HIM PROSPER. HE BOUGHT ANOTHER FARMLAND. HE BOUGHT MORE COWS AND WITHIN A SPAN OF TWO YEARS, MADHAY BECAME A RICH LANDLORD. MADHAY ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT HIS LUCK CHANGED AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF HIS ADOPTED DAUGHTER.

GODDESS LAKSHMI CONTINUED DOING WORK ON THE FARM AND IN THE HOUSE OF MADHAY.



GODDESS LAKSHMI NOW TOOK THE FORM A POOR WOMAN AND KNOCKED ON THE DOOR OF MADHAY.

WHEN MADHAY CAME OUT THE POOR WOMAN TOLD HIM THAT SHE HAD NO PLACE TO GO AND HAD NOT EATEN FOR DAYS. SHE WOULD BE HAPPY IF HE COULD GIVE HER WORK, FOOD AND A PLACE TO STAY.

THEN ONE DAY WHEN MADHAY WENT INTO THIS FIELD, HE SAW A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WHO WAS ADORNED WITH GOLD ORNAMENTS. AS HE WENT NEAR, HE REALIZED THAT IT WAS HIS ADOPTED DAUGHTER.

DAUGHTER.
MADHAY SOON REALIZED THAT IT WAS GODDESS
LAKSHMI.



TEARS TRICKLED FROM THE EYES OF MADHAV. HE FELL AT THE FEET OF GODDESS LAKSHMI AND ASKED HER FORGIVENESS FOR MAKING HER WORK IN HIS FIELD AND HOME.

GODDESS LAKSHMI ASKED MADHAV TO
GET UP AND TOLD HIM THAT SHE ALWAYS
RESIDES IN THE HOME OF PEOPLE WHO
HAVE A GOOD HEART. SHE IS EVER
PRESENT IN THE HOUSE OF THOSE WHO
ARE WILLING TO HELP THE POOR AND
NEEDY.

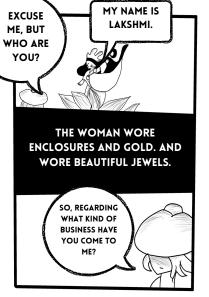


SHE TOLD MADHAY THAT HE HAD A HEART OF GOLD. HE GAVE THE POOR WOMAN REFUGE AND TOOK CARE OF HER LIKE A DAUGHTER. MY BLESSINGS WILL ALWAYS BE WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE A GOOD HEART AND WHO FOLLOW DHARMA.

GODDESS LAKSHMI BLESSED MADHAV WITH ETERNAL PROSPERITY AND DISAPPEARED.

# THE STORY OF GODDESS LUCKSHMI AND HER SISTER

ONE DAY A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN CAME BY WHOM NO ONE KNEW. AND SHE APPROACHED AN RICH MANS HOUSE.



TO BRING YOU WEALTH.WHEREYER I VISIT, THEY WILL BE BLESSED WITH TREASURES SUCH AS GOLD, SILVER, SAPPHIRES, CRYSTALS, PEARLS, CORALS, AND RUBIES. FURTHERMORE, EVEN BLEPHANTS, HORSES, CARS, AND SERVANTS.



THE MAN WAS HAPPY TO HEAR
THAT.. THE MAN WAS SO HAPPY AND
FOUND OUT THAT SHE WAS A
GODDESS.

"SHE MUST BE A GODDESS OF WEALTH. LUCK IS FINALLY SMILING UPON ME." HE POLITELY WELCOMED HER BY

HE POLITELY WELCOMED HER BY SCATTERING THE FLAGRANT FLOWERS AROUND, OFFERING HER INCENSE, AND PRAYING TO HER.

#### LATER APPEARED A WOMAN WHO LOOKED POOR AND DIRTY. HE GAVE A MEAN LOOK.

"WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?."

MY NAME IS
ALAKSHMI.
WHEREVER I GO,
PEOPLE WILL
BECOME POOR.



#### HEARING THAT HE GOT ENRAGED.

"YOU ARE A WORTHLESS
GODDESS OF POVERTY. GO
AWAY OR YOU WILL DIE."
SHE SAID. "YOU FOOL, YOU HAVE
NO WISDOM"

"WHY DO YOU SAY THAT I AM AN IDIOT AND HAVE NO WISDOM? TELL ME WHY. IF YOU ARE LYING,

I'LL KILL YOU."

"I TELL YOU. THE WOMAN WHOM YOU HAVE WELCOMED TO YOUR HOUSE AND WHOM YOU ARE TAKING CARE OF IS MY OIDER SISTER WE ARE ALWAYS TOGETHER AND WE HAVE NEVER SEPARATED, IF YOU DRIVE ME AWAY, SHE WILL GO AWAY, TOO, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?" SUSPICIOUS WITH THE SHARRY WOMAN'S WORDS. HE RETURNED TO THE ROOM QUICKLY AND ASKED LAKSHMI ABOUT THIS. "YES, SHE IS MY YOUNGER SISTER, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU THAT WE ARE ALWAYS TOGETHER. I ALWAYS GIVE FORTUNE AND SHE ALWAYS GIVES MISFORTUNE, IF YOU WANT TO TAKE CARE OF ME, I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE CARE OF MY SISTER, TOO," HIS EXPECTATION WAS WRONG AND HE WAS DISAPPOINTED HE FELT ASHAMED FOR WORKING HARD TO SATISFY LAKSHMI TO GET WEALTH. HE THEN SAID FIRMLY. "I CANNOT STAND THAT FORTUNE AND MISFORTUNE TO OCCUR ONE BY ONE I DO NOT NEED BOTH OF YOU. PLEASE LEAVE, GO

AWAY NOW "

AFTER SEEING THEM LEAVE, HE CRIED OUT FOR IOY "OH, MY ANNOYING WORRIES ARE GONE.

I FEEL BETTFR " AFTER BEING TURNED AWAY, THE SISTERS ENTERED INTO A RUNDOWN SHACK.

THE MISERABLE OWNER OF THE SHACK. HOWEVER, ASKED THEM TO STAY AFTER LISTENING TO THEIR ENTIRE STORY. "I WELCOME BOTH OF YOU, INDEED. AS

YOU CAN SEE, I AM POOR, I DO NOT MIND HAVING A GODDESS OF POVERTY. RATHER, I'M GLAD TO HAVE YOU, A GODDESS OF WEALTH

PLEASE STAY HERE AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR YOUNGER SISTER, TOO," IT SEEMED THAT THEY WERE GOING TO LIVE THERE FOR A WHILE.

HOW WOULD OTHERS WELCOME THEM IN THEIR HOUSES?

EXPRESSION THAT HE HAD
UNDERSTOOD THE MORAL BEHIND THE
BUDDHA'S STORY. BUT THE OTHER
DISCIPLES WHO WERE NOT SO KEEN
DID NOT UNDERSTAND IT.

MAHAKASSAPA NODDED WITH THE

"IS IT REALLY WISE TO DRIVE AWAY THE BOTH SISTERS?"

SINCE THE OLDER SISTER (LAKSHMI) IS MORE IMPORTANT FOR US, IS IT WISE TO PUT UP WITH THE YOUNGER SISTER (ALAKSHMI) AND SERVE HER? OR SHOULD WE COME UP WITH AN IDEA TO DRIVE AWAY THE YOUNGER SISTER?"

THEN THE BUDDHA KINDLY EXPLAINED TO THEM:

"THE OLDER SISTER REPRESENTS BIRTH (LIFE) AND THE YOUNGER SISTER REPRESENTS OLD AGE, SICKNESS, AND DEATH IT IS INEVITABLE THAT BIRTH (LIFE) IS ALWAYS
ACCOMPANIED BY OLD AGE, SICKNESS, AND
DEATH. BUT HERETICS ALWAYS WISH TO BE
GIVEN A BIRTH (LIFE) IN HEAVEN.
A FOOL CLINGS TO BIRTH (LIFE) WITHOUT
KNOWING THAT SUFFERINGS OF OLD AGE,
SICKNESS, AND DEATH ARE ALWAYS WITH HIM,
AND HE IS GREEDY LIKE THE MISERABLE MAN IN

THE STORY.

A BODHISATTVA HAS DISCARDED BIRTH (LIFE)

AND DEATH AND THUS WITHOUT ANY

AND DEATH, AND THUS WITHOUT ANY
ATTACHMENTS.
THEREFORE. A BODHISATTVA IS FREE AND HAS

OBTAINED PEACE LIKE THE WEALTHY MAN IN

THE STORY."

THEN ALL THE DISCIPLES GAVE AFFIRMATIVE NODS.





GODDESS LAKSHMI THE WIFE
OF THE LORD VISHNU AND
THE DEVI OF MONEY. HAS
MANY STORIES. NOT MANY
STORIES ARE KNOWN ABOUT
HER AND HER SISTER AS
LAKSHMI IS A TRIDEVI.



### MANASA

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USHA, WIFE OF ANIRUDDH, TOOK BIRTH AGAIN AS BEHULA. SHIVA BLESSED BEHULA WITH LONG LIFE OF HER HUSBAND. ANIRUDDH TOOK BIRTH AS THE SON OF CHANDRADHAR. HIS NAME WAS

LAKSHMICHANDRA IN THIS BIRTH. CHANDRADHAR WAS AN ARDENT DEVOTEE OF SHIVA. MANASA WANTED TO BE WORSHIPED LIKE OTHER GODS. SHE WANTED RIGHTS TO BE PRAYED LIKE

TO BE PRAYED LIKE
GANESH AND KARTIKEYA
BECAUSE LIKE THEM SHE
WAS ALSO THE PART OF

WAS ALSO THE PART OF SHIVA.

MAHADEV TRIED TO CONVINCE HER BUT SHE HAD NO REGARDS FOR HER FATHER OR ANY OTHER DEITIES.

SO. MAHADEV AGREED TO GIVE HER POSITION OF A GODDESS BUT SHE FIRST NEEDED TO CONVERT ANY ONE OF THE DEVOTEE OF SHIVA TO HER DEVOTEE. SHE AGREED AND WENT TO

SEARCH SOME GREAT

DEVOTEE OF SHIVA AND NOT SOME ORDINARY ONE. ALTHOUGH MAHADEV GAVE HER OPTION TO CHOOSE ANY OF HIS DEVOTEE, BE IT GREAT ONE OR ORDINARY ONE.

MANASA FOUND CHANDRADHAR AND TRIED TO CONVERT HIM AS HER DEVOTEE BUT HE REFUSED. SHE TRIED TO LURE HIM WITH WEALTH BUT CHANDRADHAR WAS FIRM AT HIS DECISION. SHE THREATENED HIM THAT SHE WILL KILL HIS SONS IF HE WON'T ACCEPT HER LORDSHIP. HE STILL REFUSED SO SHE KILLED ALL HIS SONS EXCEPT LAKSHMICHANDRA WHO WASN'T PRESENT THERE.





LAKSHMICHANDRA MARRIED WITH BEHULA. DUE TO THE BOON ON BEHULA, LAKSHMICHANDRA WAS FREE FROM THE TERROR OF MANASA.



# MANASA POISONED LAKSHMICHANDRA



# MANASA ATTACKED

LAKSHMICHANDRA BUT COULDN'T KILL HIM. SO SHE

POISONED HIM SO BADLY THAT HE WENT

INTO DEEP UNCONSCIOUSNESS.

### BEHULA REQUESTED

CHANDRADHAR TO WORSHIP MANASA AND SAVE HER HUSBAND BUT CHANDRADHAR REFUSED. SHIVA CAME IN THE

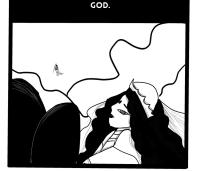
DREAMS OF CHANDRADHAR AND

ASKED HIM TO WORSHIP

MANASA TO SAVE LAKSHMICHANDRA BECAUSE

ONLY MANASA COULD REVIVE HIM.

CHANDRADHAR KNEW THAT WORSHIPING SHIVA DOESN'T REQUIRE ANY PROOF SO HE AGREED TO PRAY MANASA. THE NEXT DAY HE PRAYED AND ASKED HER TO REVIVE LAKSHMICHANDRA. SHE WAS HAPPY AND TRIED TO REVIVE BUT FAILED. THEN SHIVA APPEARED AND ENLICHTENED MANASA ABOUT THE TRUE DEVOTION AND DUTIES OF



# REDEMPTION OF MANASA



MANASA REALIZED HER MISTAKES AND APOLOGIZED TO SHIVA AND CHANDRADHAR. VALUES OF BEING A GOD. EMBARRASSED WITH HER TO GIVE HER POWER TO REVIVE LAKSHMICHANDRA.

SHE UNDERSTOOD THE REAL DEEDS, MANASA ASKED SHIVA SHIVA ASSURED HER THAT SHE ALREADY HAVE ALL THE POWERS, JUST HER ARROGANCE WAS HIDING THEM. SHE TRIED AGAIN TO REVIVE LAKSHMICHANDRA AND SUCCEEDED.



MANASA WAS EMBARRASSED WITH GUILT FEELINGS OF KILLING 6 SONS OF CHANDRADHAR, SO SHIVA REVIVED ALL OF THEM. ALSO HE DECLARED MANASA TO BE A GODDESS. HE BLESSED MANASA WITH KNOWLEDGE OF LIFE SAVING MANTRAS. THOSE WHO WILL PRAY MANASA, WILL GET FREE FROM ALL KINDS OF POISONS.

MANASA. THE GODDESS OF SNAKES. IS MOSTLY VENERATED IN RENGAL AND OTHER PARTS OF NORTHEASTERN INDIA FOR SNAKEBITE PREVENTION AND CURE, AS WELL AS FERTILITY AND OVERALL PROSPERITY SHE IS EREQUENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE GODDESS SHASHTI ("THE SIXTH." ADORED ON THE SIXTH DAY AFTER BIRTH) AS THE GUARDIAN OF CHILDREN. THE MANASA-MANGALS, THE WRITTEN DOCUMENTS THAT DESCRIBE HER NARRATIVE, COME FROM THE 16TH-17TH CENTURIES BUT ARE LIKELY BASED ON AN EARLIER ORAL TRADITION, IN THE VILLAGES. SHE IS HONORED WITH A VARIETY OF SONGS, DANCES, AND DRAMAS, MANASA COULD BE RELATED TO INDIA'S LEGENDARY NAGAS, HALF-HUMAN.

HALF-CORRA REINGS

### Facts of the goddess

HER CHILD IS A SAGE NAMED ASTIKA

SHE IS THE GODDESS OF SNAKES AND POISON

SHE IS MAINLY WORSHIPED BY HINDUS FOR THE PREVENTION AND CURE OF SNAKEBITES AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES LIKE SMALLPOX AND CHICKEN POX AS WELL AS FOR PROSPERITY AND FERTILITY.

#### SHASHTHI

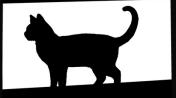
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE LIVED A PROSPEROUS FARMER WHO HAD A NICE BIG HOUSE, TWIN PONDS, A BIG GARDEN AND PADDY FIELDS, HE ALSO HAD SEVEN SONS. THE WIFE OF THE YOUNGEST SON - WAS VERY VERY GREEDY ALTHOUGH MANY DELICACIES WERE COOKED EVERY DAY AND THERE WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ALL, CHOTO-BOU (THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER-IN-LAW) ATE UP MORE THAN HER SHARE ON THE SLY, SHE WOULD STEAL INTO THE KITCHEN WHEN NO ONE WAS AROUND AND DRINK UP ALL THE MILK OR EAT ALL THE SWEETS SINCE THEY HAD TWO BIG PONDS OF THEIR OWN A LOT OF FISH WAS CAUGHT AND PREPARED FACH DAY, THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER-IN LAW WOULD GORRI F UP THE RIGGEST AND TASTIEST PIECES. ALTHOUGH SHE DID IT DAY AFTER DAY NO WAS COULD CATCH HER, NEEDLESS TO SAY, EVERYONE IN THE HOUSE NOTICED THAT A LOT OF MILK SWEETS AND FISH WERE MISSING EACH DAY, BUT NO ONE HAD ANY IDEA AS TO WHO STOLE THEM



"DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING?" THE FARMER'S WIFE ASKED HER CHOTO-BOU.

"YES, MOTHER, I DO" SHE ANSWERED.
"WELL WHO IS IT?"

"IT IS THE BLACK CAT" SAID CHOTO-BOU.
"ARE YOU SURE? HAVE YOU SEEN HER DRINK THE MILK?" ASKED THE
FARMER'S WIFE.



"OH YES, MOTHER, I HAVE" ANSWERED THE CHOTO-BOU AGAIN, "I"VE BEEN SEEING HER DRINKING MILK AND GOBBLING UP ALL THE BEST FISH AND THEN RUNNING AWAY EVERY DAY, SHE'S A SLY CREATURE!"

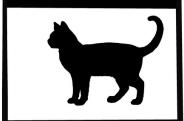
"WE MUST CATCH THE BLACK CAT" ANNOUNCED THE FARMER'S WIFE.

THEY CAUGHT THE BLACK CAT THE NEXT TIME IT CAME INTO THE HOUSE AND GAVE IT A SOUND BEATING. THE NEXT DAY ALL THE BIGGEST AND BEST PIECES OF ISH WERE MISSING.

"HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHO HAS TAKEN THEM?" THE FARMER'S WIFE
ASKED AGAIN.

"IT'S THE BLACK CAT AGAIN" SAID THE CHOTO-BOU GLIBLY, "I SAW HER RUNNING AWAY WITH A BIG PIECE OF FISH IN HER MOUTH."

AGAIN THE BLACK CAT CAME IN FOR A THRASHING. SO IT WENT ON, DAY AFTER DAY. CHOTO-BOU ATE UP THE BEST OF EVERYTHING AND BLAMED THE BLACK CAT EVERY TIME. FINALLY THE BLACK CAT WENT AND COMPLAINED TO MA SHASTI.



"MOTHER, I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE
BEATINGS WHEN I'M INNOCENT" SHE TOLD
THE GODDESS, "IT'S ALL CHOTO-BOU'S
FAULT. I'M GOING TO PAY HER OUT WHEN I
HAVE THE CHANCE, SO PLEASE DON'T BLAME
ME THEN."





"SHE DESERVES TO LEARN A LESSON" SAID SHASHTI DEVI SMILING AT THE BLACK CAT, "IT IS VERY WRONG OF HER TO STEAL, TO TELL LIES AND TO LET SOMEONE ELSE TAKE THE BLAME FOR HER ACTIONS. SHE'LL GET HER PUNISHMENT SOME DAY, DON'T WORRY."

GODDESS SHASHTI - SHASHTI DEVI STORYSOME WEEKS
LATER A BEAUTIFUL BABY BOY WAS BORN TO CHOTO-BOU.
THE ENTIRE MOUSE REJOICED AS THERE WAS NO OTHER
CHILD IN THE HOUSE. BUT WHEN THEY WOKE UP THE NEXT
MORNING THEY WERE SHOCKED TO FIND THE CHILD
MISSING. EVERYONE SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW BUT EVERY
TRACE OF THE BABY SEEMED TO HAVE VANISHED. CHOTOBOU CRIED HER YESS OUT BUT THERE WAS NOTHING THAT
ANYONE COULD DO. YOU MAY HAVE GUESSES ALREADY
THAT IT WAS THE WRONGLY-ACCUSED AND UNJUSTLYBEATEN UP BLACK CAT WHO HAD STOLEN THE BABY WHEN
EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP. SHE CARRIED THE CHILD STRAIGHT
TO MS HASTI.

"HERE YOU ARE, MOTHER" SAID THE CAT LAYING THE CHILD IN HER ARMS, "I HAD TOLD YOU I'D PAY OUT CHOTO-BOU, DIDN'T I? YOU'D BETTER LOOK AFTER HER NOW."

THE NEXT YEAR CHOTO-ROLL HAD ANOTHER RARY ROY.

SHE WOKE UP TO FIND THE BLACK CAT RUNNING AWAY WITH THE BABY. SHE GOT UP HURRIEDLY BUT THE CAT WAS TOO FAST FOR HER. SHE TOOK OFF THE HEAVY BRACELET FROM HER HAND AND STRUCK THE CAT. THE BRACELET TOUCHED ITS HEAD AND THE CAT STARTED BLEEDING AS SHE RAN. CHOTO-BOU FOLLOWED THE TRAIL OF BLOOD AND REACHED THE HOUSE OF SHASTI DEVI. SHE FOUND HER BABY IN THE ARMS OF MA SHASTI AND THE OTHER CHILDREN PLAYING NEAR HER. THE BLACK CAT WAS SEATED AT HER FEET. LICKING HER WOUND.

CHOTO-BOU FELL CRYING AT THE FEET OF THE GODDESS.
"MOTHER, THIS WRETCHED BLACK CAT HAS BEEN STEALING
ALL MY CHILDREN FROM ME. NOW I SEE THAT YOU HAVE
THEM ALL. PLEASE GIVE THEM BACK TO ME, I BEG OF YOU."

"I CAN'T DO THAT" SAID SHASTI DEVI. "DID YOU NOT

KNOW THAT THE BLACK CAT IS AN ESPECIAL PET OF MINE, MY VAHANA? YOU KEPT STEALING THINGS DAY AFTER DAY AND THEN LIED AND BLAMED MY POOR CAT AND HAD HER BEATEN UP. I CANNOT OVERLOOK SUCH WRONG DOING. YOU DON'T DESERVE TO HAVE YOUR CHILDREN BACK."



"PLEASE PARDON ME, MOTHER, I SHALL NEVER DO SUCH A THING AGAINI" CRIED CHOTO-BOU, "I AM YERY, YERY SORRY THAT I LIED AND GOT YOUR BLACK CAT BEATEN UP."

"IT'S NO USE BEGGING MY PARDON" SAID SHASTI DEVI, "IF YOU WANT FORGIVENESS, BETTER BEG MY CAT'S PARDON WHOM YOU HAVE WRONGED."

SO CHOTO-BOU TOUCHED THE BLACK CAT'S FEET AND BECGED HER PARDON, SWEARING NEVER TO STEAL OR TELL LIES EVER AGAIN. THE BLACK CAT FELT SORRY FOR HER AND DECIDED TO FORGIVE HER. SHASTI DEVI GAVE HER BACK HER CHILDREN AND SHE RETURNED HOME REJOICING. ON RETURNING HOME SHE WORSHIPPED THE GODDESS

REJULING. ON REIONING HOPE SIRE WORSHIPPED THE GOUDE'S SHASTI, OBSERVING EVERY RITUAL CAREFULLY. SHASTI DEVI WAS PLEASED AND SOON THE OTHER DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW OF THE FARMER HAD CHILDREN TOO. EVERYONE WORSHIPPED HA SHASTI FAITHFULLY SINCE THAT DAY. EVEN TODAY, THE BRATA OF SHASTI DEVI IS ONE OF THE MOST-ORSEPVED BITHALS IN BENCIAL WHICH MOTHERS ORSEPVE

FOR THE WELFARE OF THEIR CHILDREN.



#### **ADI SHAKTHI**

SHAKTI, THE MOTHER GODDESS, IS THE ALL PERVADING ENERGY PRINCIPLE IN THE UNIVERSE. SHE GOES BY MANY NAMES SUCH AS UNA, PARVATHI, PRARKTHI, DRY, UDRCA, CHANDI, LALITHA, KALI, ISVAR, MAMESVARI, AND SOO NO, SHE HAS BOTH MANIFESTED (SAMBRUTHA) AND UNIVANIFESTED (SAMBRUTHA) ASPECTS. IN HER MANIFESTED ASPECT SHE EXECUTES THE WILL OF GOD TO BRING FORTH THE WORLDS AND BEINES BY DIFFERENTIATING HERSELF INTO MULTIPLE PROPERTIATING HERSELF INTO MULTIPLE PROPERTIATION HERSELF INTO MULTIPLE PROPERTIATING HERSELF INTO MULTIPLE PROPERTIATION H

REALITIES AND TRIPLE MODES (GUNAS).



