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*River devi's*





# YAMUNA

SURYA, THE SOLAR DEITY, IS MARRIED TO SANJANA, THE GODDESS OF THE CLOUDS. SANJANA ALMOST BECAME BLIND FROM THE BRIGHTNESS OF SURYA. SANJANA COULDN'T KEEP HER EYES OPEN AND THEY EVENTUALLY CLOSED. LORD SURYA CURSED HER AS A RESULT, AND YAMA WAS BORN. YAMA WAS ELEVATED TO GOD STATUS. SANJANA MADE A VALIANT EFFORT TO KEEP HER EYES OPEN, BUT THEY BEGAN TO FLUTTER AS SHE SAW LORD SURYA IN PERIL ONCE MORE. SANJANA GAVE BIRTH TO THE YAMUNA, AND AS A RESULT OF HER ATTEMPTS TO KEEP HER EYES OPEN, SANJANA WAS BESTOWED WITH THE YAMUNA BEING REVERED AS A GODDESS AND REMEMBERED THROUGHOUT TIME.



TWINS EXIST IN YAMA AND YAMUNA. THE FIRST DELIVERS DEATH, WHEREAS THE SECOND BRINGS LIFE. THE NAMES YAMI AND KALINDI ARE ALSO USED TO REFER TO THE GODDESS YAMUNA. DUE TO HER CONNECTION TO YAMA, SHE WAS GIVEN THE NAME KALINDI. THIS MONIKER BELONGS TO HIS TWIN AND IS BESTOWED BY YAMA, THE GOD OF DEATH AND DARKNESS. OTHER TRADITIONS HOLD THAT THE NAME KALINDI COMES FROM HER CONNECTION TO THE KALINDA MOUNTAIN.



**IN HIS GRIEF FOR THE PASSING OF  
HIS WIFE, SATI, SHIVA WALKED  
THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH. IN  
ORDER TO  
CONTROL HIS URGES AFTER  
KAMADEV SHOT LORD SHIVA  
WITH THE LOVE ARROW, HE  
DOVE INTO THE RIVER.  
THE WATER QUICKLY TURNED  
BLACK AND TOOK ON THE  
COLOR OF HIS FEELINGS AND  
EMOTIONS OF MISERY  
AND LONELINESS.**

THE YAMUNA IS PRIMARILY LINKED TO LORD SHRI KRISHNA STORIES. THE TERM "KALINDI" IS THOUGHT TO HAVE ORIGINATED FROM HER CONNECTION TO THE WELL-KNOWN KALIYA DAMAN TALE. INGENUOUSLY DIVING INTO THE YAMUNA RIVER, LORD KRISHNA LOCATES THE SERPENT MONARCH KALIYA. THE DESTRUCTION THAT KALIYA HAD WROUGHT IN VRINDAVAN WORRIED LORD KRISHNA. HE GAVE THE KING THE INSTRUCTION TO DEPART THE YAMUNA RIVER AND NEVER COME BACK. MANY OF KRISHNA'S FORMATIVE AND ADOLESCENT YEARS WERE SPENT ON THE YAMUNA RIVER'S BANKS, EITHER WITH HIS BUDDIES OR HIS OLDER BROTHER, BALARAMA.



ANOTHER TALE FROM THE MAHABHARATA ILLUSTRATES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE YAMUNA RIVER: VASUDEVA HAD TO CROSS IT TO KEEP HIS SON SAFE IN VRINDAVAN. THE RIVER HAD DIVIDED IN HALF, ALLOWING VASUDEV TO SAFELY CROSS IT AND TRANSPORT KRISHNA TO GOKUL. SHANI YAMA THE YAMUNA RIVER HAS

THREE SIBLINGS: ASHWINS, TAPATI, AND SHRADDHADEVA MANU. SHE IS KRISHNA'S WIFE AND A MEMBER OF HIS ASHTABHARYA. KAVI, VRSA, VIRA, SUBAHU, SANTI, DARSA, PURNAMASA, BHADRA, SOMAKA (THE YOUNGEST), AND SHRUTA ARE AMONG HER 10 CHILDREN (ELDEST).

THE HISTORY OF HOW YAMUNA CAME TO BE KRISHNA'S WIFE IS DETAILED IN THE BHAGAVATA PURANA. KRISHNA ONCE PAID THE PANDAVAS A VISIT. KRISHNA SAW A LOVELY WOMAN ON THE YAMUNA RIVER'S BANKS. AFTER ASKING, HE LEARNED THAT SHE WAS KALINDI, THE SANJANA AND SURYA'S DAUGHTER. HER BEAUTY ASTOUNDED HIM, AND HE EAGERLY CONSENTED TO MARRY HER. THEY SET OUT ON THEIR TREK TO DWARKA AND GOT MARRIED. THE YAMUNA IS A PART OF THE TRIVENI SANGAM AND IS REGARDED AS ONE OF MANY HOLY RIVERS. IT IS STATED THAT CONSUMING HER WATER CAUSES ONE'S SINS TO BE WASHED AWAY

# NARMADA

THE MOST FASCINATING WAY TO LEARN ABOUT DEVI NARMADA'S HISTORY IS THROUGH LEGENDS. SHE REPRESENTS THE NARMADA RIVER, WHICH FLOWS THROUGH THE STATES OF GUJARAT AND MADHYA PRADESH. SHE GOES BY THE NAME REWA AND IS REGARDED AS ONE OF LORD SHIVA'S DAUGHTERS. SHE HAD A STUNNING BODY AND A THIN FIGURE. SHE WAS WED TO THE SEA GOD VARUNA BY LORD SHIVA. NEVERTHELESS, SHE WAS COVETED BY NUMEROUS GODS AND DEMONS BECAUSE OF THEIR ATTRACTIVE QUALITIES.



GODESS NARMADA WAS WELL-KNOWN FOR HER EVADING ATTENTION. SHE USED TO AVOID EVERYONE WHO WAS NEAR HER BY HIDING AND DODGING THEM. SHE FINALLY SUBMITTED TO LORD SHIVA, WHO BESTOWED UPON HER THE BLESSING OF BECOMING A HOLY RIVER AND PERPETUALLY FLOWING WITH WATER.

THE ORIGIN OF THE RIVER NARMADA IS THE SUBJECT OF NUMEROUS LEGENDS. ACCORDING TO ONE LEGEND, LORD BRAHMA SHED TWO TEARS, WHICH LATER SEPARATED INTO THE RIVERS BRAHMPUTRA AND NARMADA.

IT IS SAID THAT THE DAY GANGA TAKES A BATH IN THE NARMADA RIVER AS A BLACK COW IS LUCKY. ACCORDING TO A WELL-KNOWN BIRTH MYTH, LORD SHIVA STARTED SWEATING AS A RESULT OF HIS INTENSE MEDITATION. HIS PERSPIRATION WAS COLLECTED IN A TANK THAT LATER BEGAN TO FLOW AS THE NARMADA RIVER.



**THE ORIGINS OF THE NARMADA RIVER ARE DESCRIBED IN A FEW ADDITIONAL MYTHOLOGICAL TALES. LORD**

**SHIVA IS SAID TO HAVE ENTERED A TRANCE WHILE SEATED ATOP THE AMARKANTAK HILLS, THE RIVER'S SOURCE, AND GIVEN BIRTH TO A FEMALE FORM THAT BECAME KNOWN AS NARMADA. SHE HAD BEEN THE**

**CAUSE OF HIS TENDERNESS, WHICH IS WHY SHE WAS GIVEN THE NAME NARMADA, WHICH COMES FROM NAMRA. GODS ATTEMPTED TO CATCH HER, BUT SHE ELUDED THEM BY ASSUMING THE SHAPE OF THE NARMADA RIVER. SHE ALSO GOES BY THE NAME SHANKARI AND IS LORD SHANKAR'S DAUGHTER.**



**A FEW OF THE RISHIS WITH  
ASHRAMAS ON THE REWA'S BANKS  
INCLUDE KAPILA MUNI,  
MARKANDEYA  
RISHI, AND BHIRGU RISHI. MULTIPLE  
TALES ABOUT THE NARMADA RIVER  
ARE TOLD IN REWA KHANDA OF THE  
SKANDA PURANA. THE PANDAVAS  
ALSO RESIDED ON THE NARMADA  
RIVER'S BANKS WHILE THEY WERE  
EXILED.**

**THE RISHIS KAPILA MUNI,  
MARKANDEYA RISHI, AND BHIRGU  
RISHI HAD ASHRAMAS ON THE  
BANKS OF**

THE REWA. THE REWA KHANDA OF THE  
SKANDA PURANA HAS NUMEROUS STORIES  
ABOUT THE  
NARMADA RIVER. WHILE THEY WERE EXILED,  
THE PANDAVAS ALSO LIVED ALONG THE  
NARMADA RIVER'S  
BANKS.

THE RIVER MUST ALWAYS BE KEPT TO THE  
RIGHT IN ORDER TO REAP THE REWARDS OF  
THE YATRA. THERE ARE  
A LOT OF LIMITS AND VERY SEVERE RULES.  
THIS VOYAGE COULD TAKE UP TO 4  
MONTHS TO ACCOMPLISH.

NOWADAYS, THERE ARE MANY  
ALTERNATIVES TO WALKING SUCH AS  
DRIVING OR USING PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION. PEOPLE ARE INSPIRED  
TO EMBARK ON THIS TRIP IN ORDER TO  
EXPERIENCE PERSONAL  
PROGRESS AND PEACE. EVEN TODAY,  
PEOPLE PRAY TO THE RIVER NARMADA,  
WHICH IS REGARDED AS ONE  
OF THE SACRED RIVERS.



Other river devi's  
according to hinduism

- *Kaveri*
- *Tapati*
- *Sindhu*
- *Godavari*