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# MAHADEV AND SHAKTHI

*5 tales*





THE LEGEND GOES THAT ONCE LORD SHIVA AND HIS WIFE SATI OR SHAKTI WERE RETURNING FROM SAGE AGASTYA'S ASHRAM AFTER LISTENING TO RAM KATHA OR STORY OF RAM. ON THEIR WAY THROUGH A FOREST, SHIVA SAW LORD RAMA SEARCHING FOR HIS WIFE SITA WHO HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED BY RAVANA, THE KING OF LANKA. LORD SHIVA BOWED HIS HEAD IN REVERENCE TO LORD RAMA. SATI WAS SURPRISED BY LORD SHIVA'S BEHAVIOR AND INQUIRED WHY HE WAS PAYING OBEISANCE TO A MERE MORTAL. SHIVA INFORMED SATI THAT RAMA WAS AN INCARNATION OF LORD VISHNU. SATI, HOWEVER, WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE REPLY AND LORD ASKED HER TO GO AND VERIFY THE TRUTH FOR HERSELF.

USING HER POWER TO CHANGE FORMS, SATI TOOK THE FORM OF SITA APPEARED BEFORE RAMA. LORD RAMA IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE GODDESS AND ASKED,



DEVI, WHY  
ARE YOU  
ALONE,  
WHERE'S  
SHIVA?

**AT THIS, SATI REALIZED THE TRUTH ABOUT LORD RAM. BUT, SITA WAS LIKE A MOTHER TO LORD SHIVA AND SINCE SATI TOOK THE FORM OF SITA HER STATUS HAD CHANGED. FROM THAT TIME, SHIVA DETACHED HIMSELF FROM HER AS A WIFE. SATI WAS SAD WITH THE CHANGE OF ATTITUDE OF LORD SHIVA BUT SHE STAYED ON AT MOUNT KAILASH, THE ABODE OF LORD SHIVA.**

# THE BIRTH OF SATI

THE MYTH ITSELF HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH A HUSBAND'S PYRE, EVEN LESS TO DO WITH A WIDOW. ON THE CONTRARY, IT'S ABOUT A MARRIED WOMAN'S ANGER AND FRUSTRATION. IN ITS MOST GENERIC VERSION, THE MYTH GOES LIKE THIS: SATI WAS ONE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF DAKSHA, HIMSELF A SON OF BRAHMA. SATI WANTED TO MARRY SIVA BUT DAKSHA WAS NOT PLEASED BECAUSE HE CONSIDERED SIVA AN OUTSIDER – WILD, DIRTY, ILL-MANNERED AND WITH ALL THE WRONG FRIENDS. SIVA'S FOLLOWERS CONSISTED OF GHOULS AND GOBLINS AND HE SPENT HIS TIME IN CREMATION GROUNDS COVERED WITH ASH.



**SATI, CLEARLY A DETERMINED AND STRONG-WILLED WOMAN, DECIDED TO MARRY SIVA ANYWAY. ONE DAY, DAKSHA STARTED PREPARATIONS FOR A MASSIVE AND MAGNIFICENT SACRIFICE. HE INVITED EVERYONE THAT HE COULD, HIS MANY SONS-IN-LAW WERE GIVEN PRIDE OF PLACE.**

**BUT HE DID NOT INVITE SIVA. SATI WAS INCENSED, BELIEVING THAT HER HUSBAND HAD BEEN HUMILIATED. SHE STORMED INTO HER FATHER'S SACRIFICE, DEMANDING THAT HER HUSBAND BE ACKNOWLEDGED. WHEN THAT DID NOT HAPPEN, SHE IMMOLATED HERSELF IN A FIRE BORN OF RIGHTEOUS ANGER. SIVA HEARD OF HIS WIFE'S DEATH AND WAS BEREFT, MAD WITH GRIEF. HE PLACED HER CHARRED BODY ON HIS SHOULDERS AND BEGAN THE DANCE OF DESTRUCTION.**



**AS HE DANCED, PARTS OF SATI'S BODY FELL TO THE EARTH AND BECAME SACRED PLACES, SAKTI PEETHAS, WHERE THE GODDESS COULD BE WORSHIPPED.**

**IT'S NOT CLEAR HOW THE MYTH OF A WOMAN WHO KILLS HERSELF IN RAGE COULD ELEVATE TO VENERABLE TRADITION THE UTTER CRUELTY OF BURNING A WIDOW TO DEATH, EVEN IF WE ARE TO BELIEVE THAT THE WIDOW HERSELF WOULD RATHER BE DEAD THAN SUFFER UNDER THE INHUMAN STRICTURES THAT WOULD BE PLACED UPON HER IF SHE LIVED. SATI'S ANGER IS AGAINST HER FATHER. SHE KILLS HERSELF, IF AT ALL WE WANT TO SEE IT THAT WAY, FOR HER HUSBAND'S HONOUR, BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN INSULTED.**

**PERHAPS THE PROBLEM WITH THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE STORY AND THEREBY, WITH THE GLORIFICATION OF A PARTICULAR KIND OF FEMALE BEHAVIOUR, LIES IN THE WORD 'SATI.' AT ITS MOST BASIC IN SANSKRIT, IT MEANS 'GOOD WOMAN.' HENCE, WHAT THE GOOD WOMAN, SATI, DOES, SHOULD BE WORTHY OF IMITATION BY ALL WOMEN WHO WANT TO BE GOOD. BUT EVEN THIS DOES NOT RELATE TO SATI, THE PRACTICE.**

**IF A GOOD WOMAN WERE TO LIVE BY THE MYTH, SHE WOULD USE HER RIGHTEOUS RAGE TO INSIST THAT HER HUSBAND'S DIFFERENCE, HIS 'OUTSIDERNESS' FROM THE NORM, DOES NOT WARRANT HIS EXCLUSION FROM THE RITUALS AND CUSTOMS OF SOCIETY. THIS SATI WOULD BE AN EMPOWERED WOMAN, NOT A WILFUL ONE NOR ONE WHO CEASES TO BE OF ANY IMPORTANCE AFTER THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND.**

**THE TALE OF AFTER SATI**




**WHEN SATI DEVI LEFT HER BODY, SHIVA BECAME AN ASCETIC. HE JUST SPENT ALL HIS TIME IN MEDITATION.**



**AND AT THAT TIME A GREAT ASURA NAMED TARAKASURA, THE ILLUMINATOR OF DUALITY, DID TREMENDOUS AUSTERITIES AND BRAHMA CAME TO HIM AND SAID,**





THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, NO ONE IS IMMORTAL, WHATEVER COMES IN TO MANIFESTATION MUST GO OUT OF MANIFESTATION, SRISHTI STHITI LAYA, THERE IS A CYCLICAL TRANSFORMATION OF ENERGY. NOTHING IS PERMANENT, CHOOSE ANOTHER BOON.

SO TARAKASURA, THIS ILLUMINATOR OF DUALITY, HE SAID, "IF MY DEATH HAS TO OCCUR, I WANT TO BE SLAIN ONLY BY THE SON OF SHIVA." BRAHMA SAID, "WHY WOULD YOU WANT A BOON LIKE THAT?" AND TARAKASURA SAID, "WELL SHIVA DOESN'T HAVE A WIFE, AND HE SPENDS ALL HIS TIME IN MEDITATION, AND IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S GOING TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET A WIFE. AND IF HE DOESN'T HAVE A WIFE, WHAT QUESTION IS THERE OF HIS HAVING A SON, SO THEREFORE I WILL BECOME IMMORTAL."

AND BRAHMA SAID, "TATASTU, I GIVE YOU THE BOON, IMMEDIATELY, WITHOUT HESITATION." AND TARAKASURA BECAME THE RULER OF THE THREE WORLDS, HE CONQUERED THE ENTIRE EARTH, MADE EVERYONE ON THE EARTH A SERVANT OF THE ILLUMINATOR OF DUALITY. HE MARCHED UP TO HEAVEN, AND HE THREW ALL THE GODS OUT OF HEAVEN. AND THE GODS WERE EXTREMELY DEPRESSED, "WE LOST OUR DIVINITY AND NOW WE HAVE TO WANDER AROUND THE EARTH LIKE HUMAN BEINGS, YECK, THAT'S AWFUL."

SO THEN THE GODS DEVISED A PLAN, WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE SATI DEVI COME BACK IN TO HER BODY. AND THEY ALL WENT TO THE HIMALAYAS, ACTUALLY THEY REALLY WENT TO THE DEVI MANDIR. THEY WENT TO THE DEVI MANDIR AND THEY BEGAN TO CHANT, AND THEY BEGAN TO PRACTICE MEDITATION, AND PERFORM AUSTERITIES, AND THEY ENKINDLED THE DIVINE FIRE, AND THEY STARTED A YAGYA. AND THEY ALL SAT AROUND THE YAGYA FIRE AND THEY CHANTED THE MANTRAS AND MADE OFFERINGS.



**AND FINALLY THE DIVINE MOTHER WAS PLEASED. AND SHE SAID,**



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

AND THE GODS SAID, WE ALL SAID, "DIVINE MOTHER, SHIVA IS SITTING THERE LIKE THERE IS NO TOMORROW. ALL HE DOES IS MEDITATE. HE HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY WHATSOEVER. AND HE WILL NOT GET MOTIVATED UNTIL YOU COME BACK INTO YOUR BODY. SO WE'RE GOING TO REQUEST YOU, PLEASE MAA, MANIFEST IN A FORM AND MARRY SHIVA. AND GIVE US THE SON THAT'S GOING TO LEAD THE ARMIES OF THE DEVAS TO VICTORY. ONLY THE SON OF SHIVA CAN CONQUER TARAKASURA."

SO BE IT, I GIVE YOU THE BOON. AND I WILL COME INTO A BODY IN THE HOME OF HIMALAYA, BECAUSE HIMALAYA HAS BEEN WORSHIPPING ME WITH ONE POINTED ATTENTION, IN FACT HE DOESN'T MOVE. THERE IS NO ONE AS STEADY AND AS SOLID AS THE HIMALAYAS. HE JUST SITS THERE MAKING JAPA, YUGA AFTER YUGA AFTER YUGA. I'M GOING TO BECOME SHAILAPUTRI, THE DAUGHTER OF THE MOUNTAIN, THE GODDESS OF INSPIRATION. AND I WILL PERFORM TAPASYA, AND IF SHIVA WILL HAVE ME, I'LL MARRY SHIVA.



**AND THE GODS WERE FILLED WITH  
EXTREME JOY. AND THEN THEY WAITED  
FOR THE BIRTH OF PARVATI, THE  
DAUGHTER OF THE PARVAT.**

# *The tale of mother parvati*



SOON, A SON NAMED MAINAKA WAS BORN TO MENA AND HIMAVAT. AFTER THAT, MENA BECAME PREGNANT AGAIN. AFTER TEN MONTHS, AT MIDNIGHT, A DAUGHTER WAS BORN TO MENA. THIS DAUGHTER WAS THE INCARNATION OF THE GODDESS. HIMAVAT THEN CAME THERE WITH HIS CHIEF PRIEST AND LEARNED BRAHMIN.

HE WAS VERY HAPPY TO SEE HIS DAUGHTER. SHE WAS NAMED PARVATI. ALL THE DEVAS ASSEMBLED AND REJOICED. IN HER CHILDHOOD, PARVATI USED TO ALWAYS PLAY WITH HER FRIENDS ALONG THE BANKS OF THE RIVER GANGA. WHEN SHE GOT OLDER, PARVATI GOT A PROPER EDUCATION FROM A RESPECTABLE TEACHER.

ONCE, NARADA CAME TO HIMAVAT'S KINGDOM. HIMAVAT ASKED HIM ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HIS DAUGHTER. NARADA PREDICTED THAT SHE WILL MARRY SHIVA AND LIVE WITH HIM IN MOUNT KAILASH. HE ALSO TOLD HIM THAT PARVATI HAD BEEN SATI IN HER PAST LIFE. HIMAVAT WAS OVERJOYED BY HEARING ALL OF THIS. PARVATI ONCE TOLD HER PARENTS ABOUT A DREAM SHE HAD HAD. IN THE DREAM, A SAGE HAD TOLD HER TO PERFORM PENANCE TO PLEASE SHIVA. HIMAVAT ALSO HAD A DREAM IN WHICH PARVATI WAS WORSHIPPING SHIVA.

## *Indra's Choice*



INDRA DECIDED TO SEND KAMA, THE GOD OF LOVE, TO CREATE LOVE BETWEEN SHIVA AND PARVATI. AS SOON AS KAMA REACHED THE PLACE WHERE SHIVA WAS MEDITATING, FLOWERS STARTED TO GROW EVERYWHERE. PARVATI THEN CAME THERE WITH TWO OF HER MAIDS AND BROUGHT FLOWERS TO OFFER TO SHIVA.

KAMA SHOT HIS FLOWERY ARROW OF LOVE AT SHIVA. WHEN SHIVA SAW PARVATI, HE WAS ENAMORED BY HER BEAUTY. HE STARTED STARING AT HER AND STARTING UNDRRESSING HER. BUT, SHIVA IMMEDIATELY CAME OUT OF THIS LUSTFUL STATE AND WENT BACK TO BEING DETACHED. SHIVA LOOKED AROUND AND SAW KAMA ON HIS LEFT SIDE. HE WAS ENRAGED AND OPENED HIS THIRD EYE. A GREAT FIRE ORIGINATED FROM HIS THIRD EYE AND REDUCED KAMA TO ASHES. LATER, SHIVA ASSURED THAT KAMA WOULD BE RESUSCITATED.

PARVATI WAS FRIGHTENED BY THE INCINERATION AND HURRIEDLY RETURNED TO HIMAVAT'S PALACE. SHE BECAME VERY UNHAPPY BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T SEE SHIVA ANYMORE. ONCE NARADA CAME TO HIMAVAT'S PALACE. WHEN HIMAVAT TOLD HIM ABOUT PARVATI'S STATE, HE WENT TO SECRETLY TALK TO PARVATI.





**“PARVATI, YOU  
WORSHIPPED SHIVA. BUT  
BECAUSE OF THE INCIDENT  
WITH KAMA, HE HAS  
BECOME COMPLETELY  
DETACHED AND LEFT YOU.**

**BUT IF YOU PERFORM PENANCE, THEN SHIVA WILL BE PLEASED AND  
ACCEPT YOU AS HIS WIFE,” NARADA ADVISED. NARADA THEN  
TAUGHT HER THE FIVE-SYLLABLED MANTRA OF SHIVA. PARVATI  
WENT TO ASK PERMISSION FROM HER FATHER, WHO RELUCTANTLY  
AGREED. BUT HER MOTHER INSTANTLY SAID NO. SHE DIDN'T WANT  
PARVATI TO LEAVE. THUS PARVATI ALSO BECAME KNOWN AS UMA,  
WHICH MEANS “NOT ALLOWED BY MOTHER”. BUT, SEEING PARVATI'S  
DISAPPOINTMENT, MENA EVENTUALLY GAVE IN.**

**THUS, PARVATI WORE THE CLOTHES OF AN ORDINARY WOMAN AND  
WENT TO DO PENANCE AT GANGAVATARANA. HER PENANCE WAS  
REALLY SEVERE AND SHE SURVIVED ON LEAVES. SOON, SHE EVEN  
STOPPED EATING LEAVES. HER PENANCE WENT ON FOR THREE  
THOUSAND YEARS. MANY PEOPLE CAME THERE AND PRAISED HER.  
ONCE, HIMAVAT, MENA, AND PARVATI'S 100 BROTHERS ALL CAME  
TO THE GANGAVATARANA. THEY HAD COME TO TRY TO PERSUADE  
PARVATI TO STOP HER PENANCE. HIMAVAT, MENA, MAINAKA,  
MANDARA (ANOTHER BROTHER OF PARVATI) AND OTHERS ALL  
TRIED, BUT ALL OF THEM WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN CONVINCING HER,  
SO THEY HAD TO LEAVE.**

BECAUSE OF PARVATI'S PENANCE, THE UNIVERSE STARTED BECOMING SCORCHED. INDRA AND THE DEVAS DECIDED TO GO TO BRAHMA FOR HELP. BRAHMA TOOK THEM TO VISHNU, WHO SAID, "IT IS BECAUSE OF PARVATI'S PENANCE." VISHNU, BRAHMA, AND ALL THE DEVAS WENT TO SHIVA. AFTER A LOT OF EFFORT, THEY FINALLY CONVINCED SHIVA TO MARRY PARVATI SO THAT TARAKASURA WOULD BE KILLED. AFTER BRAHMA, VISHNU, AND THE DEVAS LEFT, SHIVA DECIDED TO TEST PARVATI. HE CALLED THE SAPTARISHIS AND TOLD THEM TO CONDUCT A TEST OF PARVATI'S RESOLVE. THE SEVEN SAGES ARRIVED AT THE PLACE WHERE PARVATI WAS IMMERSSED IN PENANCE.

"OH DAUGHTER OF THE MOUNTAIN, WHY DO YOU PERFORM SUCH A PENANCE. WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO APPEASE?" THE SAPTARISHIS QUESTIONED.

**"OH GREAT SAGES, LISTEN TO MY PURPOSE. ON THE ADVICE OF THE CELESTIAL SAGE NARADA, I AM PERFORMING THIS PENANCE TO BECOME THE WIFE OF SHIVA. MAY LORD SHIVA FULFILL MY DESIRE," PARVATI ANSWERED.**

**"OH PARVATI, YOU DO NOT KNOW THE WAYS OF THE SAGE NARADA. HE APPEARS SPIRITUAL, BUT HE IS DECEITFUL. YOU MUST KNOW WHAT NARADA DID TO DAKSHA AND HIS SONS. HE LED THEM ALL AWAY FROM HIS FATHER AND ON A SPIRITUAL PATH. AND AFTER THE DEATH OF SATI, SHIVA WILL NEVER MARRY. WE WILL ARRANGE YOUR MARRIAGE WITH VISHNU, A HUSBAND FIT FOR YOU. PLEASE ABANDON THIS PENANCE," THE SAPTARISHIS INSISTED.**

**"NARADA HAS LED ME TO SHIVA AND I WILL NOT DISCARD THE ADVICE OF A CELESTIAL SAGE. IF SHIVA DOESN'T MARRY ME, I WILL REMAIN UNMARRIED," SATI SAID.**

**ON HEARING THIS, THE SAPTARISHIS WERE IMPRESSED AND BLESSED PARVATI. THEY THEN WENT TO MOUNT KAILASH AND TOLD HIM WHAT HAD HAPPENED. AFTER HEARING THIS, SHIVA WAS IMPRESSED BUT STILL WANTED TO TEST PARVATI. HE TOOK THE FORM OF AN OLD ASCETIC BRAHMIN WITH MATTED HAIR AND APPROACHED PARVATI. PARVATI RESPECTFULLY WORSHIPPED THE BRAHMIN AND THEN ASKED WHY HE HAD COME.**

**"I AM AN AGED BRAHMIN ROAMING ABOUT. BUT WHO ARE YOU?" THE BRAHMIN ASKED. "I AM THE DAUGHTER OF HIMAVAT. IN MY PREVIOUS BIRTH, I WAS SATI AND I HAD CAST OFF MY BODY. CURRENTLY, I AM DOING PENANCE TO MARRY SHIVA, BUT HE IS NOT PLEASED. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO BURN MYSELF IN A FIRE WHEN YOU CAME," PARVATI SAID.**



**SAYING THIS,  
PARVATI TRIED  
TO LEAP IN THE  
FIRE, BUT THE  
BRAHMIN  
REPEATEDLY  
STOPPED HER.**

**THE BRAHMIN THEN INQUIRED FOR DETAILS  
ABOUT HER PENANCE AND GOAL. PARVATI'S  
MAID VIJAYAA TOLD HIM EVERYTHING THAT  
HAD HAPPENED. THE BRAHMIN THEN STARTED  
HEAVILY INSULTING SHIVA. PARVATI WAS  
ENRAGED AND COUNTERED BACK, PRAISING  
SHIVA AND DISPROVING THE BRAHMIN.  
SUDDENLY, THE BRAHMIN TURNED BACK INTO  
SHIVA.**

**SHIVA EXPRESSED HIS NEW DESIRE TO MARRY  
PARVATI. PARVATI WAS OVERJOYED AND THEY  
DECIDED TO GET MARRIED.**

## *The marriage*



PARVATI WENT HOME AND TOLD HER PARENTS ABOUT THE NEWS. A GREAT CELEBRATION WAS HELD AT HIMAVAT'S CITY. IN THE MIDST OF THE CELEBRATION, SHIVA TOOK THE FORM OF A DANCER. PARVATI IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED THAT HE WAS SHIVA. THE DANCER TOLD PARVATI TO ASK FOR A BOON. PARVATI ASKED THE DANCER TO BE HER HUSBAND.

SHIVA GRANTED THE WISH AND DISAPPEARED. MEANWHILE, THE DEVAS WERE HAVING A MEETING IN SWARGA. THEY HAD REALIZED THAT IF PARVATI MARRIED LORD SHIVA, HIMAVAT'S DEVOTION WILL CAUSE HIM TO BE TRANSPORTED TO SHIVALOKA. THIS WILL BE DETRIMENTAL FOR EARTH. TO SOLVE THIS ISSUE, THEY APPROACHED THEIR GURU BRIHASPATI, WHO ADVISED THEM TO SEEK BRAHMA'S HELP. LORD BRAHMA SAID THAT THEY MUST PRAY TO LORD SHIVA TO SOLVE THIS ISSUE.

DURING THIS EVENT DEVI RATI'S BEGGING, SHIVA JOYOUSLY RESUSCITATED KAMA. AFTER MANY DAYS, THE WEDDING WAS COMPLETE AND SHIVA AND PARVATI WENT TO MOUNT KAILASH.



## *Mahavidya*

**SATI, THE CONSORT OF SHIVA WAS THE DAUGHTER OF DAKSHA PRAJAPATI, A DESCENDANT OF BRAHMA. SATI HAD MARRIED SHIVA AGAINST THE WISHES OF HER FATHER. THE VAIN DAKSHA PERFORMED A GREAT YAJNA OR YAGYA(ALSO YAGNA) LITERALLY MEANS "SACRIFICE, DEVOTION, WORSHIP, OFFERING" (WITH THE SOLE AIM OF INSULTING SHIVA), TO WHICH HE INVITED ALL OF THE GODS AND GODDESSES EXCEPT HIS SON-IN-LAW, LORD SHIVA.**

**SATI LEARNED ABOUT HER FATHER'S YAJNA FROM NARAD MUNI. SHE ASKED SHIVA'S PERMISSION TO ATTEND THE YAJNA, SAYING THAT A DAUGHTER DID NOT NEED AN INVITATION FROM HER FATHER. SHIVA SAID THAT DAKSHA WAS TRYING TO INSULT HIM, AND SO EVEN IF SATI ATTENDED THE YAJNA, THE FRUIT OF THE SACRIFICE WOULD NOT BE AUSPICIOUS. THEREFORE HE BADE SATI NOT TO ATTEND THE YAJNA.**

**SATI BECAME FURIOUS – SHE THOUGHT THAT SHIVA WAS TREATING HER LIKE AN IGNORANT LADY AND NOT AS THE MOTHER OF THE UNIVERSE. SO TO SHOW SHIVA WHO SHE REALLY WAS, SHE ASSUMED A DIFFERENT FORM – THE ONE OF THE DIVINE MOTHER. THE OCEANS RAGED, THE MOUNTAINS SHOOK, AND THE ATMOSPHERE WAS FILLED WITH THE WONDER OF HER FORM.**

**SHIVA BEGAN TO SHAKE AND TRIED TO FLEE. BUT IN EVERY DIRECTION THAT HE TRIED TO FLEE, THE DIVINE MOTHER STOPPED HIM. THE DIVINE MOTHER HAD MULTIPLIED HERSELF INTO TEN DIFFERENT FORMS, GUARDING EACH OF THE TEN DIRECTIONS, AND TRY AS SHIVA MIGHT, HE COULD NOT ESCAPE FROM HER, AS SHE HAD BLOCKED EVERY ESCAPE ROUTE.**



# *Who are the Mahavidya*

THESE TEN FORMS OF DIVINE MOTHER  
ARE KNOWN AS THE DAS MAHAVIDYAS.

EACH FORM HAS ITS OWN NAME,  
STORY, QUALITY, AND MANTRAS.

THE DAS MAHAVIDYAS ARE WISDOM  
GODDESSES. DAS MEANS TEN, MAHA  
MEANS GREAT, AND VIDYA MEANS  
WISDOM. THE DAS MAHAVIDYAS ARE  
CONSIDERED FORMS OF DIVINE  
MOTHER KALI, WHO IS THE FIRST OF  
THE TEN MAHAVIDYAS. EACH WISDOM  
GODDESS HAS HER OWN NAME, STORY,  
QUALITY, AND MANTRAS.