

Mythology of GODDESS

SivKishenJi,

Vedic Researcher, Internally acclaimed Author.

Specialised in Business Administration, Behavioral Psychotherapy, and Textiles

Abstract: Believed as the root cause of creation, sustenance and annihilation, Durga is the principal form of the Mother Goddess in Hinduism. The name 'Durga' in Sanskrit means 'invincible'. The syllable 'du' is synonymous with the 4 devils namely poverty, sufferings, famine and evil habits. The 'r' refers to diseases and the 'ga' is the destroyer of sins, injustice, irreligion, cruelty and laziness.

The Hindu Goddess Durga is a unified symbol of all divine forces and is said to have manifested when evil forces threatened the very existence of the Gods. To destroy these demons, all Gods offered their radiance to her creation and each formed different parts of Durga's body. She also obtained very powerful weapons, such as the Chakra from Lord Vishnu and the Trishul (trident) from Lord Shiva.

Goddess Durga, hence, rose to power and killed the dangerous demon Mahish and all his great commanders.

The Demonic forces are self-destructive but very powerful while the Divine forces are constructive but slow and efficient. When the Demonic forces create imbalance, all the Gods unite to one Divine force called Shakti or Durga or Mahishasur Madini, to abolish all evil.

Like Shiva, Durga is also referred to as "*Triyambake*" meaning the three eyed Goddess. The left eye represents desire (the moon), the right eye represents action (the sun), and the central eye knowledge (fire).

We have also explained the meaning of a Mantra which is considered as a powerful mantra according to the Hindu mythology.

We are praying Parvati as Lakshmi and Lakshmi as Parvati. This indicates, although Lakshmi and Parvati look the same. They are the different forms of the feminine energy of the creation.

Maa Mangala is the symbol of qualities like peace, power, happiness, love, purity, knowledge, and truth. She is worshiped as one of manifestations of Goddess Durga in the hymn of the goddess Vanadurga.

Keywords: Hindu philosophical text, Markandeya Puran describing the Goddess Durga, Adishkati as the supreme power and creator of the Universe, Dev Bhagavata Puran, Shakti Upanishad, Hinduism

1 INTRODUCTION

"The sacred Durga Saptashati[1] Path is said to be a significant component to conduct the chandi homam to attain good health and overcome enemies. Durga saptashati path is performed along with chandi homam. A total of 700 verses of texts offer devotion to Goddess Durga through sacred fire during Chandi Homam or Chandika[2] Homa or Chandi Path.



Fig 1: ChandiHoma_WebBanner

Chandika is a powerful form of Mahadevi who manifested to destroy evil. She is also known as

Kaushiki, Katyayani, Kali [3] Asthadasabuja Mahalakshmi and Mahishasuramardini.

Chandi Homa or Havan is one of the most popular Homas in Hindu religion. It is performed across India during various festivals, especially during the Navaratri. Chandi Homa is performed by reciting verses from the Durga Saptashati and offering oblations into the sacrificial fire. It could also be accompanied by the Navakshari Mantra. Kumari Puja, Suvasini Puja also form a part of the ritual.

The dhyana sloka preceding the Middle episode of Devi Mahatmya the iconographic details are given.

The Goddess is described as having vermillion complexion, eighteen arms bearing string of beads, battle axe, mace, arrow, thunderbolt, lotus, bow, water-pot, cudgel, lance, sword, shield, conch, bell, wine-cup, trident, noose and the discus (sudarsana). She has a complexion of coral and is seated on a lotus. In some temples the images of Maha Kali, Maha Lakshmi, and Maha Saraswati are kept separately. The Goddess is also portrayed as four armed in many temples.

As Purnachandi,[4] she is visualised as both the essence as well as transcendence i.e. the Brahman; who is beyond Laghu Chandika, who is of the combined form of Parvati, Lakshmi and Saraswati as represented in Durga Saptashati of Markandeya Purana[5]. As Purnachandi, she sports with her sixteen hands, sword, arrow, spear, shakti, chakra, mace, rosary, khartal, phalaka, karmuka, nagapasha, axe, damaru, skull, boon gesture and protection gesture.[6]

II DETAILED STUDY

Durga Saptashati is one of the ancient Vedic scriptures that describe Devi as the supreme power and the Creative Energy of the Supreme Absolute.

The slokas present in Durga Saptashloki lyrics are usually recited during holy rituals, ceremonies, and even during daily pooja.

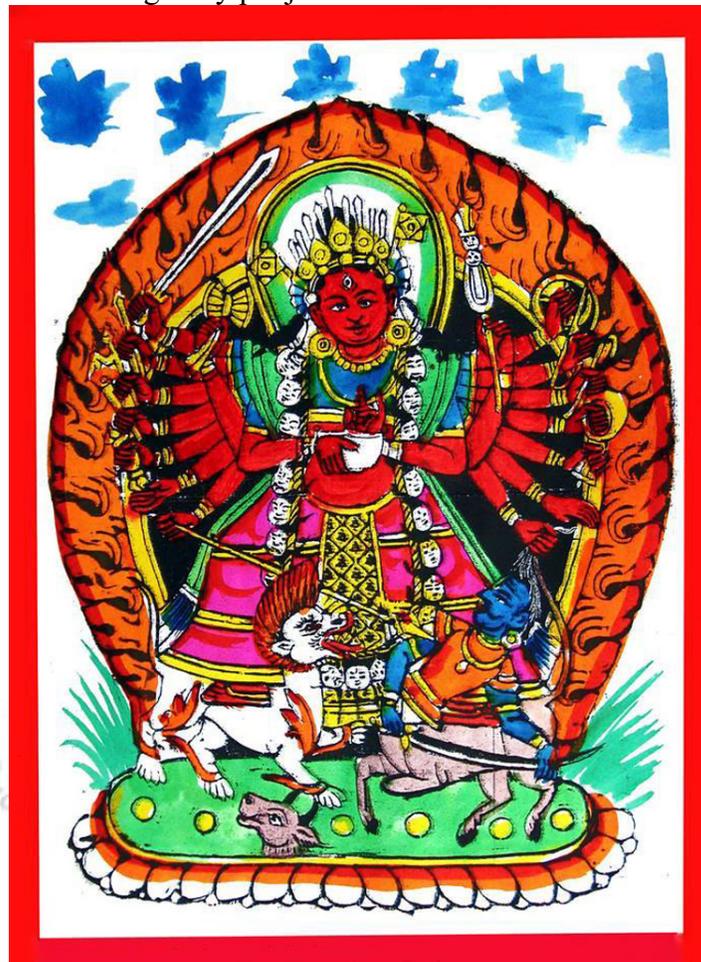


Fig 2: Painting of Goddess_Chandi

Coming to the Durga Saptashloki meaning, they mainly explain the greatness of Goddess Durga and her power. Alongside, the lyrics and meaning also give great detail on the merciful nature of the mother Goddess Durga.

Sorting these seven slokas and making them a saptashloki stotram itself shows the immense importance these hymns have.

There is a small legend explaining that Lord Shiva asked to shorten the 700 stanza Saptashati to Saptashloki Durga such that every devotee can recite it. As Shiva himself had asked, Maa Durga said to

him as per your wish my Lord and this gave rise to this Saptashloki.

One can recite the Durga saptashloki at any time point of time. Daily Reciting of Durga saptashloki benefits you in various ways by bestowing wealth, health, and even with the protection of maa Durga herself.

Durga Saptashloki Lyrics and meaning describing the form of Goddess Durga.

Sri Durga Saptashloki Lyrics with Meaning in English

Shiva uvacha

*Devi twam Bhaktha sulabhe sarva karya vidhayini
Kalau hi karya siddhyardham-upayam bhruuhi
yatnataha!*

Shiva asks, "Oh Devi, the one dear to the devotees and the one who fulfills all the works In order to easily fulfill the tasks in this Kali yuga, tell us any idea."

Devuyuvacha

*Shrunu Deva pravakshyami kalau sarveshta
sadhanam
Maya tavaiva snehenapy amba stutihi prakasyathe!*

Devi says, " O Deva, listen, in the Kali yuga, to fulfill all the desires Amba stuti that came from me is the glorious and esteemed one."

*Om asya Sri Durga Saptashloki stotra mantrasya
Narayana Rishihi Anushtup chandaha*

Sri MahaKali MahaLakshmi MahaSaraswatyo Devathaha

*Sri Durga preethyardham Saptashloki Durga paathe
viniyogaha!*

Om, this stotra, Sri Durga Saptashloki Stotram which is a Maha Mantra Praised by Narayana Rishi, in the

manner of Anustup Chanda (Meters that contain 8 syllables in a quarter)

Using this Mantra dedicated to Goddess Maha Kali, Maha Lakshmi, and Maha Saraswati

Reciting it to please Goddess Durga, I am using this Maha Mantra

*Om Jnaninamapi chetaamsi Devi Bhagavathi hi saa
Balaadakrushya mohaya mahamaya prayacchathi (1)*

Salutations to you, O Devi, Bhagavathi, by whose power even the wiser ones The mind can also turn towards worldly desires, by your maya!

*Durge smruthe harasibheethi Masesha janthoh
Swasthai smrutha mati mateeva Shubham dadasi
Daridyadukha bhaya haarini katvadanya
Sarvopakara karanaya sadardha chitta (2)*

O Goddess Durga, just by thinking your name, you remove the innumerable fears of that person. For the beings who meditate on you in their heart, you give them great auspiciousness

The destroyer of the poverty and sorrows of the devotees, remover of fear in them, who else can do this

You bless with all the good deeds (upakara) for those who seek your refuge, O compassionate one.

*Sarvamangala Mangalye Shivey Sarvardha sadhike
Sharanye Trayambike Gowri Narayani Namosthutte
(3)*

O the one who brings auspiciousness always, one who belongs to Shiva, by whom all the wishes get fulfilled I seek your refuge, the one with three eyes (Triambike devi), present as Goddess Gowri, Sister of Lord Narayana (Narayani), I bow to you

*Saranagata deenartha paritrana parayane
Sarvasya arthi hare Devi Narayani Namosthutte (4)*

You rescue the ones who seek your refuge and those who put forward their distress in front of you for help
O Mother who removes the sufferings of the needy, O Devi Narayani (the sister of Narayana, Goddess Parvati), I bow to you

*Sarva swaroope sarveshe sarva shakti samanvithe
Bhayebhyas trahi no Devi Durge Devi namosthutte
(5)*

O the Goddess who exists in all the forms, the essence behind all the beings and gods, possessing all the powers

Please protect me from all the fears, Goddess Durga Devi, I bow to you

*Rogan asheshan apahamsi tustha rushtatu kamaan
sakalan-abheesthan
Twam ashritaanam na vipan naranaam twam
ashrithaahyai asrhayathaam prayamti (6)*

Devi, if you are pleased with our devotion, kindly remove the diseases completely from their roots. If you are displeased, all my aspirations and desires of mine will remain unfulfilled.

For those who seek your refuge, there will be no danger or difficulties such refugees get to a stage where they can indeed protect other refugees too

*Sarvabadhaa prasamanam Trailokyasya Akhileshwari
Evameva twayaa karyam asmad-vairi vinashanam (7)*

The one who can nullify all the sorrows caused, The Supreme Goddess of all the three worlds

In this way, let our enemies be destroyed by you for good work.

Ithi Sri Durga Saptashloki Sampurnam

Thus ends the Durga Saptashloki

Etymology

The text is called Saptasati (literally a collection of seven hundred" or something that contains seven hundreds in number), as it contains 700 shlokas (verses).

Chaṇḍī or Chaṇḍika is the name by which the Supreme Goddess is referred to in Devī Māhātmyam. According to Hindu Scriptures, "Chaṇḍikā is "the Goddess of Truth and Justice who came to Earth for the establishment of Dharma ," from the adjective chaṇḍa, "fierce, violent, cruel for evil forces not for good forces ." The epithet has no precedent in Vedic literature and is first found in a late insertion to the Mahabharata, where Chaṇḍa and Chaṇḍī appear as epithets." [7]

III BASIC CONCEPTS AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

With above details, let me impart you a very powerful Mantra dedicated to Goddess Parvathi.

*'Sarvamangala mangalye Shive! Sarvartha Sadhike
Sharanye Tryambake Devi! Narayani! Namostu Te!'*

The literal meaning of the mantra is

Auspicious of the auspiciousness! Parvati! The fulfiller of the desires!

Protector of all – Three eyed! Parvathi Devi! Narayani! We salute your divinity!!

Goddess Parvati is the Goddess of power, divine strength, devotion and love. Being the divine consort of Lord Shiva, she represents the virtue, asceticism, skill, fertility, power and marital felicity, according to the Hindu mythology.

Goddess Parvathi is the physical manifestation of the Supreme Being Adi Parasakthi. SHE is the Divine Power. A matter without power is inert and hence, SHE is the force behind activating the energy of

human beings. Eventually, every power in the world is the symbol of Goddess Shakthi.

The oldest surviving manuscript of the Devi Māhātmyam, on palm-leaf, in an early Bhujimol or Newari script, Nepal, 11th century Sanskrit māhātmya-, "magnanimity, high mindedness, majesty" is a neuter abstract noun of māha-ātman-, or "great soul." The title devīmāhātmyam is a tatpuruṣa compound, literally translating to "the magnanimity of the goddess."

The text is called Saptas̥ati (literally a collection of seven hundred" or something that contains seven hundreds in number), as it contains 700 shlokas (verses).

Devi Mahatmyam is also known as the Durgā Saptashatī or Śata Chandī text contains 700 verses arranged into 13 chapters.

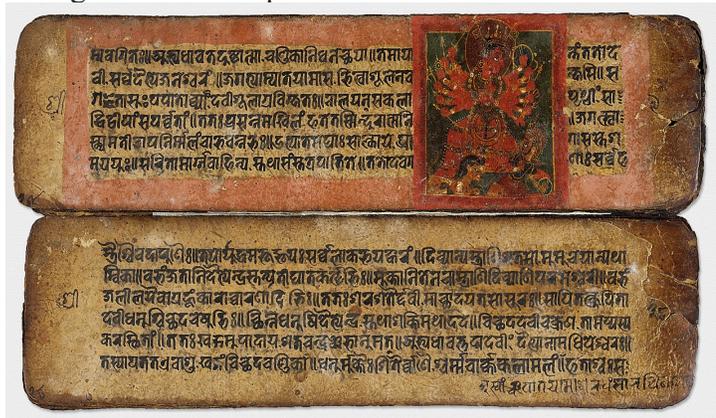


Fig 3: Devi mahatmya (Glory of the Goddess)

These verses outline a philosophical foundation wherein the ultimate reality (Brahman in Hinduism) can also be female. The text is one of the earliest extant complete manuscripts from the Hindu traditions which describes reverence and worship of the feminine aspect of God. This is often ranked in some Hindu traditions to be as important as the Bhagavad Gita.

The Devi Mahatmyam describes a storied battle between good and evil, where the Devi manifesting as goddess Durga leads the forces of good against the

demon Mahishasura—the goddess is very angry and ruthless, and the forces of good win.

Chanting the mantra ‘Sarva Mangala Mangale’ induces the powerful vibration not only in the physical body, but it also allows the soul to grab the divine energy, which is capable of relieving the devotee from all the worldly issues.

By surrendering oneself to the Divine Mother by reciting the ‘Sarva Mangala Mangalye’ mantra, the helplessness is magically eliminated and the person immediately gets the divine help and guidance to chase away any issue.

Hidden Meaning of Sarva Mangala Mangalye

Although Sarvartha Sadhike literally means to say that SHE fulfills the desires of all, there is another meaning for Sarvatha – the 4 attainments in a human life:

Dharma or Purushartha (Dutiful Living) Artha (Prosperity), Kama (Desire), Moksha (Liberation) Therefore, by reciting this sloka, an ordinary human being can attain all the 4 important attainments, including Moksha.

Similarly, Tryambake means Three eyed. The 3 eyes of Lord Shiva indicate the Ida, Pingala and Sushumna Naadi in the aura. Eventually, if the Kundalini energy (Shakthi) is awakened with the help of a realized guru, the energy (Shakthi) removes the ignorance, which automatically leads to liberation.

IV CONCLUSION

Durga presents herself as the Mother of all the worlds taking care of the welfare of all the beings and accounting for their prosperity. To awaken the Goddess, the personification of the active side of the divine “shakti” energy of Lord Shiva,

Devi Stuti is extremely powerful, it gives you peace of mind.

*“Ya devi sarva bhuteshu, shanti rupena sangsthita
Ya devi sarva bhuteshu, shakti rupena sangsthita
Ya devi sarva bhuteshu, matri rupena sangsthita
Yaa devi sarva bhuteshu, buddhi rupena sangsthita
Namastasyai, namastasyai, namastasyai, namo
namaha”*

This is the essence of the Devi Bhagavatam. Chanting of this Mantra blocks negative thoughts and banishes ignorance and blesses one with power, prosperity and positive energy. It helps build inner power and allows to develop healthy, loving relationships.

This Mantra has a special place in all the Hindu weddings. However, reciting it every morning brings you the ultimate goodness, peace and success in your life.

Disclaimer : *Kindly note that this article is written as an individual and my thoughts on spirituality and has no intention to hurt any religion or any individual mindfulness whatsoever.*

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- [8] *The Devi Mahatmyam lit. 'Glory of the Goddess' is a Hindu philosophical text describing the Goddess Durga/Adishakti as the supreme power and creator of the universe.[1][2]. It is part of the Markandeya Purana.*
- [9] *The mantra Sarva Mangala Mangalye Shive Sarvartha Sadhike comes from Shri Durga Saptshati which is the best and most known scripture of Shaktism.*
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