

# *Sampoorna Devi Bhagavatham*



VOLUME - 2

*From the Discourses of*  
**Sadguru Brahmasri Vaddiparti Padmakar**



***SAMPOORNA  
DEVI BHAGAVATHAM***



VOLUME - 2

*From the Discourses of*  
**Sadguru Brahmasri Vaddiparti Padmakar**

Sampoorna Devi Bhagavatham Volume - 2

All rights reserved

First Edition : September 2021

*Published by*

Shri. K SIVA PRASAD

Balaha Group,

Padma Edifice, No. 9, (New #2)

Annai Nagammai Street, R.A. Puram,

Chennai 600 028.

Ph : 044-4229 0909 (Contact : Mrs. Renu)

*Designed & Printed by*

COMPUPRINT

No.9, ARISTO Flat C, 2nd Street,

Gopalapuram, Chennai 600 086.

Phone : 044 - 2811 1224 / 6768

E-mail : compuprint@gmail.com

Website : [www.compuprint.in](http://www.compuprint.in)

# CONTENTS

## CHAPTER XVII

7

- Story of Surathudu
- Why Guru Bruhaspathi disappear?
- Why did Indra kill his Guru?
- How Vruthasurudu originated?
- Why Indra hid in the Lotus Pitcher?
- Why Nahusha kicked Sage Agastya?
- How can we come out from the cycle of Karma?
- Why Harishchandra wanted to sacrifice his son in the Yagna?

## CHAPTER XVIII

39

- How Sage Vishwamitra saved the child from being sacrificed?
- What is the conflict between Hai Hailu and the priests?
- Who is Auravudu?
- Why Lord Vishnu cursed Goddess Lakshmi?
- How did the clan of Hai Hailu start?
- Why Naradha got a Monkey face?

## CHAPTER XIX

69

- Who was Sundari?
- Why Taladwajudu was sad?
- Did Sage Naradha understand the Illusion?
- Who is Sukanya?
- Why Sukanya married an old man?
- What boon did Sage Chyavana give to the Ashwini Gods?

## CHAPTER XX

97

- Who was Madhasurudu?
- Who was Durgamudu?
- Why did the Gods become weak?

- Why Devi is known as Sathakshi and Sakhambari?
- Why did Sathi Devi die?
- How did Veerabhadra and Bhadrakali incarnate?
- The 108 Shakthi Peethams

## **CHAPTER XXI**

**125**

- Description of different kinds of Hells and Punishments
- Saraswathi Moola Mantra
- Importance of Saraswathi Kavacham
- How to greet the Guru (Namaskar/ Pranam)?

## **CHAPTER XXII**

**147**

- The traits of a human who came from Hell
- The traits of a good devotee
- The traits of people in Kali Yuga
- How Earth was created?
- How the Varaha Incarnation took place?
- How to take Holy dip in Rivers?
- Why Brunda was cursed by Radha?

## **CHAPTER XXIII**

**173**

- Why did Radha curse Sudama and Brunda?
- The Birth Story of Tulasi
- Why we should fulfil our responsibilities?
- Why we should not steal flowers to worship God?
- How Saligramam emerged?
- How Tulasi became an Auspicious Plant?
- The miracles of Tulasi plant
- How was Savitri able to see Lord Yama Dharma Raja?
- What is this human life about?

## **CHAPTER XXIV**

**195**

- How should one follow Dharma?
- What are the good Karmas one must do to attain salvation in this life?
- How to control the Mind?



- In which places will Goddess Lakshmi exist?
- How to worship Goddess Lakshmi?
- How to worship ancestors?
- Who is Swadha Devi?

## **CHAPTER XXV**

**223**

- Why should we praise righteous people?
- Story of Dakshina Devi
- Story of Shashti Devi
- Story of Mangala Chandi
- Story of Mansa Devi

## **CHAPTER XXVI**

**249**

- How did Mansa Devi trouble the King?
- Why did Kalidas reprimand Kalika Devi?
- How Mansa Devi became a Ghoul?
- Why Vinatha became a slave to her sister Kadruva?
- The story of Jarathkaruvu and Jarathkarudu
- Story of Goddess Radha and Golokam

## **CHAPTER XXVII**

**273**

- Story of Goddess Vindhya Vasini
- Why Mountain Vindhya was angry with Meru Mountain?
- Why did the cycle of day and night stop?
- Order of temples to be visited in Kasi

## **CHAPTER XXVIII**

**293**

- Who cannot stay in Kasi?
- Mantras to be chanted while applying Udhi
- How the Jyothir Lingams will reside in a devotee's body?
- The story told by Lord Vigneswara to Sage Agastya
- Story of Goddess Vindhyaachala Vasini

## **CHAPTER XXIX**

**313**

- Why should we read or listen to Devi Bhagavatham?
- Story of Arunasura
- Story of a disciple who betrayed the Guru
- Why Guru Bruhaspathi stopped Arunasura from chanting the Gayatri Mantram?
- How Goddess Bhramaramba Devi killed Arunasura?
- The Glory of Srisailam

## **CHAPTER XXX**

**331**

- The Customs to be followed in daily life
- The birth of Rudraksha
- The glory of Rudraksha
- The glory of Udhi

## **CHAPTER XXXI**

**351**

- The glory of Gayatri Mantram and Gayatri Kavacham
- The importance of Sandhya Vandanam
- Why Gods became egoistic?
- Why Agni was ashamed?
- The story of Sage Gouthamudu

## **CHAPTER XXXII**

**373**

- Description of Manidweepam
- Benefits of listening to Devi Bhagavatham





## CHAPTER 17

### KEY POINTS

Story of Surathudu

Why Guru Bruhaspathi disappear?

Why did Indra kill his Guru?

How Vruthasurudu originated?

Why Indra hid in the Lotus Pitcher?

Why Nahusha kicked Sage Agastya?

How can we come out from the cycle of Karma?

Why Harishchandra wanted to sacrifice his son in the Yagna?

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

The *Devi Bhagavatam* is an epic of Mantras; a summary of the Vedic sciences; If you read or listen to this chapter your desires will be fulfilled. A person who does not have desires and wishes only for salvation will attain it. Humans are called as *Manavulu* because we are all offspring of *MANUVA*.

### MANVANTARA CHARITHAM

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Swayambhu, born from Brahma's right hand             | 2. Swarochishudu, |
| 3. Uthamudu   | 4. Tamasudu       |
| 5. Raivathudu, his daughter is Revathi wife of Balarama | 6. Chakshashudu   |

| <b>7. Vaivaswatha (Current era, Son of Surya (Sun))</b> |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 8. Surya Savarni (son of Chaya and Sun)                 | 9. Daksha Savarni  |
| 10. Meru Savarni  | 11. Brahma Savarni |
| 12. Rudra Savarni                                       | 13. Rauchuyudu     |
| 14. Bhouthudu   |                    |

These 14 persons will become Manu on rotational basis. The second Manu is Swarochishudu. In his time the whole World was ruled by King Surathudu. He was very virtuous; he had family and he was a good ruler. It was the richest kingdom. People used glasses made of gold to drink water and used gold rings in construction of wells (*well rings are used to avoid well walls from collapsing*). But time does not always remain the same. With afflux of time and bad luck, misfortune had befallen the King. A few ministers in his kingdom were corrupted and were greedy for money. They wanted to depose the King. In the nearby deserts there were a race with beards and shaven heads. They were known as *KOLA VIDVAMSULU*. They got this name because they would not eat pigs. They sit facing towards west and pray to the God. They write from right to left in direction. This race was against the Vedic culture and they ate cows.

They got attracted by the wealth of King Surathudu. Kola Vidvamsulu took the help of those greedy ministers and said, “Once we defeat your King you can rule the kingdom, we will only take the wealth and leave”. The ministers thought, “If the King is defeated, we will get the kingdom and throne and we can send these Kola Vidvamsulu away by paying them money”. Thinking so the ministers helped them by revealing the secret tunnel routes to the palace. Kola Vidvamsulu entering from the deserts invaded the kingdom. To protect his wife and children King Surathudu sent them away from the kingdom. He fought for some time; then he realized that his men had also joined the enemies and were fighting against him. He thought, “It was a waste to fight and any time I may be killed by the enemies. If I am alive, I can get the kingdom back after some time, so being with life is more important now. Fleeing from here is the best thing”. Thinking so he rode on a horse alone and fled into the forest.

All of us have to obey the time; we cannot go against destiny. The rich may become poor, the poor may become rich. When good and bad fortune comes and goes no one knows, that is why the scholars bow their heads to time and live with hardships and comforts. King Surathudu was restless in the forest, because he was a King a few hours back, the whole World was under his control, with a small gesture he used to get all the comforts, there were servants to serve and obey him. Now he had no one to help or serve him and he was alone. The main reason for being intolerable and restless after dismissal from power is, there will not be any people to serve them.

We got this human life only because of our virtues done in the previous births. We should be really grateful to God for this. Instead of that we are habituated to blame or degrade others, as if we are the greatest in this world. We should stop doing such acts and be humble and maintain cordial relations with others at all times. Nothing stays permanent. Bhoja Maharaj was a King and a great poet, who ruled this entire World and wrote an amazing slokam which narrates as, *"In Krutha Yuga there was a great King called Mandhata, who ruled this world, and he also conquered King Ravana. Such a warrior with great valor left this world. In Tretha Yuga Lord Rama was born and built a bridge on the sea, such a person also left the world. In Dwapara Yuga King Dharmaraja and many others such Kings were born, they also left the world. Does the Bhudevi (Earth) go with any of them? Or any minute thing go with the people who die? Does their body or their attire go with them? Nothing goes with us, only the soul goes with our sins and virtues"*. King Surathudu realized the same, but he was helpless and hungry.

He saw an ashram nearby with huts that were being built with grass and *Darbhas*. In the middle of these there was a *Yagna Kundam* (place where Yagnas are performed) and smoke was rising from it. Some bachelors were performing Yagna with their Guru. King Surathudu got down from the horse and tied the horse to a tree nearby, reached that place and greeted the Guru politely. The Guru looked at King Surathudu and said, "I know who you are. You are King Surathudu. Due to misfortune, you have been defeated by your enemies and you have reached here without direction. You can stay here without the fear of the enemy. This is a sacred

place and home to Sages who lead a peaceful life. Vedic recitation and Yajnas are held regularly here. There will be no suffering where the recitation of Vedas takes place. Spend time in our ashram in peace. After some time if your fortune is good, you will get back your kingdom”. Saying this the Guru called his disciple and asked him to arrange accommodation for the King.

The King began living in that ashram and daily attended Yagnas and listened to *Puranas* and ate whatever was given to him. The King spent his time in this way for a few months. But in between he was restless, thinking about his wife and children. “I worked hard and earned lots of wealth and kept it in my treasury. My ministers may be wasting that money; I do not know how my kingdom is functioning now and whether things are alright there or not”? When the Guru was giving discourse on the *Puranas*, the King was physically present but his thoughts and concern were on other things which he had lost. Sometimes the Guru asked him to pay attention to the *Puranas*. For a person who lost money, person with debts, loss of lands and other property, their suffering is unimaginable.

One day King Surathudu took bath and went for the Yagna. An untidy person with a sad face reached there. King Surathudu asked him, “Who are you”? The person replied, “My name is Samadhi and I was a great merchant. I have earned a lot of wealth, but my wife and children together sent me out of the house”. The merchant used to donate lots of money towards charity. So, his family members felt that he will donate all the money and spoil their wealth. Hence one day the merchant’s wife called his children and said, “Your father earned money, but what is the use? He is donating lots of money away. He is a danger to all of us. So let us take control of the money and property and send him out”. That is how the merchant had to come out of his house. The family sent such a virtuous person out. The merchant continued telling, “I am not worried that I have been abandoned as I have earned money with morality and ethics. Since I was doing charity, my property increased but now it is in my children’s hand and I am worried they may misuse that money. If I am there, I might have done some charity with that money. I am worried about my wife as she is innocent”. Samadhi was still worried about his family members who had sent him out of the house.

King Surathudu said, “I lost my kingdom and you lost your money. We seem to be sailing in the same boat. We both will go to the Guru, hold his feet and ask him for an idea to be rid of our problems”. After the Yagna they went and held the feet of Guru Sumedhudu. The King said, “I am worried about my lost kingdom and he is worried about his wealth, property and his family members. Why are we in such pain? Do we have a remedy for this pain? Help us in coming out of this misery”. Guru Sumedhudu replied, “The situation you are experiencing is called as an Illusion. We are not related to anyone, nothing belongs to us but still humans think this is my money, my wealth, my property and materialism is a great delusion. This delusion will pull and push us into the family. This illusion is as if everything is there when nothing is there and when nothing is there everything is there. To come out of this illusion and delusion we have to hold on to the Person who controls this delusion and She is *MAHA MAYA*. That is Goddess *Jagadamba*.

Goddess *Jagadamba* plays with the world as a toy. This world is like a puppet in the hands of the Devi. Because of this illusion created by the Devi you have attachment towards your family and because of the same you lost your kingdom and it makes you feel nostalgic”. King Surathudu and Samadhi then asked, “How can we come out of this delusion and get back our lost things”. Guru Sumedhudu replied, “I am going to give you Navarna Mantra. You chant this Mantra with devotion and perform a Homam (a fire ritual performed usually on special occasions) for the Devi. With this the Devi will appear”. Saying this he taught the Navarna Mantra and asked them to chant with devotion.

*OM AIM HREEM KLEEM CHAMUNDAYAI VICHCHE*

Both of them greeted the Guru and started chanting this mantra with attention and devotion. They also did Homam. The Devi did not appear. Their determination increased. They said, “We are in trouble, so we got the Mantra from our Guru and we have chanted it with devotion and we also did Homam. But the Devi is not bestowing grace on us and not giving Darshan to us. Hence we don’t want to live”. Saying this they started cutting their muscles part by part and offered it in the Homam. As soon as they offered their muscle, the flames in the Homa Kundam

became more intense. It was a sacred fire and from those flames Goddess *Jagadamba* appeared as *CHITHAGNI KUNDA SAMBHUTHA* (*the Devi born from sacred fire*). They wanted to give their life to the Goddess. They felt that they wanted to heartily invite the Goddess. (*Chith* is heartily offered themselves to Agni so *Chithagni Sambhutha* means *being born*).

The Devi appeared and She touched them with love. King Surathudu's and Samadhi's bodies became like before. They got all their muscles back and the injuries disappeared. The Devi turned towards Samadhi, "Oh Merchant! First I want to give you a boon, ask whatever you want". The merchant replied, "Oh Mother! Before seeing You I had an emotional bonding with my wife and children and attachment to my property. But after Your Darshan, I will not ask for all these materialistic things. Now I do not have any attachment to my property. After Your Darshan my life is filled with happiness, my heart is filled with eternal love. Even after doing Tapas for millions of years, Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva could not have Your Darshan easily, but I had the Darshan of you. I do not have interest on anything. I just want a permanent place in Your *Manidweepam*. Please bless me with salvation. I do not want anything other than Your grace and presence".

Samadhi's story is an example of the pinnacle of knowledge of a scholar. The merchant was a millionaire, he enjoyed all the luxuries, and he was away from his family. Now if he asks, the Devi will bless him with the whole World as a boon. But after the Darshan of the Devi he thought, "I do not need materialistic things. I only want the blessings of the Goddess". This is the stage every human has to reach in their life. After getting the grace of the Devi, still we are requesting for materialistic things means that our Karma has not matured. Samadhi was a Yogi so he asked for the Devi's presence and nothing else. The Devi replied to Samadhi, "In the near future you will reach Me. Go to the Himalayas and continue your Japam. After sometime you will leave your body and permanently reach Me and you will not have rebirth". After giving this boon she turned towards King Surathudu.

The Devi asked, "Oh King! What do you want"? The King replied, "Right now, I do not have the wish for salvation. My enemies have defeated me. So, I have

a grudge on them. As long as I have this grudge, I cannot come to You. Therefore, I need my kingdom back. After that, any time You can take me to Your World". Humans have different perceptions. The Devi said, "All your enemies in this World will be destroyed. Your ministers will come back and enthrone you as King again. All the remaining enemies will die in your hands. You will rule this world for 1000 years. In your next birth you will be born to Lord Surya (Sun) and Chaya Devi with the name Sawarni and you will be the Manu for a tenure". Giving these boons the Devi disappeared. With this boon the ministers killed all the enemies, came back to King Surathudu and said, "Oh King! We made a big mistake; we accept that we have joined the enemies and now repent our behavior. You please come back and rule the World". The ministers took King Surathudu with them and enthroned him as the King. King Surathudu's wife and children also came back and joined the King. He ruled for 1000 years, and after leaving the body he merged with Lord Surya (Sun).

Lord Surya had two wives; one Sandhya Devi and another Chaya Devi. Lord Surya and Chaya Devi had two sons and one daughter. With the Devi's grace King Surathudu was born as the eldest son Sawarni and Saniswarudu as their second son. Saniswarudu is the strongest planet of all. The daughter's name is Tapathi which is a River. The Devi should be worshiped with devotion when trouble comes. Sage Vyasa told Janamejeya, "Every living being will be in trouble at one point of time; worrying or crying will not help you to come out of trouble. We have to be strong at that point of time. Both the King and the merchant had devotion on their Guru Sumedhudu and followed what he said. When the Guru says something, without thinking if we follow, we will get the grace of the Guru. With the grace of the Guru in this life we can achieve everything including salvation. So, when you are in trouble surrender at the feet of the Devi".

Sage Vyasa started to narrate a story, "Janamejeya, no matter how great a person is, he will be harmed if he violates Dharma. For example, I am going to tell you about the life of Lord Indra. Once there was a Sage *TWASHTA* (Rishi), also known as Vishwakarma and he was the sculptor and architect for the Gods. This Sage wished to have the greatest son in the world. With his Tapas energy he created a son. The son was with three heads, so he was named as *TRISIRUDU* (another name



is Viswarupudu). Trisirudu read Veda with the head facing towards the east (with one head). With the head facing towards south he drank *SOMA RASAM* (a plant juice, which was a fundamental offering in the Vedic sacrifices. The stalks of the plant were pressed between stones, and the juice was filtered through sheep's wool and then mixed with water and milk). With the head facing towards north, he spoke about materialistic things.

When the Guru asks to do something, without thinking we have to follow. If the Guru asks us to die, the disciple should be ready for that. If the disciple does not respect the Guru, does not listen to what he said and if the Guru who gives mantra is not respected, then the disciple has to face Hell for several times. He will be born as a dog for 100 lifetimes. Thereafter he will be born as an outcaste. So, respect the Guru. Indra sometimes did not respect his Guru. One day Guru Bruhaspathi was angry with Lord Indra so he disappeared saying, "I will not be visible to you". The Gods were in search for another Guru due to this. They chose Sage Trisirudu because he was created by Rishi Twashta, and he had three heads and he was a scholar. Indra asked Sage Trisirudu, "You be my Guru". Sage Trisirudu replied, "I will be your Guru, but as soon as Sage Bruhaspathi returns, I will leave that position". Indra accepted for that and made Sage Trisirudu as Guru for the Gods.

Sage Trisirudu took the position of Sage Bruhaspathi and everyone was happy with him. But there was a problem here. Sage Trisirudu's mother was a Demon and his father a God. He was biased towards his mother and was close to the Demons. So secretly he called the Demons and blessed them saying, "You will get good fortune and flourish more than the Gods" and he would share the *Yagna Prasadam*. Indra came to know about this, confronted Sage Trisirudu and said, "You are Guru for the Gods, you have to bless the Gods with *Yagna Akshathalu* (*Akshata* - unbroken rice grains mixed with turmeric), and you have to give *Prasadam* only to Us. But you are giving these to the Demons also and this is not acceptable". Sage Trisirudu did not give importance to these words and said, "I am a Sage and I do not have discrimination and all are equal to me". Saying this he closed his eyes and started his *Japam*.



Indra was very angry, “You are our Guru, and instead of blessing us you are blessing Demons. It will be dangerous if we let you live”. So, he killed him with his *Vajrayudham*. Sage Trisirudu fell down after being hit by the weapon, *Vajrayudham* and died. Sage Trisirudu looked alive even after his death, so Indra got a doubt, “I think he still has life in him; unless I behead him, he will not die”. Thinking so he planned to behead Sage Trisirudu. Indra saw a woodcutter nearby who was cutting trees. Indra called him, “Oh Taksha! (Sanskrit word means wood cutter)”. The wood cutter came there and Indra said, “He is my enemy, so I hit him with my *Vajrayudham*, but I feel that he still has life in him. Once I hit him with *Vajrayudham* I should not use it again for the second time on the same person, this is the rule for *Vajrayudham*. So, I am not hitting him with *Vajrayudham* again. You have an axe, using it you hew his three heads. Then I will get rid of my enemy”.

Now this woodcutter was clever. So he reasoned, “You are very selfish. Killing him will fetch you benefits. Which is why you want to do this. You must be a very greedy man and that is why you have killed a person you claim to be your Guru. What do I get for doing this? I am going about my business, making furniture out of the wood I cut and live happily with what I earn. Why would I get into this act of beheading someone? That too someone who is a scholar, done so many yagnas, has 3 heads and a Guru of the Gods?” Indra said, “Alright from now on all woodcutters will get a part of the benefit derived from performing Yagnas (18% benefit); Now will you behead him?” Since then, one of the instruments used by woodcutters is kept near a Yagna. Taksha thought, “If I can get 18% benefits of doing the Yagna, I can afford to commit this sin!” And he heaved and chopped off the three heads!

Sparrows came out from the head of Sage Trisirudu which recited the Vedas. Thithuvu bird (a kind of Indian bird) came out of the head which had Soma rasam and Quail bird came out of the head with which Trisirudu was talking about materialistic things. Chirping, these birds flew away. At that moment a Celestial Voice came from the sky and warned, “Oh Indra! You have committed a great sin. You killed your Guru and above that you separated the heads after death. Because of this sin your position will be in trouble. The birds which came out from the heads of Trisirudu will chirp that “Indra Killed his Guru” where ever they go. Because of the chirping of those birds, your body will be affected”. Hearing this Indra started

trembling and bemoaned, “I committed a sin by killing him”. But with courage he left for his home and started chanting *Gayatri Mantram*.

Sage Tvashta came to know that Indra had killed his son, Sage Trisirudu. So, he was very angry and took an oath that, “I will destroy this Indra and until then I will not rest”. He arranged a *Yagna Kundam* beside his son’s dead body and he chanted a Mantra. Any mantra can give results and is considered auspicious when pronounced properly otherwise it becomes poison. That is what happened here.

*Indrasatro Vivar Daswa*

*The enemy of Indra, Oh Demon! Prosper.* This mantra pronounced thus, would have produced a Demon who could have killed Indra. Sage Tvashta was angry and was upset with the son’s death, so he pronounced it as

*Indra Satro Vivar Daswa*

As Sage Tvashta took a pause after the word Indra the meaning had been completely changed. *Oh Indra! You are my enemy, you prosper.* So, this Yagna gave good result and good fortune to Indra. That is why we have to hear carefully when the Guru is giving the mantra. If the mantra is not pronounced properly, we may not get the desired results. Hence the Gurus will be correcting the language sometimes. It is their duty to correct the devotees and the disciples. No one is a complete scholar but to the extent the Guru knows they can correct. Except Lord Siva no one knows about everything.

Vruthudu was born from a Yagna, also known as Vruthasurudu. He had a big body, big hands, clumsy face, big fangs, a large nose and his head was touching the moon and he was holding a Trishul. He was born with the effect of mantra, but he could not live for a long time (due to the mistake in Pronunciation). Immediately he greeted his father and asked him, “Oh Vishwakarma! You have incarnated me from this Yagna with the power of your mantra. What is my duty?”. Sage Tvashta replied, “Indra is wicked, you defeat him and grab Heaven”. Immediately Vruthasurudu invaded Heaven and defeated the Gods, and threw the Gods out. Indra was afraid by looking at all these, so he fled. Vruthasura had ethics and morality. He knew that

one should not kill the person who is fleeing. So, he went back to his father and said, “Oh Father! I have won war against the Gods and I grabbed them with my hand and threw them out of Heaven. Indra fled without fighting with me. We should not kill the people who are running away so I left him and came back to you”. Sage Tvashta said, “Indra is a danger for us all the time; he will flee, but will kill us from the back, so you have to save yourself from him. Hence you start Tapas for Lord Brahma, impress him and get the boon of immortality”. Vruthasurudu with utmost attention and devotion did Tapas for Lord Brahma. Lord Brahma was impressed and appeared and asked, “What do you want”?

Vruthasura replied, “I know you are not going to give me the boon of immortality, but I do ask that I should not be killed by dry or wet object, I should not die during day or night, and I should not die by the five elements of nature. I want this boon”. Lord Brahma accepted and gave the boon. Vruthasurudu went back his father and said, “Father I got the boon from Lord Brahma. Now neither a weapon nor the five elements of nature can kill me”. Sage Tvashta was very happy, and said, “Now go and swallow that Indra”. Vruthasurudu again invaded Heaven. All the Gods scattered. Vruthasura took Indra in one hand and swallowed him like a small pill. The Gods were fearful and started thinking, “How to protect Indra”?

Sage Bruhaspathi before disappearing from Heaven, preached *NARAYANA KAVACHAM* to Indra and he also said, “As long as you recite this Kavacham you will not die”. As Vruthasurudu swallowed him, Indra reached his stomach and started chanting this Kavacham. That is why he was safe in the stomach and protected himself from the regular process of digestion. The Gods started thinking, “How to get Indra out of Vruthasura’s stomach”? They got an idea and they created an energy and named it as *JUMBRANAMU* (means yawning) and sent it to Vruthasura. Immediately Vruthasura started yawning. As soon as he opened his mouth wide, Indra jumped out from the mouth. Indra said, “Vruthasura you should not swallow me again; I cannot tolerate the processes in the stomach.”

Meanwhile Lord Brahma appeared there and said, “Vruthasura, Indra is your cousin brother. He is the leader for the Gods. With affection on Me both of you be

friendly and do not fight”. Vruthasurudu said, “I do not have any problem in being friendly with Indra. Because you ordered, I will not kill him. At the same time how can I believe him? He is wicked, he did commit a lot of sins, like he cheated Sage Gouthama’s wife Ahalya and many others. He behaved in wicked ways with many people”. Then all the Sages came there and said, “We will make Indra take an oath or promise of not harming you. Will you believe him after the oath?” Vruthasurudu replied, “Ask him to take an oath first, and then I will be friendly with him”. All the Sages and the Gods together brought Indra to Vruthasurudu and said, “Indra will swear whatever we say”. Vruthasura asked Indra, “When I was born, my father told me that I will die if someone hit me from the back. So, you cannot hit me from the back. Is that acceptable to you?”

Indra obediently accepted it and placed his hand in Vruthasura’s hand and promised him. The next oath was, “You should always walk in front of me and not behind me. You should not go back on the word given and if you do not honor your oath, you will incur great sins”. Believing all these oaths, Vruthasura was friendly with Indra. Both travelled all the places together. One day Vishwakarma (Sage Tvashta) called his son Vruthasurudu and said, “Do not believe him; do not be friendly with people who are the betrayer of faith and traitors. The *Puranas* stated that we should give our life to the Guru and surrender to them completely, but Indra did not respect his own Guru. You are roaming with such a person. It is dangerous. Please listen to me”. Vruthasurudu was under the influence of Indra’s sweet words and false obedience, so he replied, “Oh Father! What you said is true, but these days Indra has changed his nature. I can sense a kind of sweetness in his words. I am very strong when compared to Indra and I have many boons. Even if he wishes to kill me, I will not die. He has changed and he will not betray his oath and my faith, so I believe him. Even if he betrays his promise and tries to kill me, as I have many boons, it is not easy for him to kill me.” Sage Tvashta warned him again and became calm.

Indra was friendly on one side and on the other he did not stop thinking wickedly, “This wicked Vruthasurudu occupied my position and my kingdom and is sitting with me on the throne. I have promised so many things to him, but I am just waiting

for the opportunity to kill him. But how to kill him? Enemy will always be an enemy and we should not believe an enemy and move with them. So, I have to kill my enemy". This continued for some time. One day Indra prayed to the Devi with devotion, " Oh *Jaganmatha*! A Demon occupied the throne of Heaven. Show me a way to get back my throne, Heaven and protect me". Goddess *Jaganmatha* replied, "Indra, do not worry. Even though Vruthasurudu is friendly with you, a Demon is a Demon. The position of Indra is yours. When you are ruling Heaven, removing you from the throne is a big crime, so he has to die. But he will not die in the day time or at night. He can die at sunset. He will not die with wet or dry object, there is only one object which is neither dry nor wet and that is the foam of the sea. Dip your *Vajrayudham* in that foam and in the evening, hit him from behind. He will die". Giving these instructions the Devi disappeared.

Once Indra knew there was a way to kill this Demon, he relaxed. He prayed to Lord Vishnu to enhance the power of the *Vajrayudham*, which led to the Lord installing Himself in the center of the weapon. It became even more powerful as Lord Vishnu Himself had embraced it. Indra hid the weapon in his waist and one day as he and Vruthasura were wandering around the Ocean of Milk, Indra waited till it was evening. Vruthasura was walking ahead with his hands folded and it was the right moment for Indra to strike. "Now it is neither day or night and luckily we are near the sea. Let me dip this powerful *Vajrayudham* in the sea's froth, and then I can kill him from behind. I just need to divert his attention so that he does not look behind." He called out to Vruthasura and told him, "Oh Friend! Look at that *Uchchaihshravas* (horse) in the middle of the Ocean. Is it not beautiful?" Thus, diverting Vruthasura's attention, Indra dunked the *Vajrayudham* in the sea foam and then stabbed him from the back. Vruthasura died instantly. So, he died not of any dry or wet object but by the energy of the Devi in the form of the sea foam and with Vishnu embedded in the *Vajrayudham*.

As Vruthasura died, a black woman came out from that body. Indra asked the woman, "Who are you?" The woman replied, "Do you not know me? You have insulted Guru Bruhaspathi and killed Sage Trisirudu. On top of it you promised and broke that promise, deceived your friend and killed him. I am the form of Great

Sin. For your acts of Brahma Hatya (Murder), Guru Hatya, Mithra Hatya (killing a friend) and breaking the promise, I am going to hold you and I will not leave you”. Indra started trembling and said, “Oh Great Sin! Please do not embrace me”. The sin will be always in the form of dark (black) woman. Once this sin latches on to the person, then that person will be plagued by illness, unrest, insomnia (lack of sleep), misery, suffering and finally leave the body with these. Even Indra cannot get liberated from it. When this black woman was about to catch Indra, he ran to his wife. Sachi Devi asked, “Your enemy is killed; now why are you so worried?”. Indra replied, “The enemy died but a new trouble has come. A great sin is going to hold me”. Indra stayed in Heaven for two or three days. He was not able to bear the suffering, so he fled from Heaven without informing Sachi Devi and reached Earth.

The lotus flower has the power to repel sins. So, worshipping the Devi with lotus flowers will remove even terrible sins. Goddess *Jaganmatha* likes lotus flower, which is why She has the name *PADMA PRIYE* (the Devi who loves lotus). One can come out of poverty quickly if we worship the Devi with lotus flowers. *Puranas* stated that by worshipping the Devi with 1000 Lotus flowers on Friday, we will come out of terrible poverty and great sins. There are golden colored lotus flowers in *Manasa Sarovaram* (“Manas” meaning mind, intellect, intelligence, while “Sarovara” means a lake). Indra finally reached *Manasa Sarovaram*. Since the Sin Being could not penetrate or even touch the lotus, Indra found a perfect place to hide in the lotus pitcher. The Sin Being stayed on at the banks of *Manasa Sarovaram* and said, “Indra, since I am troubling you, you came to *Manasa Sarovaram* and hid in the pitcher of the lotus flower. One day or the other you will have to come out; till that time, I will wait on the banks of *Manasa Sarovaram*. Once you come out, I will hold you and torture you”. Indra thought, “Instead of getting into trouble with Sin Being, it is better to stay here”, Thinking so he stayed there for 1000 years.

Even Indra, the ruler of Heaven had to hide in the lotus pitcher and suffer for the sins he had committed. But for every sin there is atonement. In *Devi Bhagavatham* at the end of every chapter it has been clearly stated that listening to or reading the *Bhagavatham* with utmost attention and devotion will get deliverance from terrible sins. Sometimes the sins that cannot be forgiven even by doing Tapas for thousands

of years can be cured by listening to or reading *Devi Bhagavatham* with Attention and Devotion. The bonds, relationships with people, responsibilities and works will always be there in human life. But one has to take time out for listening to or reading *Devi Bhagavatham*. If we are not able to do this then Lord Yama Dharma Raja will allocate time from 3000 years to 30,000 years and take us to Hell. In this Kali Yuga only one thing can help us to come out of great sins and it is by listening to or reading *Puranas*. Sage Markandeya said, “If I surrender to Lord Siva, what can Lord Yama Dharma Raja do?” That should be our inspiration to develop interest in *Puranas* and spend time on listening to or reading *Devi Bhagavatham* and other *Puranas*, that too with devotion and attention.

Meanwhile since there was no ruler for Heaven, the Demons invaded it. Then all the Gods went to Lord Brahma and said, “Without telling his wife, Indra fled and we do not know what happened to him. There is no ruler for Heaven. Who will protect Heaven from the Demons?” Lord Brahma replied, “You need a temporary Indra to protect the Heaven. The person who did 100 *Ashvamedha Yagnas* (grandest of the Vedic religious rites of ancient India, performed by a King to celebrate his imperial sovereignty. If the horse entered a foreign kingdom, its ruler had to either fight or submit) will be eligible to become Indra. No one did 100 *Ashvamedha yagnas* but on Earth Emperor Nahushudu did 99 *Ashvamedha Yagnas*. He was born in the Chandra clan. Chandra’s (Moon’s) son was Budha. Budha’s son was Pururavudu and Pururavudu’s son is Nahushudu. Enthroned him as temporary Indra”.

Emperor Nahusha was a great and righteous person and performed 99 *Ashvamedha Yagnas*. He never desired for others property or objects and always spoke the truth. The Gods reached Emperor Nahusha and said, “Mahatma, please accept the position of Indra for some time. Lord Brahma also ordered the same. So please come to our World and rule the Heaven, Earth and Patala Lokam in accordance with Dharma”. Emperor Nahusha said, “Oh Gods! I am spending my time in worshipping the Devi and happy with the throne on this Earth. I do not want any position in Heaven, and that too this position is not permanent. Once Indra is back you will send me out. I am happy here”. The Gods responded, “Lord Brahma suggested that you are the only eligible person to rule Heaven and for



holding Indra's position. At least to respect Lord Brahma's words you have to come and accept the throne". Emperor Nahusha replied, "I cannot control you, because you are Gods and you have divine glories and powers. I am a human being, others may not listen to me, and so if you give me a boon then I will take position on the throne".

The Gods asked, "What is that boon"? Emperor Nahusha replied, "Give me half of all your strengths" He asked for half the strength of 33 crore Gods. As it was the order of Lord Brahma, the 33,00,00,000 Gods gave half their strength to Emperor Nahusha. With the power of this strength his body started shining brightly. "Now I can control the Gods". Saying this he went to Indra Lok and sat on Indra's throne. He ruled the world with Dharma for 100 years. He behaved depending on the situation and he never used abusive language. One day he gave instructions to all the Gods and asked them, "I heard about a great *NANDANAM* (garden) in Heaven. I have visited all the places in Heaven but never visited Nandanam garden. I have taken a ride on *Airaavatham*, *Uchchaihshravas*, Chariot, tasted ambrosia, ate the fruits of *Kalpavriksha* but I could not see Nandanam garden so far. Please show me that garden".

As he was the King, to obey his orders they took him to Nandanam garden. As he was wandering in the garden, he saw Sachi Devi (wife of Indra) plucking flowers. He was astonished by the beauty of Sachi Devi. He asked the Gods who she was. The Gods replied that she is the wife of Indra. Hearing to this answer, Nahusha said, "I am Indra," Gods replied that she is the wife of the previous Indra, Purandhara. With astonishment Nahusha said, "Sachi Devi is gorgeous, Oh Gods! You have betrayed me". The Gods were surprised and said, "How have we betrayed you? We brought you from Earth and gave you the throne of Indra". Nahusha replied, "You gave me the position of Indra, but you did not give me Indrani (wife of Indra). Is it not a betrayal"? The Gods were more surprised listening to Nahusha. Anyone can take the position, but cannot ask for the previous minister's or ruler's wife.

They said, "We can offer you the position of Indra but cannot give you his wife. It is a great sin". Nahusha was irritable and said, "What is wrong in it? I know about Indra, he abducted Gouthama Maharshi's wife. He had many affairs with different



women. So, I do not want to listen to anything. I want Indrani as my wife. Indrani should always be with Indra; currently I am Indra so she has to be my wife. If you are not able to convince her to be my wife, I will burn all of you to ashes.” Fifty percent of every one’s strength is with Nahusha, so whatever he says the Gods have to follow otherwise he has the power to burn the Gods. The Gods thought, “Unnecessarily, we brought him and made him Indra. Now we have put ourselves into trouble”. Thinking so, under unavoidable circumstances they went to Sachi Devi and said, “You know that the present Indra is Nahushudu; He wants to marry you. If you are not accepting to his proposal, he will abduct you. We will also be in trouble. Why should all of us be in trouble? Why cannot you marry him?”

Sachi Devi was surprised and said, “Oh Gods! With the temporary suffering Indra fled and you want to handover his wife to a stranger? Are you so unjust?” The Gods replied, “Oh Mother! What we can do? We are all puppets in the hands of Nahusha. We cannot change the time and we do not have the power to save you. We are helpless”. At that moment Sachi Devi remembered their Guru, Sage Bruhaspathi. In any adversity, there is no better saviour other than a Guru. The Guru is the only one who can protect all creatures in difficult times. So, Sachi Devi prayed to Guru Bruhaspathi with devotion, “Oh Guru Deva! Please protect me”. Till that time, he was hiding from all and in invisible form. As soon as Sachi Devi called him, Sage Bruhaspathi appeared immediately. That is the grace of the Gurus. A Guru does not stay angry for long, they only scold when the disciple makes mistakes. But in reality, when the disciple is in danger and calls, “Oh Guru! You have to protect me”, then the Guru will forget everything and protects them.

It is said there is no God other than the Guru. Such a kind hearted Guru appeared and asked Sachi Devi, “What do you want”? The Gods beside Sachi Devi said, “Mahatma you know everything; because you have asked, we will tell you. Presently Nahusha is ruling our Heaven. He is asking Sachi Devi to become his wife. Sachi Devi is sad about the same. Now we do not know what to do. That is why Sachi Devi prayed to you in our presence. You think about a plan. The divine manoeuvre should suppress Nahusha and protect Sachi Devi. Please think of it as soon as possible. If it is getting delayed Nahusha may become irritable and angry”.

Guru Bruhaspathi was very intelligent. This is why we call people with intellect as Bruhaspathi. Guru Bruhaspathi said, “Sachi Devi, at the time of trouble we have to think intelligently. You personally go to Nahusha and tell, “Oh Nahusha! I want to worship the Devi for a year. If you are not disturbing me for a year, thereafter I will marry you”. With the lust on you he will give you one year’s time. After one year I will tell you how to come out this problem. What do you say?”

Sachi Devi was very happy with the plan and felt relaxed. With this plan she went to Nahusha’s palace. Nahusha saw Sachi Devi coming on her own to the palace. He felt extremely happy and said, “Indrani you came for me? I was waiting for you”. Sachi Devi replied, “I am always Indra’s wife”. Nahusha thought presently he is Indra, so she means to say ‘his’ wife. But here the intention of Sachi Devi is she was always wife of Indra not Nahusha. Again, Sachi Devi continued, “How can I deny you? But I have started a Vratam (refers to pious observances such as fasting, worshipping, rituals and pilgrimage). I have to worship the Devi for a year with devotion and purity and after that I can marry you. I kept this rule for myself. If you can give me one year’s time, I will finish the *Jaganmatru Puja*; that is worshipping the Devi and will see you”. Nahusha replied, “I am happy that you have accepted my proposal, you take your time. If not, a year you can take another year. This one year worship with devotion. I will not disturb you. But after one year you have to consider me”. Sachi Devi replied, “After a year I will consider you, that is why I am worshipping the Devi”. Nahusha accepted.

Sachi Devi went back to Guru Bruhaspathi. He established an idol of Goddess *Jaganmatha* in Sachi Devi’s palace. He preached *Navarna Mantra* with *Beejaksharam* and said, “You chant this Mantra and worship the Devi with lotus flowers. See the results”. In the presence of the Guru Sachi Devi worshiped the Devi with devotion. One full moon day, Goddess *Jaganmatha*, *Avyaja Karunamurthy*, appeared to Sachi Devi.

*Devi was with pleasant face, smiling. She will never be angry with Her devotees. She appeared with three eyes. Right eye being the sun, left eye the Moon and third eye being Agni (fire). She is a Mother to all the creatures from Lord Brahma to a smallest insect, that*

*is why She is the Jaganmatha. She is an embodiment of compassion. She is the ruler of the Universe (all the Worlds). She is the form of gentleness. She is embodiment of knowledge.*

Such a Devi appeared and Sachi Devi become numb. She forgot to do the Sthotram. The Devi said, “Oh Sachi Devi! I know that your heart is filled with unknown joy and bliss. The joy of seeing Me is indescribable, because of this bliss you are not able to describe Me and not able to pray to Me with Sthotram. Once the joy is filled in the heart a person will become silent. This silence is real worship. Now I am giving you the power to talk, “Oh Wife of Indra! Whatever you want, ask Me without hesitation. I will give whatever you ask”. Sachi Devi folded her hands and greeted the Devi and said, “*Jaganmatha* appeared in front me and is asking me to tell my wish, what can I ask? Every woman wants to be with her husband and have a happy family life. Even I, want Indra back as my husband and I should not have trouble or problem because of Nahusha. This Nahusha should be destroyed, Indra should become the ruler again. With the lust he wants to imprison me, so get rid of this Nahusha from my life. Give back my husband”

The Devi replied, “Try to find out where your husband is and then you can bring him back here”. Saying this she called a messenger and said, “Oh Messenger! Take Sachi Devi to the place where Indra is hidden”. The Devi disappeared from there. With the help of the Devi’s messenger Sachi Devi reached *Manasa Sarovaram* near Mount Kailash. The Devi’s messenger said, “Your husband is troubled by the sins he has committed, like killing the Guru and others. Hence in *Manasa Sarovaram* he is hiding in a lotus pitcher. Indra is in this pitcher”. She took Sachi Devi near the pitcher. And the messenger said, “You know why Indra is not coming out of the pitcher? See, all of Indra’s sins took the form of that black woman. Do you see her? She is waiting on the coast for Indra. If he comes out, this black woman will embrace him”.

Sachi Devi went near the pitcher, started crying and said, “What is this Karma, Lord? Will you ever come to me”? Indra replied, “What to say Sachi Devi, I am hidden in this lotus pitcher and experiencing the results of great sins that I have committed. From past thousand years I am away from ambrosia, my position,

wife and she had to come to Earth and see me hidden in this *Manasa Sarovaram*. I am suffering terribly for hiding here. If I come out, the Demon in the form of my sins will embrace me. Till my good times start and my sins get reprieve I am helpless. Wait for the good times. Now I cannot do anything. Sachi Devi replied, “Nahusha wants to marry me and troubling me and you are asking me to wait for good times? You are saying that you cannot come out of the pitcher and are helpless. Should I marry him and destroy my life”? Indra laughed and said, “I did not mean that since I cannot come out that I will not help you. I will get you out of this mess like situation. Oh Innocent Sachi Devi! There is an antidote for snake poison. There will be antidote for this sinner also. I will give you a good plan. Listen. He is in lust, he will do whatever you say. So, say:

Sachi: “Come in a Vahanam (vehicle which carries) I will marry you”.

Nahusha: Alright

Sachi: I will tell you what kind of Vahanam

Nahusha: Okay tell me on which Vahanam I have to come?

Sachi: Indra has come on *Airaavatham*, *Uchchaihshravas*, Chariot and Cloud, but you come on a Palanquin by name *Brahma Radham*, which is carried by the Sages (Sages are called as form of Lord Brahma). Then I will marry you.

After he has been carried by the Sages, his good virtues will be completed and he will die. To destroy him, one has to make him fall under the curse of Brahma (Sages). This is the only way to come out of the trouble”.

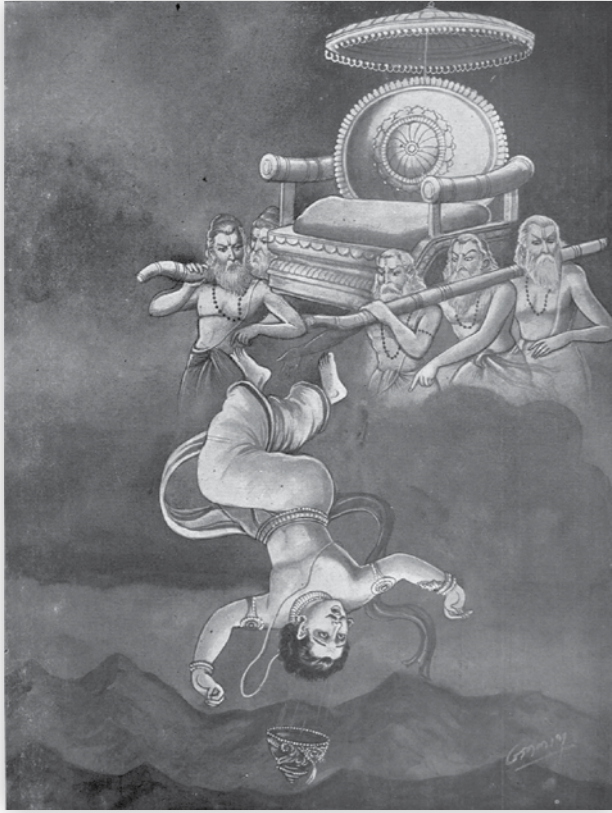
Sachi Devi said, “Oh Indra! What an idea! Even though you are hiding, your brain is so sharp”. Saying this she left the place and reached Indra Lok and called Nahusha and said, “One year time has completed. I will marry you. The day after tomorrow is an auspicious day. That day you come in a Palanquin, carried by the *Saptha Rishis* or *Brahma Rishis*. I like *Brahma Rishi Vahanam*. The Palanquin should be carried by the Sages like *Agastya*, *Kasyapa*, *Atri*, *Vasishta*, *Vishwamitra*, *Gautama Maharishi*, *Jamadagni* and *Bharadwaja*, who do constant Tapas. If you come like that your grace will increase and my wish will also be fulfilled”.

In lust Nahushudu had become a fool. In reality if someone is asking a wish like this they should think about the consequences. Nahusha should realise that, “If my Palanquin is carried by *Braham Rishis*, I will lose all my good virtues”. Then he should desist from doing such acts, but Nahusha was completely blinded by lust, so he replied to Sachi Devi, “*Saptha Rishis* will carry me and I will come to you on a Palanquin. We will get married. Your choice of Vahanam is very nice”. On that day he called upon the Rishis and said, “Oh Agastya and other Rishis! You carry this Palanquin. You carry on both sides, I will sit in it and you take me to Sachi Devi”. The Palanquin was very large and heavy and had big supports to carry. The Sages looked at each other. They remembered what Lord Brahma said to them, “Oh Sages! As long as Nahusha is in Indra position you have to obey him”. “Now Nahusha is in Indra’s designation so we have to obey him. But carrying him is a great sin but there is no other choice for us”. Thinking So, the Sages accepted to carry Nahusha.

Nahushudu got into the Palanquin and the *Saptha Rishis* started carrying him. If the time is not favourable, mankind will get ideas like Nahusha. It is an unpardonable sin to affront the great Sages. We should not go beyond limits and commit sins like insulting Gods, Sages, Dharma and Guru. As money grows, so should the humility and knowledge. As one listens to and reads *Puranas*, knowledge increases and it causes change in human beings. The individuals will become polite, humble and become perfect in honouring the Mahatmas. As the wealth increases an ignorant will think that he knows everything and insult the Mahatmas. This is always dangerous. How to behave with Guru has been clearly stated in *Puranas*.

Due to misfortune and bad times Nahusha asked the Sages to carry him in a Palanquin. The *Saptha Rishis* were carrying the Palanquin and started walking. As they were not used to carrying heavy things (Palanquin) the Sages were walking slowly. Nahusha was consumed by lust so he was in a hurry to reach Sachi Devi as early as possible. Hence Nahusha started beating the Sages with a whip and asking them to walk fast (Sanskrit word is *Sarpa*). Still the Sages were not able to move fast. Sage Agastya was carrying the Palanquin at the front and he was nearest to Nahusha’s left leg. Agastya was a great Sage who killed many Demons with his Tapas power and he has been considered almost equal to Lord Siva. Nahusha was in lust

and he forgot the reality. Nahusha said, “Why are you not able to walk? I want to get married and enjoy my life, but you are walking slowly and it is irritating me”. Saying this with his left leg he kicked Sage Agastya on his head and said, “*Sarpa! Sarpa!*” (Walk fast). The Sages were able to tolerate the beatings with a whip. But now Sage Agastya was extremely angry and let go of the Palanquin.



*Nahusha falling from the Palanquin*

from Krutha Yuga through Tretha Yuga to the end of Dwapara Yuga. He was only then relieved from his curse.

While falling down Nahusha said, “Forgive me for my mistake. How about my food once I change into a python”. Sage Agastya replied, “I will give you the power to swallow anything including Indra”. Which is why once he catches no one can get out of that grip. In Dwapara Yuga he catches Bheema (brother of Dharmaraj) the

Sage Agastya said, “Fool! Getting into Palanquin is a great mistake and making us carry that Palanquin is another great mistake. On top of it you kicked me with your left leg, and said *Sarpa! Sarpa!* Therefore, take birth as *Sarpa* (python) on Earth. Till the end of Dwapara Yuga be like a python and suffer. At the end of Dwapara Yuga, in your clan Dharmaraja will be born. He will come to the forest and answer your questions. Then you will be relieved from the curse and you will reach Heaven again. Till that time, you suffer in the form of a python”. This happened in Krutha Yuga, so Nahusha suffered in the form of a python



strongest brother of all the Pandavas. Even he was not able to come out of the grip of (Nahusha) the Python. During the time of curse, Nahusha had the boon from the Sages and the Gods, so the python was strong. Bheema was not able to come out of the grip, so Dharmaraja came in search of Bheema. Once Nahusha in the Python form saw Dharmaraja, he remembered the past and asked the questions. These questions are known as Nahusha questions. Dharmaraja answered all those and Nahusha got relieved from the curse and got his original appearance back. Nahusha blessed Dharmaraja and said, “We both belong to Chandra clan” and left back to Heaven.

No matter how great the power and Indra’s position was, if an individual fails to follow Dharma they will be destroyed. Sage Agasthyudu is most beloved to the Devi. He worshipped Goddess Parvathi in one hand and Lord Siva in the other. He was blessed by both of them and obtained many boons. Nahusha kicked such a great Sage. So, anyone who is not virtuous will be destroyed. All this happened because of Indra. When Nahushudu collapsed, Sachi Devi sent messengers to Indra. The messengers said to Indra, “Indra, your enemy has been destroyed. You can come out”. Indra replied, “I will not come out as long as this Sin Being exists”. Then Naradha Maharishi and Guru Bruhaspathi came there and performed Amba Yagam on the shore of *Manasa Sarovaram*. Once the Yagam was completed the Sin Being in the form of Demon waiting for Indra burned to ashes. With Amba Yagam any kind of sin will be burnt. Once the sins of Indra were burnt, he came out of the lotus pitcher with great effulgence.

Indra greeted Guru Bruhaspathi and Sage Naradha and said, “With this Yagam and worship you saved me. Oh Guru! Henceforth I will not betray you. Please bless me in such a way that I will not commit the same mistake again in future”. He took the blessing and went back to Heaven to be the King.

Sage Veda Vyasa told this story to Janamejeya, “With the blessing of the Devi, Indra has been relieved from his sins. Human beings will do Karma and they will experience the results of that Karma when they are alive and after death also. Therefore, to come out of the consequences of Karma, what should we do? We have to worship the Devi. How to worship Her? Listening to the Devi’s stories,

always chanting the Devi's name, performing the Devi Yagam, having Darshan of the Devi in the form of an Idol, worshipping the Devi with flowers, decorating Her with garlands, offering Dhoopam and Deepam (*Dhoopam*-Lighted Incense Sticks. *Deepam*-Lighted Ghee/Oil Lamps). All these acts will eliminate terrible Karmas".

Karma is the result of a person's actions and consequences of such actions. It is about the cycle of cause and effect. According to the theory of Karma, what happens to a person happens because they caused it with their own actions. Karma is not about punishment or reward. Karmas are of three types; first one is *PRARABDHA* must be experienced by everyone, second is *SANCHITHAM* the accumulated karma and third is *AAGAMI*, karma that is coming up in the future. Anyone can get rid of the second and third karma that is *Sanchitham* and *Aagami*. If one worships the Devi with devotion, listens to the stories of the Devi, and performs all the rituals, even the dreadful Karma (Prarabdha Karma) will have little impact on the person. For example, if an individual has to go to Hell for one lakh years, after worshipping the Devi he may be in Hell, just for a year and reach Heaven. This has been clearly stated in the following story.

Once a man had been punished with 10,000 years at *RAURAVA NARAKAM* (fearful Hell of *rurus*), the living beings hurt by a man take the form of savage serpent-like beasts called *rurus* and torture this person. But with his good fortune he worshiped the Devi during Navaratri when he was on the Earth. Sage Naradha reached there and said to Lord Yama, "You have punished him for 10,000 years of terrible Hell but once upon a time he worshipped the Devi, so send him to that Hell and let him see the Hell and leave from there to Heaven (he was not punished even for a single day; he just looked at the Hell)". Janamejeya killed four Sages by mistake. With that sin actually he has to reach Hell but he heard *Devi Bhagavatham* with attention and devotion. So, after leaving his body and while going to *Manidweepam*, on the way he just had a look at Hell. *Devi Bhagavatham* saved him from *Brahma Hatya* (Murder, Killing) sin and sent him to *Manidweepam*. That too he heard *Devi Bhagavatham* from Sage Vyasa. Listening to or reading to this story again and again will pull you out from the terrible sins and Karmas and yield positive results. You



have to listen to *Devi Bhagavatham* with belief. It not only relieves us from sins but also gets us salvation.

If the previous Karma are good deeds, then a human will enjoy all luxuries and if they are bad deeds, then will have to face punishment. Whether it is good or bad deeds the results have to be faced by all the creatures. But listening to or reading the Devi's stories will avoid previous Karma and we will not experience the effect of good or bad Karma. We can directly reach the Devi's World. Sage Vyasa repeatedly said that there is no easier way to save ourselves than listening to or reading the Devi's stories. Many individuals have repentance on the bad deeds they have done in the past, and they are also fearful about their death. Once the individual really repents on his own acts, there is nothing to worry about the past. Sage Vyasa again and again stated that *Devi Bhagavatham* is an antidote for all sins. The one who listens to *Devi Bhagavatham*, with attention and devotion definitely will come out of the sins and past Karmas. After listening to this, Janamejeya was very happy.

Janamejeya asked, "How will people behave in different Yugas". Sage Vyasa said, "In Krutha Yuga most of them were in the form of Gods and had only good virtues. Almost all of them reached Heaven. The sinners will be small in number and can be counted on finger tips. So Hell was almost empty most of the time. In this Yuga a human could go to Heaven with their body, like Mandhata. Dharma was on four pillars in this Yuga. In Tretha Yuga most of them are with good virtues. Humans could go to Heaven with their body. Dharma was on three pillars. In Dwapara Yuga Dharma was on two pillars, so the sinners and righteous were equal in number. In this Yuga also human could go to Heaven but very limited in number. In Kali Yuga Dharma is on one pillar only. Most of the human beings are going to Hell and very few to Heaven. Out of 100 only 10% will go to Heaven. The human beings in Kali Yuga will take birth again and again. They will suffer from various diseases, sorrows and they will be restless. In this Yuga no one can reach Heaven with their body (directly).

In this Kali Yuga in spite of these entire troubles only one good thing is that, in Krutha, Tretha and Dwapara, good deeds will give good results and bad deeds will give bad results. In Kali Yuga you get bad results for the bad deeds, but good

results will come by just thinking about doing some good to others. In unavoidable situations if you are not able to finish the intended good tasks in time the benefits of performing that task will also be received. There are two ways to get salvation in this Kali Yuga. First one is by listening to or reading *Puranas*, the second one is by going on pilgrimage. In this Kali Yuga the easiest way to get good virtue is by listening to or reading the *Puranas* and this is a great Mantra. The benefit of doing other rituals like *Japam*, *Sandhya Vandham*, *Yagam*, *Daanam* and others are received by just listening to or reading *Puranas* with devotion. These are the Dharmas of four Yugas.

The second easiest way to get salvation in Kali Yuga is by going on a pilgrimage. On this Earth there are many places of pilgrimage. If a human does pilgrimage their sins will be removed easily and quickly. The Devi will be present in all the places of pilgrimage. Wherever River Ganga is, the Devi will be present there. That is why River Ganga is the most sacred of all the Rivers. The Devi is present in River Ganga water except in the places of pollution. The Devi is also present in the middle of the Rivers like *Yamuna*, *Saraswathi*, *Narmada*, *Sindhu*, *Gandaki*, *Gomathi*, *Tamasa*, *Kaveri*, *Chandra bhaga* and other Rivers. The Devi will be present in sacred places like *Srisailam*, *Venkatadri*, *Sronadhi*, *Suberu*, *Gandhamadhana*, *Naimisharanyam*, *Prabhasam*, *Pushkaram*, *Kurukshetram* and *Dharmaranyam*. Whoever goes there with faith on the Devi, Goddess *Jaganmatha* will give all the benefits. After reaching these places take a holy bath and worship the Devi. In these places Ahimsa (non-violence) should be followed. (Say No to non-vegetarian food in these places.) Always tell or speak the truth. Do not steal others money or things, and be with pure heart. Following all these rules in pilgrimage is a must. The individual who follows these will get the complete benefit of the pilgrimage.

So, in olden days it was said that it is difficult to tread the path of Truth, only King Harishchandra was able to do so. King Harishchandra initially missed the truth to a small extent. After that he promised on the feet of his Guru and become Satyavanthudu (Man of truth)". Janamejeya got a doubt, "Did King Harishchandra also miss the truth? Then became truthful? What is that story?" Sage Vyasa replied, "Harishchandra's wife's name is *SAIBYA*, she was daughter of Emperor Sibi. She had another name, Chandramathi. Emperor Sibi was the one who cut his flesh to save a dove. Such a great person is Emperor Sibi. King Harishchandra and Saibya

did not have children for 100 years. So, others started calling her ‘nulliparous (a woman who has not given birth to a child) and stopped eating food when served by her. She was upset with those words. So, she went to King Harishchandra and said, “I am suffering a lot for being childless. Some people are abusing me secretly calling me nulliparous. I do not want to suffer. I want to have children.”

King Harishchandra worshiped Lord Varuna (God of Rain) and asked him for a son.

Lord Varuna replied, “I cannot help you in this regard, as you do not have children as per your horoscope. If you give Me an oath, I will give you child”.

King Harishchandra: “What is that”?

Lord Varuna: “I will give you a son. Once the son is born, immediately arrange a *Yagna Kundam* and sacrifice your son in that Yagna. Sacrifice your son’s blood and flesh to Me. So do this sacrifice to Me to have a son. Give me this oath that you will sacrifice your son”.

King Harishchandra said, “You will bless me with a son and I have to sacrifice him to the Yagna immediately after the birth? Then why should I have this son? It is fine if I do not have children but how can I sacrifice the son just after birth? It is a great suffering and sin. I cannot do that. I do not need this boon”. Saying this he left the place and reached home. He told Saibya about the conversation with Lord Varuna. Saibya impulsively said, “I do not want to be called as nulliparous. I do not mind sacrificing the son after the birth. Because if I give birth, people will not call me nulliparous. We are sacrificing our son, that is for our good. Whatever happens I need a son”.

King Harishchandra again went to Lord Varuna and said, “Oh Deva! Please bless me with a son. As you asked, I will sacrifice him in the Varuna Yagam”. Lord Varuna accepted for this. Actually, the energy of Lord Varuna is going to be born as Son to King Harishchandra, that is why Lord Varuna wanted to take back his energy by the sacrifice. With the boon of Lord Varuna, Chandramathi (Saibya) gave birth to a son. The son was in the colour of red rays and looking like metal so they called him as Rohithudu. After the birth of the son Varuna appeared in the form of

an old man and said, “I am Lord Varuna. With My power I blessed you with a son. You promised Me that immediately after the birth you will sacrifice him. Did you forget about your promise”?

King Harishchandra replied, “I did not forget my promise but he is a just born baby. At least for some time let us enjoy the happiness of having a son. How can I sacrifice him immediately? Once the child rolls onto his back, I will sacrifice him, give me time until then”. Lord Varuna accepted and left. King Harishchandra thought generally children will take three to five months to turn onto their back so until that time he can spend time with his son but Rohithudu turned onto his back after 27 days of his birth (early). Lord Varuna again came and reminded him about the sacrifice. King Harishchandra thought, “I have to spend some more time with my son”, so he said, “I will sacrifice once he starts crawling”. Lord Varuna accepted and left. The child started crawling at an early age, again Lord Varuna came there. King Harishchandra replied, “Once he starts walking, I will sacrifice”. Lord Varuna accepted and left. Finally, Lord Harishchandra said once the child is 6 years old, he will sacrifice him for sure. Lord Varuna gave time till 6 years of age.

After the 6 years Lord Varuna came and said, “All these days you were postponing the sacrifice. This time also if you intend to postpone, I will burn you, your wife and son to ashes”. King Harishchandra replied, “I will not postpone. Tomorrow I will check for an auspicious day for Yagna and I will sacrifice my son”. Meanwhile, Indra thought, “Harishchandra you took vow to follow the Satyavratham, let me check how truthful you are” Thinking so he came near Rohithudu in the guise of an old man. The child Rohitha was surprised to see Indra in the form of an old man and asked him, “How did you reach here”? Indra replied, “I am an extraordinary Brahmin, I came here to save your life. You are a fool, that is why you are in this house. I think you do not know that your father is going to perform a Yagna tomorrow. In that Yagna he is going to sacrifice you and you are going to die”.

Rohithudu innocently said, “What could be luckier than that if my father kills me”? Indra replied, “Oh Son! You are not able to understand how painful it is when your father is cutting your throat. If you have this body, you can live somehow. Listen to me”. Indra was able to convince Rohithudu to flee from the house. Rohithudu

thought, “My father is so wicked he wants to kill me tomorrow”. Indra also showed the way to escape from home and left Rohithudu in the forest. In the morning King Harishchandra came to the palace, but could not find his son. But there was a letter written by Rohithudu as, “Father you wanted to kill me, so I am leaving this place”.

King Harishchandra was shocked and went to Lord Varuna and said, “Oh Lord Varuna! Truthfully, I thought of sacrificing my son and performing the Yagna. I do not know what happened in the meantime. He wrote a letter and fled from this palace. Now I do not know where he is.”

Lord Varuna said, “You are a hypocrite and a deceiver. To save your son you took so many postponements, now also you might have sent your son to the forest and pretending as if you do not know where he is? This is My curse; you will suffer with a disease called *JALODHARAM* (there will be water accumulation in the stomach with acidic condition)”.

King Harishchandra thereafter suffered with severe abdominal burning sensation. He finally reached his Guru, Sage Vasishta and said, “Oh Guru Vasishta! Protect me”.

Sage Vasishta asked, “Why you are holding your stomach and your hair. What happened?”

King Harishchandra said: “Lord Varuna has cursed me, so I am suffering from the burning sensation; I am not able to drink even water. I am hungry but I cannot eat. If I eat, I have to suffer from the burning sensation. I am vomiting. With this suffering I feel like pulling my hair. Please protect me”.

Sage Vasishta replied: “Oh! Is it the curse of Lord Varuna? To get relieved from the curse you have to sacrifice your son and perform the Yagna. But your son listened to the wicked preachings of Lord Indra and fled to the forest. Your son may not come back. I will tell you an easy way to come out of this problem. When you promised Lord Varuna you said you will sacrifice your son, but you did not say the son to whom your wife gave birth. Here is the trick”

King Harishchandra: “What is that?”

Sage Vasishta replied: “Son has many meanings; son who is born and also the son who is adopted. Both are sons, but you never informed that you are going to sacrifice the son who was born to you. So, adopt one son and sacrifice him and you will get rid of this disease”.

King Harishchandra: “If I have to adopt a son now, who will give me as I am going to sacrifice him? So, I may not get a child for adoption. What next?”

Sage Vasishta: “Listen to me. You can buy a child with money. He is also your son. If you are able to spend some money you will get a child. There are many people who are greedy about money and not bothered about the child’s future. Hence get one son like this and by sacrificing him you will come out of your disease”.

King Harishchandra said, “Gurudeva you gave a great idea, Thank you”. That is why we need a Guru.

King Harishchandra sent his ministers and they announced in the World that, “Our King wants to buy a son as a sacrificial animal. If any one wants to sell their child, we will pay five crore ‘*varahalu*’ (currency of that time)”. The people laughed and replied, “For the sake of money no parent will sell their son as a sacrificial animal. They will not find the parent who wants to sell their child.”

Finally, in a village there was a man named Ajeegathudu. He was a scholar but suffering from poverty. He had three sons. For all the sons *Upanayanam* was done at the age of 8 years. He taught Vedas to all the sons. Because of poverty he was irritable and thought, “I have three sons; I taught them Vedas, performed *Upanayanam*, but of no use. My income is the same”. He heard the announcement by the ministers. He came to his wife and said, “We are suffering from severe poverty so we will sell one son. We will get five crore Varahalu. Even if one dies, also the rest will live happily. What do you say?” The wife replied, “I like the younger son the most, so please do not sell him”. He said, “I like the elder son the most, so I will not sell him”.

The middle one was left. His name was Sunasepudu and was innocent. He went to his parents and said, “Mother likes the younger son and you like the elder son

and no one likes me”. The parents replied, “No dear, we like you also but we need the money. If we sell you, we will get lots of money and we will live happily. Why are sons born? To make the parents happy and to earn money for them. It is a great virtue to sacrifice your body for the sake of parents. The doors of Heaven will be opened for those who sacrifice their body for the sake of the parents”. Sunasepudu said, “Then sell me”. The parents brought Sunasepudu to the ministers and said, “We want to sell this son. Take the child and give us money”. The ministers were very happy so they paid the total five crore Varahalu. Sunasepudu was anxious and said, “Father, you want to leave me”?

The Ministers got a doubt, “The child is already anxious. If we take him near the Yagna Kundam he may cry; the persons who have to sacrifice him may feel pity on this child and they may not kill him. The Yagna will be stopped”. Thinking so they said to Ajeegathudu, “This child is going to be the sacrificial animal, so we bought him from you and we paid the money also. If no one is coming forward to kill him as a sacrifice, will you do that? Ajeegathudu replied, “With these five crores, I will not do. Weigh my son and give me the equal weight in gold. I will sacrifice him”. The ministers were happy. They weighed this child and the child was just 12 kilograms. So, the father took the 12 kilograms of gold and kept it in his house. The Father said, “As you have paid me the equal weight in gold, I will sacrifice my son in the Yagna”.

The child was brought and the Yagna Kundam was arranged and Varuna Yagam started. The child was tied as a sacrificial animal.

## *DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XVII CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*







## CHAPTER 18

### KEY POINTS

- How Sage Vishwamitra saved the child from being sacrificed?
- What is the conflict between Hai Hailu and the priests?
- Who is Auravudu?
- Why Lord Vishnu cursed Goddess Lakshmi?
- How did the clan of Hai Hailu start?
- Why Naradha got a Monkey face?

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanaah Prachothayath*

The present story is about the troubles faced by King Harishchandra for not being able to keep his promise. King Harishchandra was known for his *Satyavratham* (Speaking truth at all times). Still, he was not able to maintain it in the initial stages of his life. King Harishchandra worshipped Lord Varuna and promised that he will sacrifice his son to him soon after his birth. With this condition he was blessed with a son. But Indra convinced the child to flee from his home. As the sacrifice was not done, Lord Varuna cursed King Harishchandra to suffer from the disease *Jalodharam* (acidity). King Harishchandra suffered from this disease, and on the advice of his Guru he decided to buy a child, who will be considered as his own son so that he can sacrifice him and get rid of the disease. Ajeegathudu's second son Sunasepudu was bought for the sacrifice. No matter how great a person may be, if they are not loyal to the truth and get carried away by affections, he has to face great agony and suffering.

Mahatmas generally caution us to think before we do a task or before giving a word. After doing a task in a hurry, we cannot undo it. So, King Harishchandra's decision to sacrifice his son had brought him so many troubles. The worst thing in this world is poverty and it will compel us to do any act. *Poet Kalidas stated that, "Above all, poverty is what grips human beings. There is no great suffering other than poverty, no matter how great the person is, it will affect them. Even the Mahatmas cannot tolerate poverty and do things that should not be done."* Poverty ruined a scholar like Ajeegathudu. He was willing to sacrifice his son and live with the money he got from killing his son. He may be in terrible poverty but killing the son for money is brutal. Dharma seems to have completely collapsed. Some virtuous persons sacrificed their sons for the sake of Dharma but not for a living. Ajeegathudu even more brutally said, "I will kill my son with my hands if I get the same weight in gold equal to the weight of my son". Poverty is a great sin but it is also a great sin to lose discretion because of it.

The father sold his son; the King bought him for money; both have made a mistake and the third one was by the Ruthvicks (A person who performs all the Vedic procedures like Homa) as they accepted to perform Yagna without opposing it. All of them were in great illusions. These illusions are the cause for the downfall of any individual whomsoever they may be. Being under the illusion is the most terrible thing to happen and it will spoil any person's life once in a while. The control of these illusions is at the feet of Goddess *Jaganmatha*. Therefore, to come out of these illusions we have to worship the Devi consistently with devotion; otherwise under the influence of it we will get into the state of egoism and fall into *MAHA MAYA* (Maya means illusions. Mahamaya means divine power of great illusion).

Ajeegathudu along with Sunasepudu came and met King Harishchandra and the *Yagna Kundam* was arranged. Sunasepudu was tied to the pillar for sacrifice and the Yagna was about to begin. One may get a doubt here as to why Sage Vasishtha, an ascetic, a glorious and noble person, had advised King Harishchandra to buy a child and sacrifice him in Yagna to keep his word given to Lord Varuna and to come out of the disease. Whether Sage Vasishtha will become the cause for a child's death by giving this advice? Sage Vasishtha is next to the Devi in position and he

knows everything and he is beyond all these illusions. Sage Vasishta knows that the child has a long life and King Harishchandra will buy him. Sage Vasishta also knew that if this happens then a Mahatma will come and save this child and King Harishchandra will have enlightenment. From that moment King Harishchandra will take oath of Satya Vatham and follow it. The person, who saved the child after seeing the oath, will test King Harishchandra and he will pass in all the tests and reach Heaven with his body. So, to send King Harishchandra to Heaven with his body and to propagate the Satya Vatham in the World Sage Vasishta had given this advice.

Here we can understand Sage Vasishta's proficiency in seeing the future. He was the only one who knows about future, so with a smile he was observing everything. The child Sunasepudu said, "Oh Guru Vasishta! My father sold me to this King for sacrifice. I was not afraid at that time but now once tied to this pillar, I am afraid that they will close my nose and mouth and will stab me with a knife. Please protect me". Sage Vasishta did not say anything and just smiled. Sunasepudu turned to King Harishchandra and said, "Oh King! I am an innocent brahmin boy; I am just 8 years old. Will you kill me? By killing me you want to safeguard your health and come out of the disease? Please save me".

King Harishchandra was actually a very righteous person but due to bad health and unbearable burning sensation, he lost his discretion. King Harishchandra's only thought was, "Unless I sacrifice the child, Varuna will not be pleased. If he is not pleased then I will not come out of this health problem. In this ill-health I do not know what I am doing". Harishchandra said to the child, "I cannot follow what you are saying, my body is completely spoiled and my heart is restless". As King Harishchandra was terribly troubled by the illness he was not able to listen to the child. Sunasepudu turned to the Ruthvicks and said, "At least you save me". They replied, "If our King wished to sacrifice you, how can we stop? Except the Guru no one can save you, and our Guru is smiling, so we are helpless".

Sage Vishwamitra was in Tapas and very far away from King Harishchandra. At that time Sage Vasishta played a trick and because of the trick Sage Vishwamitra felt like visiting King Harishchandra. Sage Vasishta encouraged sacrificing of the

child, but at the same time wanted to protect the child. So, he brought in Sage Vishwamitra. With no reason Sage Vishwamitra wanted to come there and he reached there on time. Sage Vishwamitra saw the *Yagna Kundam* and on the other side a child was tied as a sacrificial animal. The child was very intelligent; he knew that there is rivalry between Sage Vishwamitra and Sage Vasishta. Sage Vishwamitra was angry with Sage Vasishta, but Sage Vasishta did not have any anger on him. Sunasepudu turned to Sage Vishwamitra and said, “Oh Vishwamitra Maharshi! Please protect me. This Vasishta Maharshi is going to sacrifice me for the Yagna”. Sage Vishwamitra might not have given importance to all these words, but as the child took the name of ‘Sage Vasishta’, he became alert and looked at Sage Vasishta.

Sage Vishwamitra said, “In front of my eyes you are going to sacrifice a small child? Vasishta, this is not fair, Order your disciple Harishchandra to stop the Yagna and save the child”. Sage Vasishta did not respond. He then turned to King Harishchandra and said, “Oh Harishchandra! Is this your righteousness? You are born in Ikshvaku Clan. This is wrong”. King Harishchandra did not listen to him. Sage Vishwamitra was angry and said, “I am going to protect this child”. He turned towards the Ruthvicks and said, “Leave this child”. Ruthvicks replied that if we get another child, we will leave this child. Sage Vishwamitra thought, “To save this child someone had to be sacrificed”? Saying this he called his sons; he had 100 sons. His eldest son was by name Andhrudu. He said, “I promised that I will save this child. The child also asked me to protect him. Instead of that child you go for the sacrifice. The child will be relieved after your sacrifice, so that you get the virtue of saving a child”.

Andhrudu said, “By mistake also I will not do this. To save someone else will you sacrifice your son? Are you my real father?” Sage Vishwamitra called the remaining sons but everyone scolded him and refused to sacrifice themselves.

He cursed his sons, “You will not be eligible to rule the kingdom”.

Andhrudu said, “Oh Father! Is it right to curse your children? We plead with you, do not distance us from ruling the kingdom”.

Sage Vishwamitra said, “Do one thing. There is nothing but land on the banks of the River Godavari. Go there and establish a new kingdom and give it your name and it will be known as *Andhra Desam*. You go there, but I am not going to give you the present kingdom”. His eldest son Andhrudu went to the banks of River Godavari (presently known as Rajahmundry) and established a kingdom with his name. On the name of Sage Vishwamitra’s eldest son the region of Andhra came into being. He said, “My sons are not willing to sacrifice their lives for the sake of this child. But I have to save this child”. Saying that he reached out to the child and said, “Oh Child! Why do you want to ask human beings to protect you? I am going to give you a Mantra and this mantra is known as *Varuna Mantram*. If you chant this Mantra with devotion Lord Varuna will appear and save your life”. He then gave Diksha of this *Varuna Mantram* in the boy’s ear. The boy then chanted this Mantram with devotion 11 times.

Immediately Lord Varuna appeared and said, “Oh King Harishchandra! I am removing your illness. I will give you the result of what you will get by sacrificing this child. Now you do not need to sacrifice this child and perform the Yagna. I will also give the result that you are supposed to get by adhering to your promise. Leave the child.” Saying this he removed the illness of Harishchandra and gave the result of performing Yagna and disappeared. King Harishchandra was relaxed as his illness disappeared and also got the benefit of Yagna. He gave money to the Ruthvicks and untied the child and asked him to go to his father. Ajeegathudu said, “I sold my son to the King so I am not related to him anymore. If I have to take care of this child you have to give me half of your kingdom”. Ajeegathudu was not happy about his son being relieved; he thought of avoiding sharing the money and property with Sunasepudu. That is why he said, “I do not have any relation with this son”.

Sage Vishwamitra said, “Ajeegathudu sold this boy, so there will be no relation between father and son. So, King Harishchandra, this child is your responsibility”.

King Harishchandra said, “I bought this boy for the purpose of sacrificing him. But Lord Varuna appeared and said that the benefit of Yagna and the sacrifice are given to me. As I got the benefit of sacrifice, this child is dead to me. So, I too do not have any relationship with this child”.

Sage Vishwamitra then said, “So, many people are there but no one wants to take the responsibility of this young child? I will take his responsibility and make him a great person”. Saying this he took the child and left for his ashram. Also, Sage Vishwamitra was very angry and said, “King Harishchandra you want to kill one child to improve your health, and at the end you say you do not have the responsibility of the child. I am taking this oath I will not leave you, I will see to your end”. That is why Sage Vishwamitra was continuously testing King Harishchandra’s Satya Vratam and he was subjected to many kinds of suffering.

After this episode, King Harishchandra came back home and started to repent his behavior. “How impulsively I promised I would sacrifice an innocent child? And to keep that promise I went through so much of suffering and difficulties. It is important for all to remember how careful one has to be while we speak. Once we give our word or promise something, we must stand by it, even at the cost of our life. There is nothing in this world that is greater than the Truth. This world is ruled by the Truth and not by Lord Siva. Truth is in the form of Lord Siva. So, from this day onwards I am going to speak only the truth. Even if my life is lost I will not leave the path of truthfulness”. He took the oath of *Satya Vratam* (Always speaking the truth). Sage Vishwamitra tested King Harishchandra many times. As the result of these tests, he sold his wife, child and himself and performed the duties of a *Chandala* (a person who disposes of the dead at the cremation ground). In all these tests King Harishchandra proved to be truthful. He got the blessings of Lord Siva and he reached Heaven with his body.

The incident of Sunasepudu gave a turning point to King Harishchandra’s life after which he became *Satya Harishchandra*. Those who ever listen to this story with attention will be relieved from the great sins and be in the form of Satya (truth). The reason behind all this is Ego; I am great, I can do anything, I am the richest. King Harishchandra also had this ego so he had gone through great suffering. This ego was the reason behind the destruction of Hai Hailu who were Kshatriyas. Janamejaya said, “Oh Sage Vyasa! You are always praising me that no King is greater than me. I am worried that I will also get ego because of this praise. You just told that the Hai Hailu Kings were destroyed because of their ego. Why have they been destroyed?

Tell me their story. Kindly do not praise me by saying that I am a righteous person. I do good deeds and I perform Yagna. If you praise me, I may also become proud”.

Sage Vyasa replied, “Praising is the quality of the righteous person and I have to follow that. Even if you become proud, I have to still praise you. Even after the praise you should not become arrogant and, that is Knowledge and Wisdom. When you hear compliments, you have to submit it at the feet of the Goddess or Lord Siva. But you cannot stop others from complimenting you. If a righteous person is not praising you that will be mistake on his side. If you become proud then you are committing a mistake. Knowledge is being in family life without falling into illusion. So, whenever I praise, surrender it to the Devi’s feet. Now I will tell you the story of Kings from the clan Hai Hailu”.

On the banks of River Narmada there was a kingdom with the name of Mahishmathi which was ruled by King *KARTHAVEERYARJUNA*. His actual name is Karthaveerya. As he was fair in color, Arjuna (pure white) name has been added to his name. He was a righteous person and a disciple of Lord *Dattatreya*. King Karthaveerya had many children. Due to misfortune he was killed by Lord Parasurama. No matter how great the person is, if he makes mistakes, he will be punished accordingly for that mistake. Mahatmas know when they make mistakes and King Karthaveerya was also repentant before his death for mistakes made and that is when he realized that his Guru was Lord Parasurama. His repentance and remorse took him to Heaven after death. However, King Karthaveerya’s sons faced many troubles because of Parasurama, who invaded the Kshatriyas 21 times and killed most of them. The Hai Hailu were reduced to poverty with time and the frequent invasions by Parasurama.

When the Hai Hailu were rich, the descendants of Sage Bhargava were their priests and they had been honored with lots of wealth. The Hai Hailu called all these descendants and said, “Once you were our priests. With our bad fortune we lost all our wealth. We have honored you with lots of wealth; I think you still have that wealth. Why don’t you lend that money to us? Once we recover from this poverty, we will repay you with five percent interest”. The Bhargava descendants were



shocked and felt, 'Money once given to a Brahmin cannot be taken back.' We are not normal priests. We are the descendants of Srivaksha community. The Bhargava community had separated from the Srivaksha community and both communities are the form of Lord Vishnu. They replied, "Once you have given you should not ask it back. If possible, you can honor us with whatever you have. If a poor person is asking for money, we might have given it to him. You are Kings and you belong to Karthaveerya clan. Kings should always give and not request for money. Dharma states that if you do not have the position of a King you can live by begging but you should not request money from the priests. You can do one thing. Instead of requesting for money you can change yourself into beggars and ask for money. Then we can donate money and food to you, but do not ask to lend money. You may not get a chance to become Kings again and you may not pay back the debt. And for that you will reach Hell".

The Hai Hailu were enraged by these statements and thought, "We should not have donated money to you". As they were leaving, one priest came and said, "We do not have the money you have donated, we have spent it and we have very little left". For this Hai Hailu said, "You should have told us the same; instead, you asked us to plead for money so we are angry and upset". The Hai Hailu clan had donated loads of wealth in the past to these priests and in reality, the priests had heaps of money. But as per Dharma, Kings are not expected to request for money and the priests followed that rule, hence they did not want to part with it. Few priests got a doubt, The "Hai Hailu left peacefully, but after few days, what if they come back for the money? If we deny them, they may search our homes. If they see the money, they may not hesitate to attack us and grab the money from us. Let us hide this wealth". Thinking so, they dug pits in their back yards and buried the money and gold there.

One person from the same clan observed this and informed about it to the Hai Hailu saying, "The people from my clan are having loads of wealth and gold. They buried it in their backyards. If you want, you can dig and take it". The Hai Hailu were furious and thought, "We requested for money as a debt and we also promised to give it back to them with interest. They had the money, but they denied it and



on top of it, they asked us to beg for it. Now they have buried it in their backyard”. So nearly 16,000 people of the Hai Hailu clan took sticks, swords, spears and other weapons and attacked the priests who belonged to the Bhrigu clan. They went to their backyards and dug the places where they identified signs of digging, to get at their wealth.

The Hai Hailu found golden thrones, golden plates and many things made of gold. They were angry, “Without giving us money you buried it in the backyard”. Saying so they started killing the priests. The priests said, “To prevent you from destruction we have had to hide this money. Actually, most of us are not greedy about this money. We are from Bhrigu Clan. We are not greedy even by default. We have donated to many people. Dharma states that the money given to a Brahmin should not be taken back. If you take it you will have to face terrible Hell. You do not know about this Dharma so you came requesting for money. To avoid that terrible Hell, we have buried the wealth and without listening to us you are grabbing it. Grabbing is a mistake and above that you are creating a great sin of killing the priests”.

The Hai Hailu said, “We should not kill but we should torture all of you”. Saying this they started killing indiscriminately. A few lost their life; a few lost their limbs and all the men started running away. The Hai Hailu started attacking without thinking that they were women and the wives of the Gurus. They did not spare even pregnant women. Whether it is a good deed or bad deed the result has to be experienced in this life. The Hai Hailu who were born in a good lineage with impulsivity killed pregnant women and destroyed their wombs. The pregnant women were unable to run. With lots of agony and difficulty, few managed to reach the Himalayas. The Hai Hailus killed 21,000 men and 16,000 women, but 18,000 were able to flee from that place. The Sages nearby asked, “Why are you killing the Bhrigu clan with grudge? This is the greatest sin”. The Hai Hailus replied, “What is virtue and sin? This is our wealth and we have donated it to them. They did not return it when we have asked for it, so we are killing them.

## **Money has three attributes**

**First:** To donate, it will give good virtue. A thousand times returns will come back for what you have donated, (donate 1 rupee you will get 1000 in return). If nothing is donated in this life, they will be reborn in poverty. Giving donations will save us.

**Second:** For obtaining luxuries, at least your body and heart will feel satisfied.

**Third:** If we are not using for the above two then the money will be destroyed. These priests neither donated nor used the money and they buried it in their backyard. So, we are killing them”.

The Sages replied, “Oh Fools! They are the most sacred Brahmins from the Bhrigu clan. In fact, you did not donate, your ancestors donated. If you take back the donation given by them then along with you, your ancestors will also reach Hell. These Brahmins were not greedy. So as to protect you from Hell they did not return the money donated to them”. The Hai Hailus replied, “If you want to support them, we will kill you also”. So, then the Sages realized that there was no use preaching to fools. The Hai Hailus grabbed all the wealth and reached their capital city.

Meanwhile someone told the Hai Hailu, “A few of the Bhrigu clan fled and are alive in the Himalayas and among them a few women are pregnant. If the pregnant women give birth, those babies will have grudge on you so they may take revenge on you. Hence, if you kill those pregnant women and destroy their wombs, you will not have a threat in the future”. The Hai Hailus in search of the priests reached the Himalaya Mountains. The people who fled made an Idol of Goddess Gowri Devi with clay and installed it with utmost devotion and attention. The Devi Idol was with four hands holding *Conch, Chakra, Mace and Lotus* flower. They were at Kedarnath near the River Mandakini. So, they could daily do *Abhishekam* with the River water to the Idol. They worshiped the Devi with flowers which were available there or with leaves. When nothing was available, they worshiped with flowers made with clay.

*Oh Devi! We are in terrible danger now. Our intuition is telling us that death is nearing us. Because of the Hai Hailus we are facing the fear of death. Many of us are already dead. Some men, some women and some of the women who are pregnant, have also not been spared. These Hai Hailus are very cruel. If they attack and kill us, who will protect us? You are Goddess Gowri Devi, Uma Devi, Jaganmatha, Bhuvaneswari, and the savior of all the Worlds. We pray to you, worship you, please protect us.*

They ate only a fruit and water for 9 days and worshiped and prayed to the Devi with utmost devotion. There was a woman among them who was chanting the Devi's *Maya Beejam*. She held the feet of the Devi and said, "Oh Devi! So many women are fasting and there are pregnant women also. We are all worshipping You. Yet You are invisible and we are not protected by You. Do You not want to save us"? Saying this she started crying and placed her head on the feet of the Devi. As the Idol was made with clay the leg broke. From there the Devi appeared in a strange form and said, "Oh Women! This night sleep on the banks of River Mandakini and chant My name. Tonight, you will get a dream. Whatever you see in the dream will become true. So, chant two *Beejaksharas Hreem* and *Shreem*". The Devi and the Idol disappeared.

All the women took bath in the holy River Mandakini and as instructed by the Devi they chanted the *Beejaksharams Hreem* and *Shreem* and slept on the banks of the River. At midnight, they had a dream. In the dream they saw the Devi with thousands of hands, heads, and feet, holding different weapons. The Devi said, "I am the Ruler of the Whole Universe, *Bhuvaneswari*, and I am the Creator, Nurturer and Destructor. I am the Trinity and I am everything. Among you, the one who prayed to Me holding my feet is pregnant. She is continuously chanting My *Maya Beejam*. Due to her chanting the embryo from the womb reached her thigh, so no one was able to identify her as pregnant". Her right thigh will appear bulged. "How can an embryo reach the thigh? That is only due to the result of chanting the Devi's *Beejaksharams*. A boy is going to be born from the thigh. He will protect you. Now there is no threat to your Clan. Till end of Kali Yuga, you will be happy. Your Clan will be in good positions and will have glory" the Devi blessed them.

We have to wake up when the dream comes, hence that will turn out to be true. All of them woke up from their sleep. They were looking for a woman who was pregnant in the thigh. One woman's thigh was bulging. So, the remaining women came to her and asked, "Why did you not inform us all these days?". "The Woman replied, "Until the time comes, we should not reveal anything. When these Hai Hailu were chasing us, the embryo slipped from the womb to the thigh. This happened with the grace of the Devi. We all worshiped Her, now the time has come so the Devi revealed it everyone. Now we do not have to worry about anything. This child is going to punish the enemies and protect us". Soon it was morning. All of them finished their daily routine and started worshipping the Devi.

The Hai Hailu clan reached there with all their weapons and said, "Oh Women! You escaped from us and came to the Himalayas and hid here. Anywhere you go, east, west, south or north we will find you and kill you. If we leave you like this, the children in your wombs will be born, you will provoke them against us, and tell them that you were destroyed by us, so you also go and destroy them. Then these children will develop a grudge on us and they will become valorous and may kill us, just as Parasurama did. So, foreseeing the future we are going to kill you all". Saying this they attacked the Bhriku Clan. The woman started running. One person in the Hai Hailu clan held the neck of the woman who had the child in her thigh. As he held her neck the child in the thigh came out tearing the thigh.

As the child came out, he looked at the Hai Hailu very intensely. With that look all the 16,000 Hai Hailu Princes became blind. One person among these blind Hai Hailus said, "We were having vision till now. The child was born from the thigh and looked at us very seriously and after that we all became blind. Who is this infant who made us blind? Now we will take refuge of the child and his mother". They started searching for the mother and the child. They found the mother and said, "We thought of killing all of you and destroy your wombs. Forgive our sins and protect us. Your son made us blind. Please ask him to restore our vision". The woman said, "I was crying and trying to save my clan; at that time this child was born from the thigh, but I never expressed anger on you. All of you became blind after this boy was born, maybe this boy was the reason behind it". She turned towards the son

and said, “Oh Little Child! Previously we all were with them; we were their priests. These Kings are repenting for their mistakes. Please return their vision back.” The Hai Hailus killed them and destroyed their wombs but she asked for return of their vision back to them. How compassionate this woman was? When they asked for help, she asked her son to return back their vision.

Though the child was born just 12 minutes before, he said, “Oh Warriors! With impulsivity you have killed many Sages, women and destroyed wombs of the Bhargava clan. That is why I was angry and also why I came out from the thigh. As I came out of the thigh my name will be Auravudu (Uruvu is thigh and the person who is born from the thigh is Auravudu). There will a be Gothram established on my name. As you are repenting your behavior and took refuge of my mother, I am going to give your vision back. But never try to kill a Brahmin”. They replied, “We will not repeat it ever. Due to our bad time, we have done these acts”. Saying so, everyone touched the child’s feet and gained their vision.

Once they regained their vision they said, “Mahatma we do not know why we did such cruel acts. We were caught in the *Maha Maya* (great Illusion) of money and could not see the reality. In that state we killed priests of our clan, women and destroyed wombs and finally we tried to kill you also. You took our vision and gave it back and we came back to reality. We have killed so many people, we are great sinners. This thought will taunt us and we cannot rule the kingdom also. The pain of repentance is more severe than committing the sin and after death we will surely go to Hell. We want to ask you a wish. With your great glory please give life to the people who died at our hands. Then only we can come out of our sins. Otherwise, we will always be unhappy and sad. So please with your grace, pull us all out of this sin. To come out of our sin you have to give life to the people who died”.

The child said, “Oh Elders! Of this clan. Who have been killed the by Hai Hailu! Please come”. As the child said so, the elders who died came back to the Earth. The Gods, the Hai Hailu and all the women were shocked and surprised.

They asked, “Oh Child! Immediately after the birth, you removed the vision of so many people and after pleading you gave it back. You gave life to the dead. How did you get this power”?

The Child replied, “When I was in my mother’s womb, one day Sage Chyavana came. He is one of the great Sages of this Clan and he is best at teaching Mantras. Such a Sage one day assembled all the people of the Bhrigu Clan and told them about the Goddess Devi. He recited all the stories and great glories of the Devi which are called as *Devi Bhagavatham*. As Sage Chyavana was reciting, some left the place, some went to perform Sandhya Vandanam and so on. Even though everyone left, only my father and mother who was pregnant with me were present and listened to *Puranam* with attention and devotion till the end. When Guru is reciting the *Puranas*, the disciples should not leave the place even for Sandhya Vandanam. One has to leave everything aside and listen to *Puranam* completely.

Sage Chyavana was very happy as my parents listened to *Devi Bhagavatham* completely, so he recited the *OM KLEEM Beejaksharam* in such a way that the child in the womb can hear it. Previously Sage Naradha recited the Narayana Mantra to Leelavathi (mother of Prahalad), the child (Pralhad) in her womb heard that mantra the same way I heard the *KLEEM Beejam*. Immediately I took that *Beejaksharam* and started chanting it in the womb. I was continuously reciting this *Beejaksharam* in the womb. This is why, from the womb I reached the thigh and was able to remove your vision and gave life to the deceased people. This is the great glory of the *KLEEM Beejaksharam*. The person who has recited one *Beejaksharam* got these many powers. The individuals who hear to this story with utmost attention and chant this *Beejaksharam*, will become the best and most powerful”.

So that is how the child was able to give life to the deceased and removed the sins of the Hai Hailu. Auravudu was able to uplift both the Hai Hailu and his clan only because of his adoration towards the Devi. This story was told by Sage Vyasa to Janamejeya. Sage Vyasa said, “So Janamejeya, worship the Devi with attention, devotion and with humility. Then you can achieve salvation for your ancestors . There is no other better way to come out of the great illusions in this life”. Janamejeya was very happy, “Now I have a doubt. The Hai Hailu clan belongs to the great clan of King Karthaveerya. How did this great clan start? I want to know about this clan”.

Sage Vyasa replied, “Janamejeya what you said is true. Many great people like Kruthaveeryudu, Karthaveeryudu were born in this Hai Hailu clan. I will narrate

that story. Once on a full moon day, Goddess Sri Maha Lakshmi thought of serving Lord Vishnu. Goddess Sri Maha Lakshmi was pressing the feet of Lord Vishnu. On every full moon day Goddess Lakshmi will serve the feet of Lord Vishnu. On full moon day by chanting Lakshmi Ashtotharam (108 names of Goddess Lakshmi) with devotion and worshipping Her with *BILVA PATRAM* (Bilva leaves) the individual will attain all the luxuries and happiness. All these have been stated in the *Puranas*. And the day of Full Moon is always considered auspicious because Goddess Lakshmi serves Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi is full of energy and can easily be pleased while serving Him. That is why wealth comes from worshipping Goddess Lakshmi on a Full Moon day.

In order to fulfil our wishes, we have to worship Goddess Lakshmi on every full moon day with *Bilva patram* and by chanting the *Ashtotharam*. If possible, worship Goddess Lakshmi with *SRI SUKTHAM*. Offer *Payasam* (Indian dessert consisting of rice or (in later use) vermicelli, boiled in milk, preferably cow milk flavored with cardamom, called as *KHEER*) as *Naivedyam*. This is one of the ways to come out of Severe Poverty. Once on a full moon day Goddess Lakshmi was serving Lord Vishnu. At that time son of Lord Surya (Sun) Revanthudu had come to have Darshan of Goddess Lakshmi. While churning the Ocean of Milk the horse *Uchchaihshravas* emerged along with a boy riding this horse. His name was Revanthudu and the meaning of his name was the jockey of the horse. (Again, this Revanthudu was born as Son of Surya) After Revanthudu, Goddess Lakshmi emerged from the Ocean. So, Goddess Lakshmi is Revanthudu's sister. Now he came to see his sister on the Horse.

Since *Uchchaihshravas*, Revanthudu and Goddess Lakshmi were born from the Ocean of Milk, they are considered as siblings. *Uchchaihshravas*, Revanthudu, are elder brothers to Goddess Lakshmi. With the intention of having Darshan of Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi, both the brothers started for Vaikuntam. The horse *Uchchaihshravas* and Revanthudu were attractive to look at. Goddess Lakshmi looked at them and thought, "My brothers are very handsome and attractive". She was looking at them with amazement without blinking Her eyes. Meanwhile Lord Vishnu called "Lakshmi". Goddess Lakshmi was so engrossed in looking at them



that She did not hear Him. Again, Lord Vishnu called Her, but She did not hear and so He got angry with Her. He thought, “The kind of love you have for the horse and the man who is riding it, you don’t seem to have for your husband. I am calling you so many times but you are only looking at your brothers and are ignoring me”.

So Lord Vishnu cursed Goddess Lakshmi, “As you are consistently looking at the horse, you turn into a *MARE* (female horse)”. Goddess Lakshmi was shocked with this and She said, “Our relatives have come and I am looking at them with affection. You cursed me to turn into a mare”. Revanthudu looking at the situation thought this is not the right time to have Darshan of Lord Vishnu, so he turned his Horse and left the place. Finally, Goddess Lakshmi did not get to even talk to Her brothers. However, Vishnu is the Lord and does not have emotions like anger or any such thing. He just pretended to be in anger for the welfare of the Universe. Goddess Lakshmi then pleaded with Him saying, “Dear Lord, even for a moment I cannot be without You. The World praises Me as the *NITHYA ANAPAYINI* (the Lakshmi who never leaves Lord Vishnu). Also, the Vedas say Goddess Lakshmi can never be without Lord Vishnu. How then can You curse Me to become a mare and go to Earth? I won’t, so please give me a remedy to rectify this curse.”

Lord Vishnu replied, “Due to some reasons I have had to curse you. You will turn into a mare and roam around *Uttara Kurukshetra*, (Currently known as *Yamunotri*). You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. Once that happens you will be relieved from this curse”. Goddess Lakshmi reached Earth and on the banks of River Yamuna She turned into a mare. The horse folded the front legs and was standing on the back legs and started doing Tapas to Lord Siva. Without taking food She continued Tapas for 1000 years. She was chanting the mantra *Om Namah Sivaaya*. Lord Siva was so impressed with Her Tapas that He appeared on Nandi along with Goddess Parvathi and said:

“Oh Lakshmi! Open your eyes. I am Lord Siva”. Goddess Lakshmi opened her eyes and prayed to Him, “*Deva! Deva! Sarveswara, Mahadeva, Eshwara, Ashuthosa* protect me”.

Lord Siva can be playful sometimes so instead of asking about what she wanted he asked, “Oh *Narayani, Kamalasana!* I have a small doubt. You have been cursed





*Lord Siva with Goddess Parvathi*

by Lord Vishnu, who is the Nurturer of all the worlds. So, most of the people do Tapas for Lord Vishnu, Also He is Your husband. Why did you do Tapas to Me and not to Him”?

Goddess Lakshmi replied, “My husband taught me that to get My grace (Lord Vishnu) you have to worship Lord Siva and to get the grace of Lord Siva you have to worship Me (Lord Vishnu). Once, My husband Lord Vishnu was doing Tapas. I went there and was waiting for Him to finish his Dhyanam. Once it was over, I asked Him, “All the worlds do Tapas for You. Closing Your eyes, on whom are You doing Tapas?”

He replied, “Oh Lakshmi! You want to know on whom I am doing this Tapas? I am performing Tapas and Meditation for Lord Siva. The husband of Goddess Parvathi, who has the name of *Asuthoshudu* (*Asu* means immediately *thoshaha* means becomes happy). This means a person who can be pleased immediately and quickly with meditation. *Asuthoshudu* is the name given to a person who becomes happy with a small worship or greeting. I am chanting and doing Tapas for Lord Siva. When I am doing meditation on Lord Siva, at the same time He will meditate on me (Lord Vishnu). We both meditate on each other at the same time. In Kailasam Lord Siva will meditate on Lord Vishnu and in Vaikuntam Lord Vishnu will meditate on Lord Siva. I love Lord Siva and He loves Me.

My life is Lord Siva and I am His life. There is no difference between Us, Lord Siva is Lord Vishnu and Lord Vishnu is Lord Siva. Fools, to fulfil their materialistic needs divide Us and create separate groups and started hating each other. A greater Energy divided into two parts and took the form of Lord Siva and Lord Vishnu. Actually, there is no difference between us. To enlighten this to the World, even though We are in two different places, We meditate on each other. As long as We meditate on each other We do not have any trouble. If We stop meditating on each other, new demons will be born and We have to merge again to kill them. By understanding this, no discrimination has to be shown between Lord Siva and Lord Vishnu. The individual who worship's Lord Vishnu by hating Lord Siva or worships Lord Siva by hating Lord Vishnu will definitely reach Hell. My husband told Me this at Vaikuntam. From that time to impress My husband I am meditating on You and Him.

My husband Lord Vishnu cursed me to become a mare and He also told the remedy that after giving birth, I will be relieved from the curse. But He is in Vaikuntam, and I am on Earth, so how can we get children. I did Tapas for you to get rid of my curse, so please send Lord Vishnu here”. Lord Siva was very happy with that and said, “This is called as knowledge; there are very few who have it. You are going to get good children. Lord Vishnu wants to give this knowledge to the Universe; that is why He cursed you”. Lord Siva blessed Goddess Lakshmi and reached Kailasam.

Lord Siva had a devotee by the name Chitrarupudu and he belonged to Vidhyadhara Clan. Lord Siva called him and said, “Oh Chitrarupa! I like you the most. Go to Vaikuntam and inform Lord Vishnu that Goddess Lakshmi is in North Kurukshetra in the form of a mare. She has done great Tapas and is waiting to get relieved from the curse by giving birth to a child. So, please ask Lord Vishnu to go to there and relieve her from the curse”. Chitrarupudu immediately reached Vaikuntam and prayed to Lord Vishnu and said, “Oh God! As a Messenger of Lord Siva I have come here. Lord Siva asked me to inform You that Goddess Lakshmi is waiting for You to relieve her from the curse”. Lord Vishnu listened to the message and sent Chitrarupudu back.

Lord Vishnu reached Earth immediately; at that time Goddess Lakshmi was waiting for her husband. He took the most attractive form of a white Stallion (male Horse). Goddess Lakshmi was also a white mare. Goddess Lakshmi saw the stallion and welcomed her husband. Both of them roamed about in the most sacred place, where Rivers Tamasa and Yamuna came together from different sides. Eventually Goddess Lakshmi become pregnant and She gave birth to a very beautiful baby boy. Goddess Lakshmi looked at the baby and said, “As long as I was in Vaikuntam I did not have an opportunity to give birth to a child. On this Earth in the form of a mare I gave birth to a child. Shall we take this child to Vaikuntam”? As she was saying this, She left the form of mare and Lord Vishnu also left the form of Stallion.

As Goddess Lakshmi asked this question Lord Vishnu replied, “Let me tell you a secret now. Do you think I was really annoyed and cursed you? But I still cursed you and told you the remedy also. Do you know the reason behind it? Let Me tell you the reality. Once upon a time there was a King by name Yayathi. He had sons

named, Yadhuvu, Durvasudu, Puruvudu, Auruvudu among others. Puruvudu was declared King by Yayathi and the rest of them were declared as not eligible since they had been cursed by their father. All of them performed Tapas for Me. I then changed the curse and gave them a boon that they cannot rule, but their offspring can become the rulers”.

Among them Durvasudu said, “I do not have children. Even if an offspring is born, I do not know how he will be. I am Your devotee. I am continuously meditating on You and with Your kindness please bless me with a son. I do not want a son born to me and my wife. I want a child born to You and Goddess Lakshmi. So, my clan should become the most sacred and I will get this great credit, the likeness of which is not there in this World. I will foster the child and I will get the credit of looking after a child who was born to Lakshmi Narayana. I will be liberated by taking care of this child in this life”.

Lord Vishnu said, “Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi, Lord Siva and Goddess Parvathi, Lord Brahma and Goddess Saraswathi do not give birth to children through pregnancy in Their Worlds. This is Our rule. That is why Lord Karthikeya was born in the grass. If these Gods give birth through pregnancy, then They will also become similar to the race of humans. So, it is prohibited. So as long as Goddess Lakshmi is in Vaikuntam she cannot give birth through a womb. But you have asked for a son born to Lakshmi Narayana. I have to give you this boon as you are My devotee. To give you this child We should come out of Vaikuntam. For your sake We will come to Earth. After giving this boon I was thinking how to fulfil this wish. At the same time Revanthudu had come and for the sake of my devotee, everything happened accordingly. I understand that you faced troubles in the form of a mare staying here. We did not give birth to this child for Us, or to take him to Vaikuntam. So, leave the child here and he will be reared by Durvasudu. The child will be enthroned by his father. He will rule the World with righteousness and after leaving the body he will reach Vaikuntam. He does not have the fortune to reach Vaikuntam with his body”.

Goddess Lakshmi was worried and asked whether it was alright to leave the child there. “How can we leave him here with so many wild animals around?” Lord Vishnu assured Her that nothing untoward will befall the child. So, They left for



Vaikuntam. *HAYAMU* means a horse. The child was born to a horse, so he was named as *HAIHAIDU*. At the same time a Vidhyadhara couple who were devotees of Lord Vishnu travelling in the sky saw this child. They got attracted by the child and they took the child and went to Indra. The couple said, “We saw this attractive child on Earth. Can we raise this child”? Indra replied, “Champaka (name of the male in the couple) leave the child on Earth immediately. He is the Son of Lakshmi Narayana. Durvasudu has to raise this child. If Lord Vishnu comes to know that you brought the child here, He will curse you. So, leave the child immediately on Earth and inform Durvasudu”.

Champaka immediately reached Earth, left the child and contacted Durvasudu. “My name is Champaka, I belong to the clan of Vidhyadhara. Lakshmi Narayana gave birth to a son and the child is in Uttara Kurukshetra. Bring that child and raise him”. On the same day at night in a dream Lord Vishnu appeared to Durvasudu and said, “My son is in Uttara Kurukshetra, take care of him”. The next day in the morning Durvasudu reached the place and by looking at the child he was amazed and happy. He felt that in this child the attributes of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Vishnu are visible. The child was in gold color like his Mother Goddess Lakshmi, radiant and with energy from Lord Vishnu. Durvasudu brought the child and named him as *EKAVEERUDU* (valorous one), intending that there will not be a more valorous person in this World than this child. Ekaveera was sent to Sage Bruhaspathi’s ashram for education. He gained knowledge from many Gurus like Bruhaspathi, Agasthyudu, Vashishtudu and others. Ekaveera got many boons from Indra and other Gods. Parasurama taught him archery. Sage Jamadagni gifted him a bow. Thus, Ekaveerudu was able to master many skills.

Durvasudu enthroned him and left to forest for Tapas and finally passed away there. Ekaveera did all the rituals to his adopted father and started ruling the kingdom. One day Ekaveera had darshan of Lord *Dattatreya*, a form of Lord Vishnu. Lord *Dattatreya* gave a horse to Ekaveera and said, “This is a sacred horse. It can travel in all the five elements of nature”. Ekaveera wandered around the globe on this horse all alone to know about the problems of the citizens and resolve them. He was donating money to the needy people. The unrighteous people were punished and Dharma was

maintained in his kingdom. One day while wandering he reached a thick forest. In that forest he saw a beautiful woman crying, he reached there and asked the woman, “Oh Visalakshi! In my kingdom no one should have grief. I was confident that I am ruling my kingdom with Dharma and there is no unrighteousness. But now why are you crying. Who are you? What is the reason behind your sorrow? Let me try and alleviate your sorrow”.

The woman replied, “I think you are a King. I feel I should tell the truth frankly. My name is Yasovathi. We are not from your kingdom. Far from your kingdom on the way to Madhra kingdom there is a King named Raibhyudu and his wife is Rukmarekha. Both are very righteous, but for a long time they did not have children. So, both of them did Tapas for Lord Vishnu. Lord Vishnu was impressed with the couple’s Tapas and asked them to perform *PUTRA KAMESHTI YAGAM* (Yajna performed for the sake of having a child). The couple performed the Yagam. From that *Yaga Kundam* Lord Vishnu gave a beautiful girl and said, “Oh King! Your wife cannot become pregnant, so you will not have children in the normal way. But as you followed My instructions and performed the Yagna, I am giving you a beautiful girl. Name her *EKAVALI*. This girl is *Ayonija*, not born from the womb. As she was born from the *Yagna Kundam* she will also be called as *Agni putrika* apart from being known as Ekavali. This girl will be married to My son Ekaveera. Ekavali and Ekaveerudu will become a couple”. Saying this Lord Vishnu handed over the girl child to him.

Our King Raibhyudu and Queen Rukmarekha raised the child with utmost love and care. I am Ekavali’s friend and we both are of the same age. Our Princess likes the forest and enjoys plucking the flowers here. So sometimes without informing the father she used to go to the forests and the lakes and collected flowers. Our King was worried about her safety but looking at Ekavali’s interest, he established a big garden near our kingdom. Our King brought River Ganga water and filled the pond for our Princess to play in. Me and my friend played and swam in that pond. Whenever we came to the garden to play or swim, valorous guards came as our security and guarded the surroundings of the garden with their weapons. One day we came near the pond and collected the flowers and we were about to swim in the pond when something happened.

A demon *KALAKETHUDU* was crossing that place with his army. He asked our guards, “Why are you guarding the garden, that too near the forest”. The guards replied, “Our King’s daughter, our Princess is very beautiful and she is bathing in the garden pond. So, we are guarding it”. Listening to this the Demon killed our guards with his mace and reached us. While we were trying to escape from there, he caught hold of my friend. I was pleading with the Demon, “Please leave my friend, she is innocent”. But he ignored my words and grabbed my friend and left for his kingdom in a chariot.

I was running behind her. Looking at me coming behind him the Demon said, “You also board the chariot and be with your friend, but you have to do me a favor. Your friend is afraid of me. As a friend you have to convince her to love me. I will also search for a good partner for you. To protect my friend, I also travelled and he kept us in a palace in Patala Lokam. Everyday Kalakethudu came and said, “Ekavali, please marry me”. The Princess denied his request and it had become a daily routine. From one year we are facing this problem. Sometimes he comes to me and says, “Yasovathi convince your friend and see that we both get married”. You may wonder how I reached here from Patala Lokam. I will tell you.

As a child I would go to the Devi temple with my father and on special days like Friday and on Full Moon I would worship Her at the temple. With my good fortune one day a brahmin came to me and said, “I will give you a Mantra. Will you chant it?” I was very young and I did not know about Mantras. But as the Guru himself came, so I politely said, “I will chant”. Then he presented me *Chandika Navarna Mantra* which is with *Beejaksharams* and he also taught me how to do *Dhyanam*. Any mantra can be chanted with *Dhyanam* or without *Dhyanam* but it is always advisable to chant according to the Guru’s instructions. With my good fortune Guru also gave me the *Dhyana Slokam* and the *Anganyasa* and the *Karanyasas*. (*Anganyasa* and *Karanyasas* are very important rituals associated with chanting of hymns or for meditation. It is done to invoke the presence of the deity within the body)

*The first shlokam of Chandika Navarna Mantra is*

*Hrim Karasana Gharbitha, Nalasikam, Sou Kleem Kalam Vibhrathim  
Sou Varanambhara Dharinim, Varasudha Doutham,  
Trinetra Jwalam, Vande Pusthaka Pasamamkusa Dharam  
Satbhushitham Ujwalam, Thvam Goureem, Tripuram  
Paratpara Kalam Sri Chakra Sancharinim.*

*The second shlokam is*

*Srushtou Ya Sargarupa, Jagadhava Navidhou Paalini Yacha Roudri  
Samharecha Piyasyacha Jagadbitha Makhilam, Kreedanam Yaa Parakhya,  
Pasanyanthi Madhaymatho, Thadhanu Bhagavathi Vaikhari Varnarupa  
Sasmadbhvacham, Prasanna Vidhi Hari Giri Saradha Talan Karothu*

“From that day with the devotion on my Guru I have been chanting this mantra. The Demon captured me and my friend. Daily he comes to the palace asking my friend to marry him and requested me to convince her. As soon as he left our place, I worshipped the Devi with the Mantra preached by my Guru. One day the Devi appeared, in red color attire, with a pleasant face and with red eyes and said, “Do not worry and be afraid. I will give you a mantra which will take you to any place within a few minutes. Once you chant this mantra you can go wherever you want in invisible form in the sky, and within a few moments you can also come back. Immediately go to the banks of River Ganga. The son of Lord Vishnu, Ekaveera is coming there; he is the only one who is eligible to marry Ekavali. Convey My blessings and tell him that I have sent you. Bring him here. He will come and kill this Demon and he will marry your princess. I have chanted that Mantra and reached here. I am waiting for Ekaveera who will come on a horse. I saw you on a horse, but I could not find Ekaveera.”

Ekaveerudu was surprised and said, “It is so surprising how the Devi already knew that I was born here and the Devi and My father Lord Vishnu decided that I will be marrying Ekavali. Is this the reason for which you came here? Without my knowledge how many things are happening? Oh Beauty! I am the son of Lakshmi



Narayana and I am Ekaveerudu. The Devi told you about me only”. Yasovathi replied, “How lucky both I and my friend are? Please allow me to sit behind you on the back of this horse. Then I will chant the Mantra and within no time we will reach the palace. Once we reach there it is your responsibility to protect my friend”. Ekaveera said, “I will come there. Once I am there I have to fight with the Demon. As you know Demons are illusory, so I need weapons to kill that Demon. To acquire those weapons, we need the blessings of the Guru. But now how can I get the blessings of the Guru?”.

When you have devotion in the heart and when you think you need the grace of your Guru, he will call you and give you Darshan or he will come and give you Darshan. Ekaveera wanted to kill the Demon with the grace of his Guru and protect Ekavali. So Ekaveera prayed to his Guru and said, “Jai Sathguru”. His Guru Lord Dattatreya appeared there. Seeing his Guru, Ekaveera bowed his head and greeted. Ekaveera thought, “I just thought of my Guru and He appeared immediately”. Guru Dattatreya taught him the *YOGESWARI* Mantra. One who starts chanting this Mantra with the intention of doing battle will get a bow, arrow and many other weapons. For one who chants this Mantra, for salvation, a divine aircraft will come in the last minute of life to take him. This Mantra is the best in the three Worlds. The person who chants this continuously will reach *Manidweepam*.

Such was the power of the mantra given by Guru Dattatreya. As Ekaveera chanted that mantra, he came to know what is happening in this World and all the weapons were in his control. Then he reached Patala Lokam with Yasovathi. A fierce battle took place between Ekaveera and Kalakethudu. Ekaveera killed the Demon Kalakethudu. Ekavali finally was brought back to her father. Raibhyudu said, “My daughter was born from the *Yagna Kundam* with the grace of Lord Vishnu”. On an auspicious day Ekaveerudu and Ekavali got married and a son was born to them and this is Krutha Veeryudu. He was a great warrior and he ruled the Earth for many years. Kartha Veeryudu was the son of Krutha Veeryudu. From that time the clan become famous by the name of Hai Hailu. People of this great lineage also however made some mistakes and lost their vision but finally got it back with proper repentance. Any individual has to come out of the word and the world of “I”.

Thinking only of the self, anyone can get into a world of illusion and spoil their life. That is what happened to the Hai Hailus who became too egoistic and killed priests which incurred them great sins.

Janamejeya asked, “Oh Grandfather! Can I ever get out of this illusion and get salvation?”. Sage Vyasa replied, “Oh Son! It is not easy to come out of illusions, but there is only one way. The best worship in this Universe is worshipping the Devi. Whenever you are doing anything, you have to meditate and submit it to the Devi, by saying “*Bhagavathi Padharavindha Arpana Masthu*. Such of the Devi’s devotees in general would not get Egotistic. By chance if it comes also once the devotee repents on the mistakes he committed, the Devi will bring them out of it. I will tell you an example: Once upon a time, in Badri on the banks of River Saraswathi I built an ashram by name Samyaprasam (currently Maana). I stayed in a cave and daily took holy bath in River Saraswathi and continued my Tapas. Sometimes I thought, can we ever come out of this falsity and illusions? Do we have to live with them? Because of this illusion everything seems to be mine and can I ever overcome this Ego?

I gave birth to Dhritharashtra and Panduraju, the persons of this clan. They fought and died. I was not able to stop anyone. May be if I was not in falsity or illusion, I might have stopped them”. Meanwhile Sage Naradha reached there. Sage Vyasa greeted Sage Naradha politely and asked, “Oh Great Sage! I recently understood the dangerous consequences of falsity or illusions. Even though I am doing Tapas continuously I have also experienced pleasures, sorrows, hunger and thirst. Can I ever come out of these immense illusions? What is the nature of this falsity or illusions”?

Sage Naradha replied, “Like you, I also did Tapas to come out of this falsity or illusion for some time. I have a cousin and his name is Parvathudu, (Parvathudu is also as great as Sage Naradha and he was a very close friend of Sage Naradha and a great musician) born into Daksha Clan. He was good friend to me. The whole world knew about our friendship. We both did Tapas for some time. While we were doing tapas *Manmadha* (God of love) struck us with his arrows. Even after the arrows hit

us, we did not get disturbed and continued our Tapas. After completion of the Tapas when we opened our eyes, we saw many arrows. We went to Lord Brahma and asked him, “We were in Tapas and once we opened our eyes, we saw arrows. Who shot them?” Lord Brahma replied, “To destroy your Tapas *Manmadha* shot arrows at you, but you never got disturbed. You did great Tapas with great devotion”. We both said, “That is because of our greatness and we have conquered the lust and Manmadha.”

We went to Lord Vishnu and said, “Oh Lord Vishnu! We have done Tapas with extreme austerity on Earth. We have conquered lust and there is no one beyond us. Even you will succumb to nostalgia thinking of Goddess Lakshmi”. Lord Vishnu smiled, “Yes indeed I am feeling nostalgia. But you never fall into the illusion brought upon by women. We proudly said, “How many times you are saying the same? We will not. Do we take incarnation like you and marry hundreds of women? We have conquered Ego, Illusion and Falsity”.

Then we both started from there and we were playing the musical instrument and were singing that we had conquered Ego, Illusion and Falsity. We preached to the World to come out of the Illusion and find the way for salvation. Finally, we reached Earth, visited many places and took an oath that, “We should be together forever. Whatever desire we felt we should share with each other. There should not be any secrets between us. We planned to go on a pilgrimage for 8 months in a year and preach to the humans that this *Samsaram* was an Illusion. We would also try and come out of it and work towards salvation. This way we will try to help the World. The rest of the four months during the rainy season we will be in one place and recite *Puranas* and do *Chaturmasa Deeksha* (When a Sage stays in one place for these four months, the local inhabitants of that place take advantage of his presence to become spiritually advanced)”.

They both liked the King Srunjayadu, so reached his kingdom and said, “Oh King! This is *Chaturmasa* period so we will be here. We will narrate *Puranas* and teach people to stay away from illusions and falsity since we have conquered it all”. King Srunjayadu replied, “As you have conquered Ego, Illusion, Falsity and lust,

hope you do not have problem if women are there in the palace”. They replied, “We do not have any issues and we are beyond all this”. King Srunjayadu replied, “So I do not need to worry. So, you stay in the palace”. Saying this the King kept them in the palace. They started reciting the *Puranas* and Sage Naradha had a melodious voice so he was singing the *slokas* by playing the *Mahathi* (Sage Naradha’s musical instrument Veena). King Srunjayadu had a daughter named Madhayanthi; she was very gorgeous. Whenever the *Puranas* started, listening to the melodious voice of Sage Naradha, she would come with her father and sit in the front row.

Most of the *Puranas* were recited by Sage Naradha and a small part by Parvathudu. Sage Naradha was very handsome and had a melodious voice. Madhayanthi liked music and she was mesmerized by it. The King entrusted all the meal arrangements to Madhayanthi. She made them sit opposite each other and for Sage Naradha she gave food in golden plate and for Parvathudu on a banana leaf. Parvathudu was surprised seeing this discrimination, but Madhayanthi said, “You are above all these”. Not only this, she arranged hot water for Sage Naradha and normal water for Parvathudu to bathe. Sage Naradha was served with good curd and fresh ghee, but buttermilk and stored ghee to Parvathudu. She gave special treatment to Sage Naradha. A good cot and fresh bed spread with comfortable pillows was arranged for Sage Naradha and for Parvathudu she had arranged a bed made of *Darbha*.

So, Madhayanthi always looked at Sage Naradha with love. After a few days Parvathudu had a doubt and said, “Naradha, hopefully she is not in love with you”. Sage Naradha replied, “I am above all these falsity and illusions”. But in reality, Sage Naradha was also having a soft corner in his heart. Lord Vishnu wanted to teach them a lesson so He had created this illusion in them. One day Parvathudu asked, “Naradha I have a doubt on your behavior; please tell me the truth”. Sage Naradha said, “She loves me and I too love her. I am going to inform her father and get married to her”. Parvathudu became angry and asked, “Before coming here we took an oath of sharing our thoughts and have no secrets between us. But what did you do? You did not reveal the truth that you fell in love with Madhayanthi. From today you will have the face of a Monkey and this is my curse. Madhayanthi has ill-treated me, so I will see how she is going to marry you with this face of a Monkey”.

Immediately Sage Naradha got the face of a black Monkey. Even Sage Naradha was angry with this consecution. He said, “Oh Wicked One! I was about to marry a most beautiful woman; you have cursed me like this. You will lose the opportunity to travel back to Heaven and you cannot leave Earth. This is my curse”. So, sage Naradha had a Monkey face and Parvatha stayed back on the Earth.

The next day while reciting the *Puranas*, Sage Naradha covered his face. The King said, “Can you please uncover the face. It will be nice”. Sage Naradha replied, “If I uncover it, you will all flee from this place”. The princess came near and uncovered it and she was shocked by looking at the Monkey face. She recovered from the shock and said, “I loved your melodious voice, so please sing and recite the *Slokas*”. One day King Srunjayadu called upon his wife Dhatri and said, “The month of Kartika is approaching. Ask Madhayanthi if she is willing to get married”. Dhatri called her daughter and said, “Your father wishes you to get married”. She replied, “I forgot to tell you, I fell in love with Sage Naradha and in this life he is my husband”. Dhatri was shocked and said, “Did you see Sage Naradha’s face? Looking at that face you still loved him and want to marry him?” Dhatri came to her husband and informed the same. King Srunjayadu was shocked too and he said, “How can I get my daughter married to a man with a Monkey’s face? A person may not have wealth or he may not be a scholar, but that face? It is terrible! How can a person with such a melodious voice, have such a face? And this is what our daughter wants? You try and convince her to change her mind”.

Madhayanthi who was listening to all this came forward and said, “Father, a woman will love only once in her life. I have decided that Sage Naradha will be my husband. I loved his voice but not his face. If I have to marry then I will marry him only”. King Srunjayadu then got Madhayanthi married to Sage Naradha in the month of Kartika. After the wedding Sage Naradha asked, “How can you love this Monkey face”? Madhayanthi replied, “Never say Monkey face. However you are, or with whatever face you have, it does not matter. I did not love your face but loved the mastery in you and your voice. No one in this Universe has your voice and skills”. Both stayed there for some time. One day Parvathudu came to the palace to see Sage Naradha. He saw Sage Naradha with his beautiful wife. He said, “Oh Naradha! I

impulsively cursed you. Now I am feeling pity seeing both of you like this. You will get back your face”. Sage Naradha also reversed his curse. As he said so a garland appeared and Madhayanthi disappeared. Meanwhile Lord Vishnu reached there. They were shocked. Sage Naradha was searching for his wife. Lord Vishnu asked him, “How is married life?”

Sage Naradha realized all this is illusion. There is a garland around the neck of Lord Vishnu called as *Vaijayanthi*. Lord Vishnu had sent the garland as Madhayanthi and with His energy He created the King Srunjayadu and got Sage Naradha married to that garland. Lord Vishnu said, “This is Illusion and Falsity. In practise it is not easy to come out of these Illusion and Falsity when compared to preaching them. Actually, you are beyond all these but you know why you fell in this trap? Because you felt the ego, saying that only you have the power to win over illusion. With your ego you had a fall. Even Parvathudu had a fall due to ego. Actually, Parvathudu was also attracted to Madhayanthi but he came to know that you loved her and then without saying anything to you he cursed you. And you also cursed him!”

Hence it is not easy to come out of Illusion and Falsity. With devotion whoever holds the feet of the Devi, the Illusion will leave them. But when an individual thinks that, “I am great, I have all the powers or I can win on my Illusion, then the Ego enters the heart and more Illusion will come back in. So be careful and see that you never feel the ego in your heart”. Saying this He left to Vaikuntam along with Sage Naradha, Parvathudu and Garland Vaijayanthi. Thus, Sage Naradha narrated this story to Sage Vyasa.

## *DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XVIII CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*



## CHAPTER 19

### KEY POINTS

Who was Sundari?

Why Taladwajudu was sad?

Did Sage Naradha understand the Illusion?

Who is Sukanya?

Why Sukanya married an old man?

What boon did Sage Chyavana give to the Ashwini Gods?

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

Sage Naradha was a Guru for Sage Vyasa and for everyone else. He is a *Brahma Manasa Putra* (*Manas* - mind and *Putra* son. Those born from Lord Brahma's mind). Still, he became a victim of illusions and ego on many occasions. If he is unable to avoid illusion and ego, it is needless to say about its effect on a common individual. Many people desire to get salvation in this life, but it is not so easy to achieve it. The heart, thoughts etc., should be filled with the Devi or Lord Vishnu or Lord Siva. Nothing else should come to mind and this is the way of getting salvation.

Even though at times Sage Naradha moved away from his heart and fell into illusions, he was able to leap back. We are all subjected to great illusions, manipulative behaviors, self-centeredness and to cause and suffer misery. Therefore, for a normal



human it is not easy to get salvation. God will help the individuals who have moved a little away from spirituality. But if the individual is completely not aware then, He is also helpless. Every moment whatever we do we should believe that God is making us do all the works. We have to come out of these illusions completely and surrender to God. Sage Vyasa also said that an easy way to get salvation is by not commenting on the people who narrate *Puranas*. Whenever we are listening to the *Puranas*, we have to pay attention and have great devotion on God. This will help us in coming out of illusions up to a certain extent so that we can get salvation in this life or in the next one. Humans are so used to making remarks about Gurus, God and say their own version of things and make people believe them. These kinds of people will never attain salvation.

*(Once there was a ship sailing in the middle of the sea. The ship developed a hole in the hull suddenly and the water started coming into the ship. The people in the ship started crying and prayed to God. At the same time, they also informed the nearby ship and asked for help. Those people came and asked them to board their ship. All of them boarded their ship except one. He said I will not come if humans are calling me, I will wait for God to help me. He also said, I asked God so he will come and save me. After some time, another ship came and this man gave the same reply. The ship sank and the man died and he was taken by the Yamakinkaras (Soldiers of Yama Lokam). He told them I was repeatedly asking God to save me but I died and now coming with you. They replied, "God had come twice in a ship to save you. If you call God he will come in any form, but you refused his help. He could come in the form of a human. **Daivam Manusha Rupena**, God in the form of human. You did not believe both the sailors so you died. **GOD WILL TRY TO HELP US IN DIFFERENT WAYS AND FORMS**. You can believe that God will help you, but when you are not doing the duty assigned to you then God will not help you. So, ensure that you do your bit and fulfil your duties).*

Sage Naradha was explaining to Sage Veda Vyasa about falsity and illusion. As a part of it Sage Naradha explained his own experiences about Illusion. He told how first time he experienced the illusion and started narrating the second incident. Once Sage Naradha reached Vaikuntam and said, "Oh God Vasudeva! Janardhana! Rama Vallabha! I am continuously falling into illusions.



Can we not come out of these illusions or even control them.

Lord Vishnu replied, “It is very difficult to come out of this illusion”.

Sage Naradha: Can I come out of it by doing Tapas?

Lord Vishnu smiled and said, “Do you want to come out of Illusion?

Sage Naradha said, “I want to come out of this Illusion. I asked your suggestion but instead of giving suggestion You are smiling and staying calm. What is this falsity and from where has it been born? What is the strength of this illusion? In which place does it live? I want to see that illusion. I want to destroy this illusion and need to evade illusions. I want to know all these. Please tell me”.

Lord Vishnu said, “Illusion is a great energy. There is no birth, development and destruction to this energy. Humans have all these three attributes. Illusion is beyond all these attributes. Sometimes it will take a form of Goddess Maha Kali, Maha Saraswathi and Maha Lakshmi and sometimes without any attribute or form. Illusion knows everything and accepts everything. No one can conquer this illusion. This illusion is with Me in the name of *VAISHNAVA MAYA*. When it is with Me people call it as *VISHNU MAYA*, when it is with Lord Siva it is called as *SIVA MAYA* and when it is with Lord Brahma it is called as *BRAHMA MAYA*. Because of these Illusions we were able to Create, Nurture and Destroy the Worlds. When this illusion is in *Manidweepam* with the Devi it is known as *MAHA MAYA*. I never desired to perceive *Maha Maya* completely. Illusion is within Me and I never thought myself beyond this illusion. But you want to see it? It may be troublesome and dangerous to see Illusion”.

Sage Naradha said, “Whatever it maybe. I want to perceive it. Show me the illusion, I will see it”.

Lord Vishnu said, “Do you want to see the Illusion? Then come and sit on this *Garuthmanthudu* (a kite or an eagle and the Vahanam of the Lord Vishnu) behind Me. I will show you the illusion, after that you can come out of it.”



*Lord Maha Vishnu on Garuthmanthudu*

Meanwhile *Garuthmanthudu* reached there with his wings spread wide open. *Garuthmanthudu*'s wings are in the color of gold which is why he is also known as *SUVARNA PARNUDU*. Unlike other birds, when *Garuthmanthudu* is flapping his wings Ashtakshari Mantram, “*Om Namo Narayanaya*” can be heard. That is why he is also called as *SUPARNUDU*. *Garuthmanthudu* reached there and Lord Vishnu with four hands sat on him and Sage Naradha sat behind Him. Sage Naradha is a part of Lord Vishnu so he was blessed and lucky enough to sit on *Garuda Vahanam* (*Garuthmanthudu*). This *Vahanam* is very broad; no matter how many people are seated, there will still be place for one more and no one will face any kind of inconvenience. (350 years back Bhakta Tukaram reached Vaikuntam on *Garuda Vahanam*). We can also ride on *Garuda Vahanam* when we hear *Puranas* with devotion and when we consistently remember the Devi and our Guru.

Garuda started with great speed and they roamed several Worlds and finally reached a place. In that place there was a pond named *Brahma Sarovaram*. This is near to *Manasa Sarovaram* at Mount Kailasam. In that pond, there were Swans, Geese and many other Divine birds chirping. The lotuses in the pond were gold in color. When they reached this pond Lord Vishnu said to Garuda, “Stop here”. Then Garuda landed and Lord Vishnu looked at Sage Naradha and said, “You get down from Garuda”. Both reached the pond.

Lord Vishnu said, “Naradha look at this Divine pond. There are golden colored lotuses in it. The birds are chirping the *Om Karam*. I like this *Brahma Sarovaram*. You take a holy dip in this fresh water; after sometime I will also join you”

Sage Naradha said, “Oh Lord! You are asking me to take bath in such a Divine pond. Is there any illusion in this?”

Lord Vishnu replied, “You want to see Illusion? Take bath in this fresh and Divine water and see”. Sage Naradha said, “Can You hold my hand and come with me. I am a bit afraid and worried”.

Lord Vishnu said, “Once you finish. I will also come.” Sage Naradha was about to step into the pond. Lord Vishnu turned to Sage Naradha and said, “Oh Naradha! Remove a few things from your body. When you are taking bath why do you need this *Mahathi*? (A musical instrument which Sage Naradha always carried with him). It will become wet and get damaged. Also remove your garland and the black deer skin which you are wearing”.

Sage Naradha said to Sage Vyasa, “Lord Vishnu asked me to take a holy bath but He took away my *Mahathi* and my garland. Finally, I gave the black deer skin also”.

Sage Naradha said to Lord Vishnu, “You said you will show me illusion; You took everything from me and I am worried what illusion I am going to experience now”. As long as *Mahathi* was with Sage Naradha no illusion can embrace him. (This was the boon given by Lord Vishnu to Sage Naradha). That was the reason why Lord Vishnu took it all from Sage Naradha and asked him to take a dip in the pond. Sage Naradha got into the pond and took the holy dip for three times and stood up. Then

Sage Naradha forgot himself and turned into a beautiful woman with lustrous black hair and a beautiful body adorned with jewelry and a sari. He came out of the pond. He started thinking, “Who am I? What is my name? Why am I here? Where should I go now? Where should I stay now?” Meanwhile Lord Vishnu disappeared from that place so Sage Naradha was completely clueless. By this time, he was feeling hungry, he started yawning and also had discomfort in his body.

A King named Taladwajudu ruler of Kanyakubjamu who was on pilgrimage reached there and saw Sage Naradha in a woman’s form. He was amazed by her beauty and he asked, “Oh Sundari! Who are you? Where do you stay? Who are your parents? Wearing precious jewelry, you are alone near this pond. Are you not afraid?”

Sundari said, “What is the meaning of afraid?”.

The King then said, “Oh Innocent Sundari! This is Earth; you are beautiful, young and wearing so much jewelry is dangerous. Thieves may attack you, rob you, kidnap you and molest you”.

Sundari said, “Oh! They will rob me? What does molest mean?”

The King said, “Leave aside all these. Tell me who are your father and mother?”

Sundari said, “I do not know who I am? I do not know what are father and mother”.

The King said, “For sometime, I wanted to get married to a beautiful woman like you. The God has shown you. I want to name you as Sundari. From this day onwards you will be called as Sundari”. “Will you marry me?”, the King then asked.

Sundari asked, “What is marriage?”

The King took her to his kingdom Kanyakubjamu and got married to her. After the marriage she came to know about many things. He was completely besotted by Sundari, so he stopped visiting his other wives. After two years she gave birth to a baby boy and named him Sudhanvudu. From then, every two years she gave birth to a son, and in total 20 sons were born to her. All the sons were very handsome and

strong. Sundari was busy raising the children and when they were sick, she worried a lot about them. The eldest son was 40 years by the time the youngest son was born. So, Sundari was busy getting them married. She got 20 daughters-in-laws, and now she was concerned about them. Sundari was busy buying them jewelry and settling any conflicts between them.

Meanwhile the eldest daughter-in-law gave birth to her first son. Like this every son had 20 children ie.10 sons and 10 daughters. Now she was concerned about her own children and busy with her grandchildren. She was worried and felt sad if any child or grandchild was not well. At times there were severe fights among the daughters-in-law and between the grandchildren. There was more sorrow than Happiness now. She would sometimes tell them to be united. Sundari, (Sage Naradha changed as woman) was always looking young as if she was in her thirties. The King was also looking young, but the sons became old. Forgetting everything Sage Naradha spent his time as Sundari on Earth for 1000 years.

The neighboring King of Kamadesa felt jealous about this kingdom and its prosperity. He thought, "This King has many children, many grandchildren and a big army" Let me capture him. Thinking so, the King of Kamadesa invaded on the kingdom of Kanyakubjamu with a large army. King Taladwajudu ordered all his sons and grandchildren to join the war and kill the enemy. A fierce war took place and all the sons and grandsons of King Taladwajudu died in the hands of the enemies and only the King was left alive. King of Kamadesa said, "We have killed all your sons and grandchildren. We are sparing your life so that you can live with that grief forever". Sundari came to the battlefield and saw the dead bodies of her sons and grandsons. She started weeping looking at her dead sons and saying, "Oh Sons! All of you died, none is left". She wept looking at the dead bodies of her sons and grandsons. She was in unbearable grief and said, "Oh God! You have given me a good husband and children, but all my children died in front of my eyes. How ruthless You are"? She was in utmost grief.

She felt hungry after some time. She felt, "Unless I eat something I cannot even cry", Thinking so, she searched for something to eat. She saw a mango tree nearby with a mango fruit. She thought of eating that mango so she left the battlefield

and reached the tree. The fruit was at a height and she was not able to reach it. She thought if I have something to climb. I can get this mango. So, she looked around. She saw that only the dead bodies of her sons and grandsons seem to be without being dismembered and less damaged (rest of the bodies were damaged). When a person is hungry, they are prepared to do any kind of sin to get food. So, she dragged one of her son's dead body and she climbed on it and tried to pluck the Mango. But still, she could not reach it. Again, she brought another son's body and placed above the first dead body. Like this she stacked all 20 sons' dead bodies one on top of the other and she was about to pluck the mango fruit.

At the same time a very old man reached there and asked, "Sundari what are you doing?" Sundari replied, "I am hungry". Then the old man did not disturb her until she plucked the fruit and ate it.

The Old man asked her, "Is your stomach full?"

Sundari replied, "Yes" and started crying.

The Old man said, "Before eating the fruit, you cried due to hunger. Why are you crying now? Are you still feeling hungry?"

Sundari replied, "Once my hunger was satiated my grief has arisen again. These are all my children; sons, and grandchildren. They are the best and greatest warriors but they died in this battle field. They are all dead now but I am still alive. Why is death is not coming to me?"

The Old man then asked, "You said you want to die? But why did you eat that fruit? You might have died with hunger."

Sundari said "I cannot die of hunger."

The Old man then said, "Oh Innocent! Listen to me. Till now there was life in this body. You were worried and sad when something happened to this body of your children. Once the life left the body you climbed on it and plucked the fruit. You clearly understood that the dead body will not have pain when you climb on it. As long as the body had life, we will have pain, hunger, thirst and sadness. Once the



life leaves the body nothing can trouble it. Then what is the use of having life in this body? They are lucky as they are dead but you are crying for them for not being alive. No one is son or daughter, and no relationship exists. With some reason a man and woman are born, and they have temporary relationship of husband and wife. When the time comes, they will leave each other. We cannot guess if they will ever meet again”.

“In this life they are husband and wife but they may take a different form of life in the future; may be animals, like cat and dog or any other form. If we have done great virtue, we may reach Heaven. It has nothing to do with anyone. You are not their mother and they are not your children, all this is illusion. Instead of crying you can perform the rituals for them so that their souls reach the best Worlds. According to Dharma we have to perform rituals to the dead. This is respect you are giving to these bodies. There is a pond nearby. First take bath in it and leave the sesame seeds with water and perform rituals, so they will get deliverance.”

This old man is telling all this to a woman. *In Devi Bhagavatham in 6<sup>th</sup> division and in chapter 29 in slokas 51-54 it has been clearly stated that a woman can also perform the rituals for the dead. King Harishchandra's wife Chandramathi went to the grave yard to burn the dead body of her son Rohithudu in Kasi. In the same way Kunthi was personally present there when her sons were performing the rituals for her husband. In ancient days many women did perform the death rituals to their family members. **The Garuda Puranam also stated that woman or man can perform the death rituals for their loved ones.** If anyone is against this, they are not aware of the Puranas or they are adamant or ignorant.*

As said by the old man Sundari got into the pond and performed all the rituals. After that he asked Sundari to take a complete dip in the pond three times. Sundari closed her ears and nose and took a dip for three times. As she got out of the water the old man disappeared and Lord Vishnu was standing there with Sage Naradha's *Mahathi*, Deer skin and the garland. Sundari also changed to Sage Naradha. He was shocked by looking at Lord Vishnu and thought, “Why is Lord Vishnu standing here? Looks like something happened to me”. Thinking so he looked around. He saw dead bodies, then he realized,” I took a dip in that *Brahma Sarovaram* and changed



into a female and someone had married me”. Thinking so he touched his neck, the *Mangala Sutra* was still there. He removed the *Mangala Sutra* and dropped in the pond. In a confused state he looked around and came out of the water.

Sage Naradha asked Lord Vishnu, “Narayana, what did You do to me? I have handed over my *Mahathi* to You. After that I think I became a woman and married a King and gave birth to 20 children. I have experienced the happiness and sadness with my sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren”. Lord Vishnu smiled. Meanwhile King Taladwajudu reached there and said, “My wife took a dip in this water on the advice of an old man. Now I cannot see her. What happened to her?”

He turned to Lord Vishnu and asked, “Who are you?”

Lord Vishnu replied, “Even if I say who I am, you cannot understand. But why are you crying?”

King Taladwajudu still grieving said, “Long back I found a beautiful woman near this pond. To my surprise on the advice of an old man my wife took a dip in this pond. She did not come out. Instead of her this man came out. I am not bothered about this man but I am worried about my wife. She is afraid of water and does not know how to swim. She loved her children; she cannot be without me for a moment also. I am not able to understand what happened to her in this water, whether a crocodile swallowed her or a fish bit her.”

Lord Vishnu replied, “You found your wife near this pond and she united in the same pond. So, understand that the woman who came from the pond earlier united with the pond. There is nothing like husband or wife; all are illusion. Instead of being friendly with scholars, you roamed all the cities. I think you do not know what the *Puranas* stated. Instead of going on pilgrimage to Ganga, Gaya, Kasi, Prayaga, Badri, Mathura, Pushkarma and other places, listening to the *Devi Bhagavatham* will give better virtue. When the Guru is reciting with devotion, if you listen to it with devotion and concentration, you will get salvation in this life itself. Sage Vyasa said without listening to or reading *Devi Bhagavatham* your pilgrimage will not give you result. After listening to *Devi Bhagavatham*, you need not do pilgrimage.

The essence of any pilgrimage is in *Devi Bhagavatham*. Finally listening to *Devi Bhagavatham* will give you salvation. **This is the last Puranam written by Sage Vyasa.** There is no other scripture that is worth more than *Devi Bhagavatham* and which can give us salvation. This has the extract of all the Mantras and has compiled stories of the Trinity and Trimatha (Goddess Lakshmi, Goddess Saraswathi and Goddess Parvathi). It has many *Beejaksharas* like *Aim, Hreem, Kleem, Shreem, Souhu* and *Navarna Mantras*. It is filled with the *glory of Devi at Manidweepam*. You do not have knowledge of all this. When the Gurus were narrating *Devi Bhagavatham*, you did not listen to it. You are suffering in the vortex of family life and your wife. In reality there is no one for you; a bonding and Karma came in the form of a woman. That woman left you and you will also leave after sometime. At that time, your wife, children or others, no one will come with you. Only your Virtues and Sins will come with you. So, leave the sinful activities and practice virtuous deeds. Luxuries, happiness and sorrows will come according to your Karma.”

King Taladwajudu understood Lord Vishnu’s version and asked, “Mahatma You made me open my eyes. Yes, for a few years I was very happy. After that I found this woman in this pond and after marriage, I was caught by this Maya. We both were not able to live without one another. In this relationship we had grief more than happiness. After she left, I am feeling sad. What is my duty now?” Lord Vishnu replied, “Take bath in this pond, do all the rituals for your family members and constantly remember Lord Narayana. After taking many lives like animals and other insects you have obtained this human life with utmost difficulty. This life is like a bubble, this body will die in a moment. Understand the features of the body. As the age rises, the physical energy, strength will reduce, health will decline. Do not think about your wife and spend the rest of your life chanting *Narayana Mantra*”. The King greeted Lord Vishnu (the King did not realize that he is Lord Vishnu) and left the place.

Sage Naradha turned towards Lord Vishnu and said, “You made this King as my husband, You gave me such a big family, but still, even now I cannot understand what illusion is”. Lord Vishnu said, “You still did not understand? In a moment a man will become a woman and woman as a man. You feel children are there when

they do not exist; when they exist you think they are dead. They take many lives, their age and the fame will change constantly, they do not know who they are and all this put together is *ILLUSION*. The illusion is that you will never know who you are and believing that this family is permanent. There are no relationships like husband, wife, children but human feel it as existing, and this is a great illusion. Sage Naradha, you are such a knowledgeable person, but you still felt the illusion that you are a woman and you have husband and children. We are all in this illusion. Soul does not have Birth, Death and Body. Soul wore a body temporarily and human thinks it as permanent attribute and experiences unrest in its illusion.”

Sage Naradha finally said, “I will never ask You about illusion and will be always with ‘You’ who is beyond illusion. I will not do anything other than chanting Your name. I will completely surrender to You”. We do not need to go anywhere and visit anyplace if you completely surrender to your Guru. Completely surrendering is by chanting the mantra given by the Guru without fail (it may be any God: Vishnu, Siva or the Devi, but chant it). Sage Naradha also did the same. He said, “I do not want anything, and I will always remember You”. Saying this he asked for his *Mahathi* (Veena) and while playing it he sang about Sriman Narayana’s glories. He prayed, “*There are many differences in our minds and many sentiments, Leaving all these I will praise you. Whatever I am doing I am offering it to You*”. Sage Naradha said all this to Sage Vyasa and Sage Vyasa to Janamejeya, “Realize this great form of illusion and constantly seek the feet of the Goddess/ God you love”

Even such nobles are not able to understand the illusion and finally they surrender to God completely by saying *Parameswara Arpana Masthu* (everything belongs to God). The Greatest Energy which is in the form of Lord Siva is Goddess *Jaganmatha*. The *Maha Maya* is Goddess *Jaganmatha*. To avoid falling into these Illusions one must submit to that great Illusion (*Maha Maya*) *Jaganmatha*. The *Devi Bhagavatham* is the history of *Maya*. Sage Naradha described *Maha Maya* in *Devi Bhagavatham* in the form of verses consisting of *Beejaksharas* in it. After Sage Naradha left I (Vyasa) took bath in the River Saraswathi and wrote the glories of the Devi. The history of the Devi was narrated by Sage Naradha in 18,000 slokas (verses) with utmost reverence. If you hear this *Puranam* all your doubts will be cleared.

I wrote stories in it with standards of Vedas that left no room for doubts. So, the Devi is in the form of *Devi Bhagavatham*. Why I am narrating it as Veda? Because, the Devi is *SACHIDANANDA SWARUPINI* (form of existence, consciousness), She will remove the darkness and ignorance. As there will be no darkness after the sun rise, once we understand and meditate on the Devi, our ignorance will leave us. To understand the Devi, we have to hear Her stories and glories. This is the abstract of *Devi Bhagavatham*. Because you are a devotee, I have told you. We should not tell or preach *Beejaksharam* to everyone. It will be a great sin if we preach to a person who will not value it and make fun of it. So, this has to be preached to a devotee, peaceful and matured person, disciple, and who has devotion on the Guru only.

With the grace of the Trinity and grace of my Guru Naradha, I wrote *Devi Bhagavatham* and it is an extract of all the Vedas and an extract of all the Elixir. Whoever reads or listens to this *Devi Bhagavatham* will possess wealth and also becomes knowledgeable. This narration about *Devi Bhagavatham* was given by Sage Vyasa. The stories narrated in this chapter are most liked by the Devi. Whoever listens to or reads these stories with attention and devotion will become, healthy, wealthy and wise. In ancient times whoever listened to this story reached their peak, in status.

Lord Brahma created so many clans and in that he developed the Surya clan. This clan has been started with Lord Surya (Sun God) and Sandhya Devi. Vaivaswatha (Vivaswan means Surya or Sun) is the son of Surya and Sandhya Devi and he is the seventh Manu. Vaivaswatha had 10 sons and they divided the globe and ruled, but the Emperor to all of them, will be the King of Ayodhya. Among them Ikshvaku clan ruled the Kingdom of Ayodhya and the Emperor was by name Saryathi. Ikshvaku clan was central and all the other brothers were under his rule.

King Saryathi was very good at heart and he had very beautiful wives. One of his wives name was Uttama. King Saryathi and Uttama had a gorgeous daughter named Sukanya. She was a devotee of the Devi since childhood. In *Devi Beejaksharas* she was chanting the *Beejam KLEEM* from her childhood. When she turned 16, her father went hunting. In ancient times the forests were near the kingdoms and

when the number of animals in the forest increased, they would come and attack humans. To avoid such situations, Kings used to go for hunting and kill few animals and chase some into deep forests. So, King Saryathi told his wife, “I am going for hunting to protect our citizens from the attacks by the animals”. The wives said we will also come. Children also said the same. Among those children Sukanya was also there. With all of them the King went for hunting. The King and the army went towards the wild animals and the other family members visited the gardens developed in the forest.

Sukanya with her associates went into the garden. In that garden Sage Chyavana was doing Tapas since a long time. Lord Vishnu has a Mole on his Chest and is called as *Srivatsam*. From this *Srivatsam*, a Sage, Bhrgu was born. People from his clan are called as Bhargavas. The eldest son of Sage Bhrgu is Sage Chyavana. He was a great ascetic and he constantly worshiped the Devi. Sage Chyavana reached this garden which is in the forest in the kingdom of King Saryathi. He was chanting and meditating the Devi’s *AIM* Beejam with utmost devotion. He was not eating food and years passed in the meditation. His hair and beard had grown and his body became weak. An ant hill also formed around his body. There were snakes in this ant hill and a few bamboo plants also grew on this ant hill. Still, he did not get disturbed and continued his Tapas. When someone does austere Tapas a ray of light will emanate out of their eyes, even though they are closed.

Sage Chyavana’s eyes were also emitting light, The rays of light were visible from the ant hill as fireflies. People were able to see the light from outside the ant hill but they could not see the body of Sage Chyavana. Sukanya went near this ant hill with her associates and was wandering all around and plucking the flowers. She saw the light coming from the anthill and thought it to be glow worms. She asked her associates, “What shall we do? Shall we bring them out”? Then they brought two long twigs to poke at the glow worms. Sukanya went towards the ant hill and was about to poke at the glow worms. When Sage Chyavana saw her he said, “Oh Beautiful Girl! I am inside this ant hill and my name is Chyavana; do not poke me with the twig”. Because Chyavana was weak, his voice could not be heard outside the anthill.



*Sukanya poking the anthill with sticks*

Sukanya poked the light with the twig. In turn both the eyes of Sage Chyavana were hurt and started bleeding. Blood stains were smeared on the twigs and that is when she realized that, “There were no glow worms and it could be that someone is inside and the light was emanating from their eyes. That is why when I poked with the twig, I was able to hear the sound of eyes being pierced and as a result of which there were blood stains on it. Unknowingly I might be the reason for some Sage to lose his eyes. I heard that when Sages do Tapas anthills will form over them and their eyes will glow”. She was frightened with these thoughts, so she took all her friends and left the place.

Sukanya was fine but her parents, friends, army and every one faced a problem of excretion of urine and faeces’. Their bladders were full but they were not able to excrete. A great suffering was caused by this problem. All of them came to the King. The King also suffered with the same problem. They explained their problem and the King called his wives and they also reported the same problem. They asked the King, “Why this suffering?”. The King replied, “We might have done a great sin. The *Puranas* state that body will undergo great suffering when we commit a great sin. What sin have we committed now? Knowingly I did not do any mistake. Did anyone



else commit any mistake? Have you ever harmed anyone in the forest? Did you kill any Divine snakes?” All his subjects present there said they did not do anything of that sort. King again said, “If no one committed any sin why are all of us suffering”?

Suddenly the King remembered that Sage Chyavana was performing Tapas in the garden in the forest. “Sage Chyavana belongs to the Bhrigu clan. I hope no one has hurt him. We get into this type of trouble if we have insulted him”. Everyone replied they did not do such a thing to him. Sukanya came to know about all this and said, “Father I may be the reason for this misery”. She told what happened in the garden. The King said, “You did a big mistake. No doubt your mistake is the reason for our misery”. The King immediately reached the anthill and cleared it and he saw the old Sage Chyavana with bleeding eyes. The King felt very bad and held the feet of the Sage and said, “Oh Sage! You are from the Clan of Srivatsa; you are a great Sage and the best human. My daughter with her childish behavior did a mistake, unknowingly and with innocence. She poked your eyes, and put you in trouble. It is difficult for us to suffer from the pain and please forgive me for her mistake”.

“I also know that Sages do not really have real anger and will harm others. They will take it all back and only show mock anger to make others learn lessons for the sake of Dharma. They actually are very calm and peaceful. Please forgive us.”

Sage Chyavana replied, “Actually I did not curse anyone. As she committed a mistake, the mistake has turned as a sin and is troubling all of you. If you follow my instructions, you will come out of this misery. I am old and I am now not able to do Tapas also. I lost my eyes and thereby vision also. With this blindness I cannot be alone and roam in this forest. I need someone who will look after me and serve me with water and food. Old age is a misery and above it I am blind. Hence if I get a person who can serve me then you will get out of this misery”.

The King replied, “I will arrange 10,000 people to help you and build a good building for your comfort. I will spend money for all this”.

Sage Chyavana said, “I do not need all these. If you arrange people, they may not like this assignment as they have to shift from a city to the forest and they may also wait for my death so that they can come back to the city. I do not want to get these



sins. The servant being as such, they will serve me with responsibility but without their heart in it. In this World only a wife can serve the husband with sincerity of the heart. So now I want a wife to serve me”.

The King said, “I will arrange for your wedding”.

Sage Chyavana said, “Your daughter is the reason behind my blindness, so give your daughter by getting her married to me. Then you will come out of this misery. Your daughter will take care of me as she is responsible for my blindness. She will give me food, help in taking bath and others. So, I will be secure and happy.”

The King was shocked with Sage Chyavana’s request and thought, “This Sage is so old and my daughter is too young. This Sage Chyavana is so weak and blind. How can I get my daughter married to him? So, he said, “I will not get you married to my daughter” Sage Chyavana said, “Then I am helpless.”

The King thought, “I will not mind if all of us die with this suffering but I cannot get my young daughter married to this old Sage. Adolescence provokes lust in everyone and it is very difficult to conquer it. Many a great people have ruined their life due to lust. If I marry her to him, my daughter is in adolescence and due to her age she may get into lust. She may think remaining with her husband will not be helpful so she may marry another man. Even that is a sin. Hence, she has to get married to a handsome man who is of a young age”.

The Ministers said, “Oh King! What you said is correct. Do not worry, we will die with this trouble and do not accept this marriage proposal.”

Meanwhile Sukanya came there and said, “Father I have committed a grave mistake toward a Mahatma. He lost his eyes because of me. I have to atone for this mistake and you do not have to suffer so much because of me. I completely accept to get married to this old Sage. Many have served their husbands in the past, like Arundhati was with Sage Vasishta, Lopamudra was with Sage Agastya, Sandhya Devi was with Surya, Goddess Lakshmi served Lord Narayana, Goddess Parvathi served Lord Siva, and Goddess Saraswathi served Lord Brahma. So, I will marry him, I will serve him and I will be with him forever. Hence without doubt

get me married to this man. I will serve him with devotion, I will be with him and follow the Dharma as a wife. All of you should be happy”. Initially the King tried to convince her but Sukanya was resolute in getting married to Sage Chyavana. The King said, “You have to follow the path of Dharma”. Sukanya accepted and the King informed her acceptance to Sage Chyavana. Immediately their suffering disappeared and everyone felt relieved. Sukanya said, “I will keep my word, as Arundhati served her husband Sage Vasishtha as per Dharma, I will also follow it. As Anasuya was with Sage Atri I will also not leave my husband and be with him. In future my name will also resonate in the world for following the path of Dharma”.

The King was happy with his daughter’s words and he said, “I will build a good building for both of you and you can stay there comfortably”.

Sukanya said, “My husband is a Sage and a Sage needs an ashram. So, build a hut with palm leaves. The King offered to give good clothes and jewelry. Sukanya refused saying she is the wife of a Sage and she does not require them. She said she will take care of herself and her husband, so they can leave. The King was very happy with the devotion of his daughter. They built a hut and arranged Darbha for them to sleep and gave some linen clothes to wear and left the place. Sukanya removed all her jewelry and wore those linen clothes and started serving her husband with utmost attention”.

There was a pond nearby, Sukanya thought, “After sunrise few other people will come to the pond so they may trouble me. Better I avoid other men”. Hence, she used to wake up very early in the morning and take bath in the nearby pond and get water and bathed her husband with it. Then she would arrange all the facilities for his Japam and Sandhya Vandanam and later fed him with fruits. Sometimes she cooked some yams and fed him. She pressed his feet when he was sleeping. The Sage was too old and his skin was very fragile as if it was going to peel on touch. Without bemoaning her fate, she served her husband. She was the reason behind the blindness of Sage Chyavana. Sometimes the Sage wanted to test her patience, so he pretended to be irritable and angry. But in reality, he was never angry on anyone or on anything. Sukanya never got annoyed with his behavior. She was always slept near his feet.

One day Sage Chyavana was asleep till early morning and she was serving his feet till then. After that time, she took a nap and she woke up after the sunrise. She said, “It is has become late today; I will go and take bath and get water from the pond”. She reached the pond with a pitcher. By that time the sun had risen high above the horizon. She took a bath, washed her clothes and filled the pitcher with water, when two men saw her near the pond. They were the sons of Surya and Sandhya Devi; they were twins and were called the Ashwini Gods. They were also known as Dassurulu or Nasakyulu. They were also very handsome. Indra’s son Jayanthudu, Lord Vishnu’s son Manmadhudu, Vasanthudu, Ashwini Gods and Nala Kuberudu are considered to be most handsome. If someone is handsome, they will be referred by these names.

The most famous and handsome ‘Ashwini Gods’ were observing Sukanya for a long time. As Sukanya was coming early in the morning, they were not able to talk to her (Ashwini Gods cannot talk early in the mornings). That day she was late so they came near Sukanya and said, “Oh Beautiful Woman! Please wait for some time”.

Sukanya said, “I have to go; I am a virtuous woman.”

The Ashwini Gods replied, “There will be no harm for your virtuousness, please wait for a moment, we are the most handsome men in this world. But it is waste to tell who we are. It won’t be nice if we boast about ourselves. We have been observing you for a long time. You are very beautiful and you are spending your time in this forest. Like a full moon shining in the forest, your beauty is also going to waste. We know you are the daughter of King Saryathi and your name is Sukanya. We also know that the King got you married to an old Sage and you are still a virgin. Whenever we see your troubles, we are also feeling sad. We were wondering about such a beautiful woman being married to an old man and bereft of happiness. If you heed our advice, we will give many comforts and happiness. Why do you want to stay with this old man? If you express your acceptance, we can either kill him or we can leave him alone and leave this place. We are the most handsome men; you can marry either one of us and you can get all the comforts”.

Sukanya said, “Oh Mahatma’s! With the grace of my virtue, I have recognized you as sons of Surya, Ashwini Gods. What kind of obscene words are the Ashwini Gods

uttering? I am a virtuous woman; I will not look or touch another man. These are the principles by which I abide. My husband is my all even though he is poor, lame, blind and old. I married Sage Chyavana, so he is my husband and he is everything to me. I will not look at other men. You are righteous persons, do not talk such words and leave this place”.

Ashwini Gods then said, “Anyway you have identified us, so we will tell you the truth without fear. You are living by following virtues that will give you Heaven after the death. We will give the same Heaven when you are alive. With our great power we will marry you and take you to Heaven. We will give you ambrosia; with that you will come out of the cycle of life and death. Thousands of servants will serve and help you and you can enjoy all the comforts. You can happily live there. Only after following many rituals, donations and worship, will you finally reach the same Heaven. We will give the same when you are alive. Then why should you undertake all these troubles without sleeping, serving this old man and spoiling your health. Do not continue this; marry one among us, we will take you to the Gods World and give you everything.

Sukanya said, “I am the daughter of King Saryathi, For the sake of money and comforts in Heaven, I will not leave my husband. Oh Gods! My husband is old and blind but I like to serve him. I am doing this with pleasure and not with pain. I do not want wealth as I have abundance of wealth in my kingdom. If I really want to marry another person, I might have done it long back. For a virtuous woman, serving husband is everything. Do not talk these words and leave this place”.

The Ashwini Gods tried to convince saying, “Think one more time. Do not spoil your life”.

Sukanya with angry eyes said, “You are sons of Lord Surya. I thought you are Mahatmas, so I have excused you. I belong to the Surya clan, Vaivaswatha is son of Surya, my father Saryathi is son of Vaivaswatha and I am daughter of Saryathi, so Surya is my great grandfather. You are sons of the same Surya; you will be my grandfathers. With affection on Surya clan and with the respect on the Gods, I have forgiven you. Once again if you ask me to marry you without realizing the

relationship between us, you will be in trouble. You do not know about my power. If I sprinkle water on you with that power, you will be reduced to ashes”.

The Ashwini Gods were worried by Sukanya’s words and said, “We know about your power and we know that we will be reduced to ashes but we are not in lust. We just tested you. It is new for you to come across the tests of Mahatmas. We are impressed with your courage, your conduct and your dedication towards your husband. A normal human woman might have thought that, “If Gods are inviting, I have to go” and she might have come with us. But you did not move away from Dharma and Righteousness. In this World it is rare to find people like you. We are the physicians for the Gods. We treat any illnesses and we have many powers and energies. Hence, we want to give you a boon. If you accept, we will convert your husband into a young man and give him his vision. We will change his age in accordance with your age. You will be happy after that. We will hold your husband’s hand and dip with him in this pond. And while underneath the water we will treat him and then we will bring him out of the water. But after coming out from the water we three will look identical. With your virtuous grace you have to identify your husband and you have to hold his hand. If you make a mistake in identifying and hold the other person’s hand then you will become the wife of that person. If you accept to this condition, we will give youthfulness to your husband.”

Sukanya replied, “Everything is fine but only one thing seems to be fishy. All of you will be identical. If I am not able to identify my husband and hold one of your hands, my oath to be virtuous will be in vain. Then talking to you for so long is a waste of time. Any how you stay here. I will inform my husband and if he accepts then we can proceed. If he is not acceptable for this then thinking about all this is a waste. As a virtuous woman I have to agree with my husband’s views. Hence, I will go inform my husband and will let you know of his views. Till then you stay here”.

Saying this she left for the ashram. She went to her husband and said, “The Ashwini Gods want to do us a favor”. And she told him what happened near the pond. She continued, “I feel it is good but some problem is also there. They will hold your hands and dip you in the water. Once they give health and youthfulness to you, they will come out from water with you and all three of you will be identical.

I have to identify you and hold your hand. By mistake if I hold their hand, I will become their wife. You should not give any sign to inform me that you are Sage Chyavana. It is a risk. If I am not able to identify you, then it will be violating our marriage”. Sage Chyavana smiled at her and said, “Would anyone foolishly shun such an opportunity. I have belief in you and your intelligence. I have faith in the power of your worship. Nothing is impossible for the Devi’s devotees and you are devotee of the Devi. Accept it”. Sukanya with her husband reached the pond and said to the Ashwini Gods, “My husband has accepted your proposal”. The Ashwini Gods replied, “We are repeating the rule again, after coming out of the water we three will be identical, you have to hold your husband’s hand”. Sukanya accepted it. The Ashwini Gods held the hands of Sage Chyavana and dipped into the pond. They did not come out of the water even after few hours. Sukanya thought, “Did these Ashwini Gods cheat me?” And with these thought she was fearful and worried for her husband.

Meanwhile bubbling sounds were heard from the pond. All the three men came out of the water. They were looking identical. Sukanya thought, “What a magical thing, it seems to be Indra’s magic. I am not able to identify my husband. It is better to die instead of holding another man’s hand. I never thought Gods will be so deceitful. I do not know what to do now” All three called her and said, “Come and hold one of our hands. Keep your word, otherwise it will be a great sin”. Sukanya started praying to the Devi. This is a powerful prayer to be chanted in times of difficulty. When we are in dilemma, not able to decide, if we recite or listen to these Slokas we will come out of the troubles and dilemma.

*Saranam Twam Jagan Mathaha, Prapthasmathi Bruhi Dhukhitha,  
Rakshamethya Sathi Dharmam, Namaami Charanaou Thava, Namah Padmodhbhave,  
Devi Nahaha Sankara Vallabhe Vishnupriye, Namo Lakshmi Veda Mathaha  
Saraswathi, Edham Jagath, Twaya Srushtam Sarvam, Sthavara Jangamam, Pasithva  
Mavyagra, Thadhaasi Loka Santhaye, Brahma Vishnu Mahesanaam,  
Janani Thavam Susamvatha Budhidasi Tavama Gnanaam, Gnaninam Mokshadha,  
Sada, Adyathvam Pravruthim Purna Purusha Priya Darsena,  
Bhukti, Mukthi, Pradasithvam Praninam Visadathmanam,  
Agnanam Dukhada Kaamam Satvaanam Sukha Saadhana, Sidhidha Yogi Namamba,*

*Jayada Keerthida Punaha, Saranam Tvam Prapannasmi Vismayam Param,  
Gatha, Padhim, Darsnaye Mehata, Magnasi Soka Saagare,  
Devabyam, Charitham Kutam Kamrunomi Mohitha Pathin Darsaya,  
Sarvagne Vidith Thvame, Sathi Vatham.*



*Ashwini Gods with Sage Chyavana*

The abstract of these Slokas narrates like: I do not have direction in this trouble, so help me in finding my husband but the real meaning is: *I am a creature, Unknowingly I fell into ignorance and I am not able to decide. I do not know the difference between good or bad. I do not know which will give me benefit and which will put me in trouble,*



*such a creature I am. Oh Goddess! Please show me a proper way. Give me the discretion to distinguish between good and bad. Bless me with salvation and prevent rebirth. Oh Devi! You are in the form of the mind in all living beings, Greetings to You Goddess.*

After this prayer, the Devi joined in her heart and gave her a thought that, Gods will not blink their eyes. Out of all three one is human and he will blink his eyes but the other two will not. “So, the person who is blinking his eyes is my husband.” Thinking so she looked at all of them. Out of the three one was blinking his eyes so she went and held his hand.

The Ashwini Gods were shocked and asked, “All the three of us are identical. How did you identify your husband?”

Sukanya replied, “By the grace of the Devi”.

The Ashwini Gods said, “Now we understood your power. You have worshipped the Devi who is *Maha Maya*. That is why you were able to come out of this problem. Oh Matha! Be happy always”.

Sage Chyavana said to the Ashwini Gods, “You have done a great favor to both of us. You have restored my vision and made me young. We both will have a happy life from today. For this favor we have to do something for you too. Ask what you want, I will grant whatever boon you both want. Then I will not be obliged to the both of you and I will not be in debt.”

The Ashwini Gods smiled and said, “We are Gods and you are a normal human. What can you do for us? If you really have so much power you might have got your vision and youth back. You were not able to resolve your own problems; what you can do for us?”

Sage Chyavana said, “Oh Gods! Do not take hasty decisions. You do not understand the power of my Tapas. I am not for self-praise; I am capable of doing one more Creation. I am a devotee of the Devi. You may ask me why I was not able to get my vision back. I have put a rule for myself that I should not do anything for myself. I do not want to deviate from that rule. That is why I did not use the power of my Tapas for myself. I had one more reason and that is to test Sukanya for which

I have done all this. Long back the Devi told me that Sukanya will marry me. I did all this to get her as my wife. If I intend, medications will come out of air and make me young. I will display my power so ask what you want.”

The Ashwini Gods thought, “He was not boasting about himself and really, he may be powerful”. They then asked, “We have one wish please fulfil that”

Sage Chyavana asked, “What is that?”

The Ashwini Gods replied, “We are Gods and we like *SOMA RASAM*. The Somalatha plant grows in the Himalayas. The stalks of the plant are pressed between stones and the juice obtained is filtered and added to other liquids/juices. It tastes like ambrosia and this plant juice is a fundamental offering during the Vedic sacrifices. Once offered in Yagna it will be tastier than ambrosia. This juice is first offered to the Gods and then those performing the Yagna consume it. These people are called as *Somayaji* (the person who drinks *Soma Rasam*). As we are the physicians to Gods, we have to touch sick people. So, Indra by showing this as a reason told us we are not eligible to sit beside him and also near other Gods. He also prevented us from drinking this *Soma Rasam*. Hence that juice is not available to us. We questioned him saying, “Doctors are next to the Gods and we are such people and how can you ask us not to sit with you and drink *Soma Rasam*?” Indra replied saying that it is his rule. We cannot violate the rule. Therefore, from that time we were not invited by the Sages to any of the Yagnas and we are not consuming *Soma Rasam*. You perform a Yagna and make us sit beside Indra and give us *Soma Rasam*. Then we will believe that you and your Tapas are powerful. We want this boon from you”.

Sage Chyavana replied, “That is not a big deal. My father-in-law is a great Emperor and I will call upon him. He will perform a great Yagna and you will be seated next to Indra and I will make you eligible to consume *Soma Rasam*. The Ashwini Gods left the place. Sage Chyavana and Sukanya were happily living in the ashram. One day King’s Saryathi’s wife asked him, “We have got our daughter married a year back and that too to an old man. You go and see her once. I cannot come and see my daughter being married to an old man, so please go and visit her once”. King Saryathi accepted and reached the ashram. There he saw a handsome

man with his daughter. He was shocked. “I assumed my daughter to be a good and virtuous person, but what is she doing with this young man? Has she killed her old husband and then got married to this handsome man?” He was angry and upset and went up to her. Sukanya greeted her father with courtesy and soon Sage Chyavana also came and greeted him too.

The King with anger asked, “Who are you? My son-in-law is an old man. Where did you come from and trap my daughter”?

Sage Chyavana said, “I am your son-in-law”

The King retorted, “Do not call me father-in-law. I am becoming irritable when you are calling me so”. He turned towards his daughter and said, “It is not the mistake of this man, all the mistake is yours. Where is that blind old man? Who is this man”?

Sage Chyavana said, “Father-in-law don’t be in a hurry, please listen to us completely. Father-in-law I am Sage Chyavana. With the grace of the Ashwini Gods, I have changed like this”. And Sage Chyavana narrated what had happened and called the Ashwini Gods. They and the Devi revealed the truth and also confirmed the past narrated by Sage Chyavana. Then the King greeted the Sage and said, “Oh Mahatma! Oh Maharshi! Without knowing who you are I spoke harshly. I was worried about the society, what they will talk about my daughter. Please remove these words from your heart”. He thanked the Ashwini Gods and again said, “Oh Sage! No one else is as lucky as I am; My son-in-law was an old, blind man and who was ready to die, now changed into a young man. He got his vision back. He is very handsome and my daughter is very happy with him. Sukanya’s mother will feel very happy looking at her daughter being happy. I will go and bring her here”.

Sage Chyavana replied, “Maharaja, with Mother-in-law, bring your army too. The Ashwini Gods have done me a great favor. In return, I promised to qualify them for consumption of *Soma Rasam*. So come with others, army and with some money. Meanwhile I will arrange the Ruthvicks for the Yagna. In this forest we will perform a great Yagna. This Yagna is for the Devi and is known as *Amba Yagam*. We will invite all the Gods including Indra, Stars, Planets and Dikpalakas. We will make

the Ashwini Gods sit beside Indra and also give them *Soma Rasam* to consume. My debt of their helping me will be paid off. Do this favor for me. By seeing us and the Yagna my mother-in-law will be very happy. Hence please go and bring them”.

The King went back to his palace and told everything to his wife. He took his wife, servants, army and things required for the Yagna and reached the forest. A big Yagna Sala was built in the forest and the Yagna began. After worshipping Lord Ganapathi they invited Indra, *Om Indram Avaha Yami*. They arranged an *Asanam* (seat) for Indra and made him sit on that. As per rule Agni, Yama, Niruthi and others had to sit beside Indra, but Chyavana invited the Ashwini Gods. They came and sat beside Indra with hesitation. Indra looked at them seriously and said, “You are not eligible to sit in the Yagna; in spite of that you are sitting beside me”? The Ashwini Gods were hesitant and looked at Sage Chyavana. He gestured to them to sit which they did.. With that Indra was angry, but he did not want to come to a decision so he kept calm.

The rest of the Gods reached and sat. In the Yagna, first they will offer ghee and other items (Items offered in the *Yagna* are ghee, milk, grains, cakes and soma) and offered it to Indra with Mantras. Indra went and took the food and came back to his seat. Next Sage Chyavana offered food to the Ashwini Gods and they were about to get up. Indra was very angry and said, “Oh Chyavana! What is this unjust practice? They are not eligible to come to the Yagna and sit beside us. But you are making them a part of your Yagna and offering them food”?

Sage Chyavana replied, “I have given them a boon. Not only food I am going to offer them *Soma Rasam* too”.

Indra said, “Oh Chyavana! Do not forget that you are a human being. You do not know the power of the Gods. I am Indra. I think you absolutely do not know about my power. See this *Vajrayudham*. If you are making these Ashwini Gods as a part of this Yagna and give them part of *Soma Rasam*, I will behead you with it. Previously I have beheaded Tvashta’s son Viswarupudu. Do not underestimate my power”.

Sage Chyavana said, “Oh Indra! You are wicked; you cheated Ahalya and you are warning me? Do you know who I am? I belong to Srivatsa Clan and son of Sage

Bhrigu. You cannot do anything to me. I am not worried about your *Vajrayudham*. If you sit quietly you will be safe, otherwise I will see to your end. Today the whole World will see the power of my Tapas”. Saying this he made Indra sit quietly.

*DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XIX CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*



## CHAPTER 20

### KEY POINTS

Who was Madhasurudu?

Who was Durgamudu?

Why did the Gods become weak?

Why Devi is known as Sathakshi and Sakhambari?

Why did Sathi Devi die?

How did Veerabhadra and Bhadrakali incarnate?

The 108 Shakthi Peethams

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

Sage Chyavana promised the Ashwini Gods, that he will make them a part of the Yagna and give them equal place with Indra and also give them *Soma Rasam* to drink. Sage Chyavana was a great devotee of the Devi and with the help of his Father-in-law commenced the Yagna. Yagna should be done with money earned by legitimate methods and by good deed. There is no value in performing Yagnas with the money earned by committing great sins. While performing the Yagna there should be three conditions that are satisfied. *DRAVYA SUDDHI* means sacred money should be spent on the Yagna. Next is *MANTRA SUDDHI* means the person who is educated and highly knowledgeable should chant the mantras in the Yagna. The last one is *KRIYA SUDDHI*, means Yagna must be done with the belief that it is an intensely sacred process and there can be absolutely no negligence of any kind while doing it.

In Kali Yuga Kriya Shuddhi is missing. The individual should have complete belief in Yagna and perform it wholeheartedly. The individuals who are missing the Kriya Shuddhi will be reborn as Varaha (Pig). Sage Chyavana met the requirement of all the three conditions. He started the Yagna and the Ashwini Gods were offered seats beside Indra. Looking at the Ashwini Gods sitting beside him Indra was angry and said, “Ashwini Gods are physicians, so I have debarred them from Yagna and they do not have eligibility to drink *Soma Rasam*”.

Sage Chyavana tried to convince Indra, “*VAIDHYO NARAYANO HARI*”, means Doctors are equal to Gods. “Doctors cure the illness and give good health and sometimes save life. One such physician who is doing a great service to mankind is embodiment of Lord Vishnu. These Ashwini Gods are Physicians to Gods and it is not correct for you to say that such persons do not deserve to drink *Soma Rasam*. I do not subscribe to this view and so, I am going to serve it to them”.

Listening to Sage Chyavana, Indra started fuming and took his *Vajrayudham* said, “Oh Chyavana! If you do not listen to me and do not follow my instructions, I will strike you with this *Vajrayudham* and kill you”.

Sage Chyavana replied, “I am not Viswarupudu to die with a strike from your *Vajrayudham*. In spite of being your Guru he died in your hands. I am not innocent like your Guru to die. Try to hit me with the *Vajrayudham*”. *Vajrayudham* is very powerful and can kill anyone. It killed the great Demon Vruthasurudu. Indra took his *Vajrayudham* and raised his hand to hit Sage Chyavana.

Indra said, “You are going to die now”. Saying this went near Sage Chyavana.

The *KLEEM* Beejaksharam is the most sacred one. Sage Chyavana was chanting this *Beejam* for a long time. While chanting few *Beejaksharams*, we should leave the bodily comforts and perceptions. Sage Chyavana never had differentiation between male and female and never thought about bodily pleasures. When he was chanting the *Kleem Beejaksharam* he was only with minimal attire on the body. These kinds of Sages are known as Yogis and *Avadhutha* (*Avadhutha* is a Jivanmukta who gives his insight to others and teaches them about his realization of the true nature of the



ultimate reality (Brahma) and self (Atman) and takes the role of a Guru to show the path of *Moksha* to others).

Sage Chyavana did great Tapas by chanting *Kleem Beejam*. The Devi blessed him with a boon “Whatever you say it will happen”. As he had the boon he said, “*Kleem Hoom, Patt, Sthambhaya Swaha*” and Indra’s body freeze like a statue and was unable to move. Sage Chyavana said, “You came to strike me with your *Vajrayudham* and I froze you with the power of Goddess *Jagadamba*. This is the power of the Devi. Now you see my power”. Saying this he took *NAVADHANYA* (‘Nava’ is nine and ‘Dhanya’ meaning grains) and offered it the Yagna and said, “Oh Madhasura! Take birth and come”. *MADHAM* has two meanings one is mental strength and the other is ego. Any individual with pride is equal to Madhasura Demon. The strength and the confidence that I can do anything took the form of a Demon and Madhasura was born from the *Yagna Kundam*. He was Gigantic. His feet were on the ground and his head was touching the Moon. His body occupied the Earth and the Sky; he was red in color and he had large fangs and could swallow Earth with his mouth.

Madhasura asked Sage Chyavana, “Oh Father! Why did you create me? What is my duty now?”

Sage Chyavana replied, “This Indra despised me and with the intention to kill me, he lifted his *Vajrayudham*. You eat this wicked Indra. Immediately Madhasura jumped on Indra. At the same time Indra said, “Oh Sathguru! Please save me”. Sage Bruhaspathi appeared there within no time and asked Madhasura to stop for a moment. “If Indra is not listening to me then you can kill him”. Saying so Sage Bruhaspathi turned towards Indra and said, “Oh Indra! Now I cannot save you, because Sage Chyavana has great power. Few Gurus and Sages will constantly meditate on the Devi all the time; whether they are eating, sleeping, taking bath or doing any other task, they just meditate on the Devi. By constantly worshipping the Devi, they become as the Devi themselves. Sage Chyavana is one among them and now he is completely in the form of the Devi. No energy can stop such a Mahatma. As your Guru I want to give you a suggestion. Before Madhasura can kill, you take refuge in Sage Chyavana. If you take my suggestion, you will be alive”.

Indra said, “Once the Guru says I will follow it. Forbidden things should also be done if the Guru demands it. In Mahabharatham, there is a story, Lord Yama took the form of a Guru and went to a house for food. The woman of the house asked what he wanted and Lord Yama replied, “I want you to serve food without wearing any clothes”. She served the food by following the instructions of the Guru. Lord Yama Dharma Raja appeared and said, “Even though serving food naked has been forbidden you followed the instructions of the Guru, so I will send you to Heaven with this body. Few Mahatmas adhere to the words of the Guru in this way”.

Indra had faith in the Guru due to his past life and good deeds. So, when Sage Bruhaspathi asked him to take refuge in Sage Chyavana he accepted. Indra tried to greet Sage Chyavana, but he was not able to move his hands so he said, “Oh Sage Chyavana! Whole heartedly I pray to you. I cannot fold my hands and cannot walk and reach you because my body is frozen. I can only talk. I am pleading, please protect me, you are devotee of the Devi, I will never deny your words. As you said, I will provide Ashwini Gods a share in Yagna and eligibility to drink *Soma Rasam*. Please forgive me”.

With these words Sage Chyavana was pleased and said, “Indra, I am not angry with you. Without you and Dikpalakas Yagna will not happen. For so long these Ashwini Gods had been punished by you. On top of it, when I initiated to give them a share in Yagna you tried to kill me. That is why I punished you. From today if you listen to me, you will become more powerful and strong and you will be enthroned again”.

Indra said, “I will follow all your instructions”.

Sage Chyavana then said, “From today you accept these Ashwini Gods in the Clan of the Gods. In all the ways they are equal to the Gods and the Dikpalakas.

Indra said, “I will accept it”. Sage Chyavana waved his hand and Indra became normal. Indra was very happy and came near Sage Chyavana and said, “Mahatma you have tremendous power. I thought that there is no one greater than my Guru Bruhaspathi. With this incident, I came to know that there is someone greater than

Guru Bruhaspathi on Earth. From today whatever you say I will follow it. I will make the Ashwini Gods a part of us”.

Sage Chyavana then said, “Indra you are still in innocence, this is not my power. I constantly prayed to the Devi, so this is Her power. Nothing is impossible for the Devi’s devotees in this World”. Saying so he bowed humbly to the Devi. The Yagna took place wonderfully. The Ashwini Gods were offered *Soma Rasam* and they drank it with respect. It is tastier than Elixir. The person who drinks *Soma Rasam* will reach Brahma Lokam after this God’s life. Heaven is also not permanent for Gods. A human will reach Heaven with his good virtues, and once his virtue has diminished, he must be reborn on Earth. Why do we need a Heaven that brings us back to the human world?

We must go to the better World that can bless us without reincarnation. The first best World is Brahma Lokam. There again spending some time with good deeds and devotion on Lord Brahma, the person may reach Kailasam or Vaikuntam or Manidweepam. This is permanent deliverance from birth and death. There are a few who came back from Brahma Lokam with their immoral deeds and one example is *MAHA BHISHUDU*. He reached Brahma Lokam but was cursed by Lord Brahma and was born on Earth as King Santhanudu. There is no use in going into other Worlds if your deeds are not truthful. It may be Gaya, Prayaga or Kasi; wherever you are if you are not behaving properly the Gods will not allow you to stay there or give you salvation. With the grace of the Devi the Ashwini Gods drank *Soma Rasam*, so in future they were going to reach Brahma Lokam.

After the Yagna, the Ashwini Gods greeted Sage Chyavana and said, “Oh Chyavana! We thought you did not have the power to get back your vision and youth. We underestimated your power, now we have realized it. If you wish, the whole Worlds will come down to Earth. You never used your power for yourself and you used it only for the welfare of the World. You were an old man when compared with your wife. With your grace we are very happy now. We gave you the youthfulness and with that good deed we got the share in Yagna and were also fortunate to drink *Soma Rasam*”. They thanked Chyavana and left the place.

This is the most sacred story of Sukanya and Sage Chyavana. Those whoever listens to this story, will have good health and they will reach Brahma Lokam in future.

Janamejeya was very excited listening to this story and said, “I am feeling blessed after listening to this story. *SATHAKSHI*, *SAKHAMBARI*, *DURGA* names belong to the Devi. Why does She have so many names? She has these three names for a reason. What is that reason? What did She do to get these names? Please tell me this story. No matter how many stories I hear, I still want more. Listening to Her stories is bliss and I do not think anyone can say stop. In the days of the yore, the Devi’s history was recited by Sage Agastya’s brother and disciple, Sudharsanudu. Once he went to a village to recite the *Puranas* and after completion of the task as he was going back many others followed him to the Himalayas. Similarly, the wise will follow the Gurus who worship the Devi leaving behind villages, houses and treasures, thereby reducing their sins. This is the power of the Devi’s stories. Can you please clear doubts about these names?”

The people who are wise and are with good intentions will always wish to hear more and more about the Devi’s stories and still they never feel satisfied. The one who listens to the stories of the Devi with devotion will get the result of *ASWAMEDHAYAGAM*, with every step the devotee takes. (The number of steps taken by the devotee to hear the *Puranas* will fetch them the benefits of doing that many *Aswamedha Yagams*. One step equals One *Yagam*). The devotees not only get the result of *Aswamedha Yagam* but also get it inexhaustibly. In turn this will lead to permanent salvation. The one who does 100 *Aswamedha Yagam* will get the position of Indra. Such a great result we are getting just by walking towards listening of the *Puranas*. While on their way to listen to the *Puranas*, devotees should avoid unnecessary conversations and chant the Devi’s names or other mantras. When we are leaving the body, nothing will help us; not friends, wealth, power. Only one thing which saves us is the result of listening to or reading the *Puranas*. Sage Vyasa said, “Many are of the thought that as Goddess Devi killed Mahishasurudu on Durgashtami, and was called as Goddess Durga. That is not correct. There was no relevance to the story of Mahishasura and the Devi getting the name of *DURGA*. Now listen to the Sathakshi story.

A Devotee with true devotion on the Devi decides and says, “Oh Guru! I will worship the Devi as you say. Even by mistake I will not do any error during the worship. I will not divulge any secrets”. Oh Janamejeya! You are my disciple and devotee of the Devi. When a disciple is with devotion and takes the refuge of the Guru, there should not be anything which should not be given. There are certain limitations in teaching a few mantras. When the disciple has great devotion, the Gurus tell them most of the secret ways to worship the Devi. These secret ways will help the devotee to get salvation in this life. You are such a devotee, so I will tell you the most secret ways of worshipping the Devi, listen to this story.

In ancient times a Demon with the name *DURGAMUDU* was born in the Hiranyaksha clan. Hiranyaksha had many sons and one among them was *RURUVU*. With his name a section of the Hell was formed, called *Raourava Narakam*. Durgamudu was the eldest son of Ruruvu. Durgamudu had a terrible body with wide mouth, ears and a huge nose. This Durgamudu one day went to the Demons’ Guru Sukracharya and said, “Oh Guru! In spite of doing Tapas and getting many boons we are dying in the hands of the Gods. The Trinity too is helping the Gods and destroying our clan. Why are the Gods so powerful? What is the reason behind their power? Why are we always getting destroyed”?

Sukracharya told him, “The main strength for the Gods are the Mantras. All the Mantras are in the Vedas. All the Brahmins on Earth are learning and studying these Veda Mantras. They are chanting these Mantras while performing Yagna and also while they are offering food to the Gods. The Deities therefore are becoming stronger due to the influence of Vedic Mantras and the food being offered to them. So, the strength of the Brahmins and the Gods are the Vedas. Until Vedas are with them you cannot harm or destroy them”.

So Durgamudu said, “The Strength of the Gods is in the Vedas, so I have to take away the Vedas from them. Once the Vedas are not with them, they will become weak and then we can kill them. We can become the most powerful beings with Ultimate Power”. Thinking so he took permission from his Guru and reached the Himalayan Mountains. He performed Tapas for 1000 years for Lord Brahma with the mantra:

*Om Brahmane Hiranya Gharbhaya Hiranya Rethasayesithaye Namaha*

These thousand years he did not even drink water and was on severe fasting. Lord Brahma appeared after 1000 years and said, “There are very few who can perform Tapas like you. I am impressed with your Tapas. Ask whatever you want”. Durgamudu opened his eyes and greeted Lord Brahma with devotion.

Durgamudu said, “If I ask for a boon of immortality, You will not give. So, I will not ask that. If you promise me that You will give whatever I want, then I will ask You”.

Lord Brahma then said, “Other than immortality I will give you any boon you want”.

Durgamudu said, “All the Brahmins and the Gods in this World should forget Vedas and Mantras. No one should have access to the Vedas and the Mantras in this Universe. Only I should get all these Vedas and Mantras. All others should forget Vedas, Mantras and *Puranas*”.

Lord Brahma said, “What a funny boon you have asked. But anyway, as you asked, I have to give it to you. All the people on Earth, Heaven and Patala Lokam will forget the Vedas, Mantras and *Puranas*. Only you will remember them”. From that moment people on Earth, Heaven and Patala Lokam, Gods, Brahmins and Priests forgot the Vedas. The individuals who were about to take bath forgot the Mantra for *Sankalpam* (In Sanskrit, “San” means Good and “Kalpa” means Veda or Shastra. Therefore, the word *Sankalpam* means any good deed done in accordance to the Shastra or Veda. The *Sankalpam* is like a resolution. *Sankalpam* is an intention in the form of prayer for the attainment of the spiritual purpose which benefits all. It is also believed that the whole Universe is the result of *Sankalpam* of Lord Narayana). Everyone forgot Vedas and Mantras. People were not able to take bath, do *Sandhya Vandanam*, Yagam, Homam, Tapas and not even lighting the lamp in front of God.

As the Yagna’s stopped there was no food for the Gods. All the offerings to the fire in the Yagna Kundam such as Ghee, Nava Dhanya and other things will reach the Gods as their food. What we offer to the fire in Yagna will be burnt to ashes in it. The smoke that comes out on account of this burning will reach the Gods and

converts into Elixir and satisfies Their hunger. This is how the offerings given in the fire in the Yagna will become food to the Gods. After taking food the Gods will become energized. As Their hunger is satisfied, They will bless the humans who gave them food. So, if the Yagnas are stopped the Gods will be hungry and cannot perform Their duties like Varuna giving rains and so on.

When Yagna is performed under normal circumstances, Indra's hunger will be satisfied and he will be happy. If he is happy, he will ensure rain falls in a timely manner. Because of the rains the crops on Earth will be good. A portion of these crops we use as our food and rest of them will be fed to the cattle. Once these animals grow, they will give milk and by-products of milk will be produced. The ghee which we get from cows, we will use and will offer it to the Gods in Yagnas. The Gods will be happy and the cycle of Creation continues. We are feeding Gods and They are feeding us. If the cycle breaks the Creation will be destroyed and result in *Pralayam*. As the Priests forgot the Vedas and Mantras, they were not able to do any worship and due to this there was no food for the Gods and They became weak. In turn the Earth was in drought, no crops and no food to eat. A few were living with the savings they had. A hungry person is prone to do any kind of sin. Great sins were then committed only because of hunger. Due to the lack of food people started eating each other.

All the Brahmins were surprised and worried about their forgetfulness. Finally, they came to the conclusion that, "Someone did something. That is why we forgot the Vedas and Mantras. There is drought on the Earth, cattle and humans are dying. The trees have dried, no crops and the Earth is going to become like a desert. So, we have to save this Earth and the Creation". Thinking so they sought the refuge of the Gods.

The Gods said, "You stopped doing the Yagna and offering food to us, so we are also helpless. Let us all join together and pray to Lord Brahma. Maybe He can give us a remedy for this". So, the priests and the Gods, joined together and prayed to Lord Brahma. He appeared and said, "This is the effect of the Demon Durgamudu. He did Tapas and got a boon. That is why all of you forgot the Vedas. Now all the Mantras and the Vedas are with him. As long as he is alive, you will not get back the





*Goddess Shakambari Devi*

Mantras and the Vedas. If he dies, then his boon will also die, so you will get back your Mantras and Vedas. But you cannot kill him as you do not have the energy of

the Vedas. The Devi's Energy will be more in the Himalayas. All of you go to the Himalayas and pray to the Devi. You all are weak so with my energy I can take all of you to the Himalayas". With His great power and energy Lord Brahma brought all of them to the Himalayas near Kedarnath. Lord Brahma also did one more favor for them. He gave them a little energy and knowledge to worship the Devi. With that they prayed to Her.

*Oh Jagadamba! You are the source of all the Worlds, You are the Mother who rules all the Worlds Greetings to You. You are Omnipotent, greetings to You, please be pleased with us. You are the Kutastha form (without any change in mind, heart and body forever), greetings to You. You are the form of the Vedas and Lord Brahma. You are in all and all are in You, greetings to You.*

Immediately *Bhuvaneswari, Maheshwari*, the Devi appeared in front of them with four hands. The Devi was with many eyes. She was in the color of Blue Sapphire with Violet Overtones. Her eyes were also in the color of Blue Sapphire. She appeared with four hands and was holding, a Bow in first hand, Lotus in second hand, Flowers and shoots in the third hand and Yam, greens and many more vegetables in the fourth hand.

The Devi said, "I know why you have all prayed to me, but you are very weak, I will serve you food, and after eating the food you will feel energetic. Then you can ask me boons". The Devi started cooking different varieties of foods. The Devi served different items prepared with vegetables, fruits and rice varieties made with fresh ghee. As all of them were starving for a long time, the food served tasted like ambrosia and worked as a medicine. As the food was being served by the Devi, all of them felt like eating more and more. As the Devi served them food with 'Vegetables' She was called as *SHAKAMBHARI*.

(Giving up vegetables and other things in Kasi is not necessary. The things which have to be left in Kasi are Ego, blaming others and habits which will not help in the spiritual growth. Give up the desire to eat certain foods and drinks. When these foods are in front you, holding your desire to consume those foods and drinks is most important. So, leave the desires, not the vegetables at Kasi)

Once they finished eating, She asked, “Now tell me what do you want?” They replied that, “With Your grace today we had food. But You will not come daily and feed us. We have to cook food. For that we need to have groceries; for that we have to cultivate; for that we need rains; for that the Gods need energy; for that we have to do Yagnas; for that we need the Vedas. Hence to get those Vedas Demon Durgamudu should be killed. Therefore, destroy Durgamudu and save us”. The Devi made a *HUMKARAM* (sound made with nose and throat). With this sound all the Worlds trembled including the kingdom of Durgamudu. His kingdom was shaken as if an Earth quake occurred and his throne also trembled. He was surprised with the situation and thought, “Someone made a loud sound. With that sound the mountains, cities and my throne has also moved”. Thinking so he sent his messengers to see who made such a loud sound. These messengers travelled in the sky and saw the Devi near the Himalayas. They were shocked to see a woman with thousands of eyes, heads, hands and legs. She was serving food and blessing the Gods. In turn the Gods were praising Her.

The messengers returned back to Durgamudu and said, “We have seen a terrible thing. We do not know from where a woman had come, She is not an ordinary woman. She seems to be a great power. All the Gods are praising Her with the name *SATHAKSHI* (woman with thousands of eyes). She was serving food for the starving Gods and humans. By eating that food, they have become very energetic. We do not know why She has come, but with Her gestures we felt that She came to kill you. We want to give you an advice. You do not have a good wife. You are a conqueror and She is very beautiful, it is good if you both get married. Why don't you please Her and marry Her”?

Durgamudu was happy with the advice and said, “You gave me a good advice”. Saying this he took his army and reached the Himalayan Mountains. He was surprised to see the Devi and he said, “Oh Kalyani! Who are you? I do not mind whoever you are. I am impressed and attracted to your beauty. Why do not you marry me? If we become a couple, we can rule the whole Universe. We can control the Gods and the Pandits”.

Sathakshi Devi said, “I took an oath that I will marry a person who defeats me in the battlefield. Therefore, I have to keep my oath. So, you stand opposite to me, fight with me and defeat me I will surely marry you. Durgamudu started the war. Instantly, 32 powers came out from the Devi’s body. They are *Kalika, Tharini, Bala, Tripura, Bairavi, Rama, Bagala, Mathangi, Tripurasundari, Kamakshi, Tulajadevi, Jhambhani, Mohini, Chinnamastha, Guhyakali, Dasa Sahasra Bahuka* and others. The most outstanding powers among them were *Guhyakali, Bhairavi and Tripura*. (*Tripura and Bhairavi* are combined together sometimes and are separate sometimes. It is very difficult to worship these powers. The best worshipers of *Bhairavi* are Sages Durvasudu and Agasthyudu. The people who worship them need extreme Attention, Dedication, Devotion and Patience. That is why these powers are worshipped by very few. But the one who worships *Bhairavi* will reach Manidweepam and will not have rebirth. Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Jagathguru Adi Shankaracharya were few among the people who worshipped these Energies.)

All these 32 powers were holding several weapons like Swords, Bows, Axes and many other weapons. These powers attacked the army of Durgamudu and started swallowing the Demons. The war continued for 100 years, actually no one can fight with the Devi for so long, but Durgamudu had the power of Vedas and Mantras, so with that energy he was able to fight. After 100 years suddenly the Devi pulled the Vedas and Mantras Power from Durgamudu. With five arrows She killed him and his boon also disappeared. The Vedas reached the Gods and the Priests and they started with their Yagnas and worships. All the gods prayed to the Devi

*Namah Shakambhari Shive, Namasthe Satalochane*

*“Oh Shakambhari! Greetings to You. You are the form of good fortune, Greetings to You. Oh Sathakshi! Greetings to You. Oh Goddess worshiped by the Upanishads and the Vedas! Greetings to You. You are the embodiment of great magic, Greetings to You. Many have a doubt can we have Darshan of the Devi in the Kali Yuga?. Puranas say, in Kali Yuga, the Devi will give Darshan in the form of a Guru. In Lalitha Sahasranamam, it has been clearly stated that She is Gurumurthi and Gunanidhi, so the Devi is in the form of the Guru. Such a Guru Murthi, Greetings to You. So, one does not have to try very hard*

*to have Darshan of the Devi because if everything is offered with utmost devotion to the Guru, She will appear in the form of a Guru". Thus, they prayed to Her in different ways.*

The Devi said, "Those whoever listens to this story will not starve during their life time. They will get food all the time, even in the forest or desert. If we hold the feet of God with devotion there will not be any starvation. To get food on time we have to listen to or remember this story. This story is most sacred and I like this story so much. Those whoever listens to or tells this story on a Full Moon Day, New Moon Day, Friday, Tuesday, Chaturdashi, Ashtami and Navami days, I will make them my devotees and I will take them with Me. As I have killed Durgamudu, from today I will be called as Goddess *DURGA*. So, worship Me with this name". One more meaning for Goddess Durga is eradicating sins. Another meaning is that the Devi sends such people to Hell who are hooked on to evil practices (like sacrificing animals in temples).

Sage Vyasa continued, "Since the Devi served food with various vegetables, She got the name of *Shakambhari*, as She had thousands of eyes, She got the name of Goddess *Sathakshi* and She killed Durgamudu, so She also got the name of Goddess Durga. This is the most sacred story and a secret story. So, the Guru should keep it as secret and can tell only when he finds a true devotee. As you are my disciple, I have told this story to you. Occasionally listening to this story will fulfil the desires and one will reach the World of the Devi".

Janamejeya got a doubt and said, "As I am listening to the stories of the Devi, I feel so much happiness and I want to keep listening to more of them. But I am also having a few doubts as well. Once you told me that the Trinity reached *Manidweepam*. There the Devi originated as *Tri Shakthis* in the form of Maha Kali, Maha Saraswathi and Maha Lakshmi and gave them to the Trinity as their wives. If they have emanated from the Devi then why Goddess Parvathi was called as Daksha's Daughter and Himavanthudu's daughter, why Goddess Lakshmi was called as daughter of the Ocean of Milk and also the daughter of Sage Bhrigu by name Bhargavi and why Goddess Saraswathi was known as sister to Lord Siva (as she was born from the hand of Lord Siva and became the wife of Lord Brahma). I

am so confused, as these Goddesses have emanated from the Devi why have they been identified as daughters and sisters of other Gods or Sages. What is the truth? When they have emanated from the Devi, in between why did they get these names”.

Sage Vyasa said, “Listen, I will clear your doubts”. Once in a while the mistakes made by great men will be useful for welfare of the World. Once on the Earth, three crore Demons by the name *HALAHALULU* were born. Halahalam is Poison. In the same way the nature of these Demons was more dangerous than poison. They did Tapas and got boons from Lord Brahma. With those boons they started destroying the Worlds, so all were terrified. All of them went and met the Trinity and sought their help. To protect the Worlds Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Maheswara fought war with them for 60,000 years and killed the Demons. Most of the war was fought by Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva. All the Gods praised them saying, “With the grace of Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva the terrible Demons were killed and there is no one greater than them”.

All of them returned to their places, Goddess Gowri (Parvathi) welcomed Lord Siva and Goddess Lakshmi welcomed Lord Vishnu. After the rituals They asked, “Why is everyone praising and complimenting You?”

Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva replied, “We have fought for 60,000 years and killed Halahala Demons. Why will they not praise us? We have done a great job that no one else in this World can do. There is no one greater than Lord Siva and Lord Vishnu”.

Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Gowri asked, “Did anyone help you in this task or did you do it on your own”? In fact, Lord Vishnu can do anything if there is Goddess Lakshmi. Lord Siva can do anything if there is Goddess Gowri. Temporarily both of them forgot this.

Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva said, “Who will help us? We are the rulers of this World. There is no one in the World beyond Us. We do not require any help from anybody including you” (Goddesses Lakshmi and Parvathi) and They started talking in an arrogant manner.



Both the Goddesses told them, “Once the Devi gave us to You. Because of us You are able to achieve this success. Already the Devi informed You that if you insult us, You cannot do anything”. The Gods replied, “Do you think without your help We cannot do anything? We can do anything without You also”.

At once Lord Vishnu’s wife Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Siva’s wife Goddess Parvathi left their husbands and merged with the Devi. Without their wives both Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva became powerless. They became dull, lost their movements, energy and both of Them were frozen. People from all over the World started shouting with fear “Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva are frozen”. Knowing this the remaining Demons who were not killed in the war wanted to take revenge, so invaded the Gods. The Worlds came to a standstill. All the Gods went to Lord Brahma and said, “Oh Lord Brahma! Suddenly Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva are frozen. We are not able to know the reason. What may be the reason? What happened to their Energies”?

Lord Brahma replied, “There was a small mistake done by Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva. Once the Halahala Demons died, They boasted about themselves in front of Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Gowri. So, they left (Energy of the Devi left) which led them to become dull and low on energy. No one can do anything until the Devi’s Energy re-enters them.

The Gods asked, “How can they get back the Devi’s Energy”?

Lord Brahma replied, “There is only one way, let us all go to Himalayas and pray to the Devi”.

They all reached the Himalayas and prayed to the Devi with great devotion.

*Namasthe Viswa Rupayayai Vaiswana sumurthaye*

*Oh Jaganmatha! Viswarupa! And Form of Fire! We bow to Your lotus feet. Protect us, as Lord Siva and Lord Vishnu were frozen, all the Worlds are experiencing mayhem”*

The Devi replied, “They are frozen because they have insulted My Energies. I can give them temporarily My energy, but unless they possess Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Parvathi again, they cannot be as powerful as before. To possess



Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Parvathi who have been united in Me they should reincarnate again. Hence if any one of you can come forward to bear My Energy as your child, I will be born as your daughter”. Immediately Dakshudu came forward and said, “Oh Goddess *Jaganmatha*! Please give me this opportunity. Please give me Goddess Parvathi’s energy as my daughter”. Next Samudrudu (King of the Seas) came forward and said, “I want Goddess Lakshmi as a daughter from the Ocean of Milk”.

The Devi said, “I will be born as daughter to Daksha and will be named as *Sathidevi* and as I am the daughter of Daksha I will also be called as *Dakshayani* and I will become the wife of Lord Siva. The Ocean of Milk will be churned by the Gods and the Demons. I will be born with the name of Goddess Lakshmi and I will also be called as *KSHEERA RAJA TANAYA* (Daughter of Ocean of Milk) and I will become the wife of Lord Vishnu”.

Just as the Devi said, She was born as Dakshyani at Daksha’s home. Daksha got Her married to Lord Siva, and Sathi Devi (Dakshyani) and Lord Siva became a couple again. The Gods and Demons churned the Ocean of Milk from which Goddess Lakshmi was born and became the wife of Lord Vishnu. The Devi’s Energies came as Goddesses Lakshmi and Parvathi, but they got united with Her; but because of the Gods’ prayers, the united Energies were reborn as daughters to Dakshudu and Samudrudu.

Then you have asked why Goddess Parvathi again incarnated as Himavanthudu’s daughter. Now I will tell you that story. There is one reason for this. Sage Durvasa was a great devotee of the Devi and he could go to *Manidweepam* directly. Once he went to *Manidweepam* to worship the Devi. He chanted the *MAYABEEJAM* (Beeja mantra is the shortest form of mantra and is the source of infinite energy). The Devi was pleased with his devotion and She asked him, “What do you want”? Sage Durvasa replied, “Oh Mother! I have tied flowers and made this garland. Give me the good fortune to put this garland on Your neck”. The Devi accepted his wish and he put the jasmine garland around Her neck. As soon as the garland was placed on the Devi’s neck, it started shining and became fragrant. The flowers in the garland started looking like golden jasmine; they were more beautiful than the flowers in Heaven.

Vedas took the form of Fireflies and gathered all around the garland. These fireflies (Vedas) started chanting the Devi's name. As the garland was on the Devi's neck, Honey started dripping from the flowers. The Devi said, "Oh Durvasa! I wore the garland. Are you happy"? Sage Durvasa replied, "I am an ordinary Sage doing Tapas on Earth. Such a normal person collected a few flowers and made a garland and brought it from Earth to *Manidweepam*. Even if I offer also, why should You accept it? It is Your unconditional love on Your devotees and due to good deeds done in my past life, it happened. You have worn a garland given by an ordinary Sage. I do not have any wishes, please wear this garland and bless me. Once I leave my body, with Your blessings, I want to reach Your World".

The Devi removed the garland from the neck and said, "I am giving the garland back to you, this is *SESHA MALA* (worn and removed). Accept this. If you have love for any devotee, give them this garland. But before giving, just check whether he is a devotee or not. The *Puranas* say that while giving the garlands, *Sesha Vastra* (clothes used for Gods' Idols) and Mantra you have to check whether he is eligible or not to take these. I grant you salvation, so after leaving your body you will reach Me. Meanwhile you take this garland and present it to an eligible person". Sage Durvasa took the garland and started from there.

Daksha Prajapati met him on the way and said, "This garland is very beautiful. Where did you get this"?

Sage Durvasa replied, "This is the Devi's Sesa Mala".

Daksha Prajapati: "If you give this garland to me, I will keep it safe in my Puja room" (place of worship in the house)

Sage Durvasa gave the garland to him thinking he is a great Sage. Daksha Prajapati took the garland and reached his home, but he forgot to keep it in the Puja room. As soon as he reached home, he saw his wife and developed lust on her. So, he put the Mala on the bed and on the same bed he fulfilled his lust with his wife. From that moment he became like an animal with arrogance. Due to this arrogance, he was angry with Lord Siva. So against Lord Siva he performed a Yagna in Daksharamam. He was doing this to spite Lord Siva and insulted his

own daughter and Lord Siva's wife, Goddess Sathi Devi. Goddess Sathi Devi was so ashamed by his behavior that She burnt herself in the sacred fire of the Yagna. Her body turned black like coal and became like a burnt log of wood. (She burnt herself into a log)

Lord Siva was very angry with this incident and said, "Goddess Sathi Devi is my life, I cannot live without Her. You all insulted Her and reason behind why She killed Herself. I will spoil this Daksha Yagna". With anger He pulled his *JATA JUTA* (bundled hair) and threw it on the ground. From that Jata Juta two persons were born. One was *VEERABHADRA*. He had a huge black body touching the sky and with thousands of hands holding different weapons. His hair was shining like fire and he had huge fangs. Veerabhadra was born like another Rudra. The other born from the Jata Juta was *BHADRA KALI*. Lord Siva called both of them and said, "Go and destroy the Yagna of Daksha". Veerabhadra who can destroy all the three Worlds, went to the place of Daksha's Yagna along with Bhadra Kali and destroyed it and killed Daksha.

Lord Siva came to the Yagna and saw Goddess Sathi Devi in the form of a log of coal and He could not bear it. He took that body and placed it on His left shoulder and with extreme grief He started running all over the World shouting "Sathi! Sathi!". As Lord Siva was running, wherever He reached, that area started trembling. Once He jumped on the mountains they started breaking. He went to Badri and that area started trembling. From there He reached Haridwar, that also trembled. The Heaven and Patal Lokam also trembled with Lord Siva's steps. With this, *Pralayam* started, the seas started overflowing, volcanoes burst and all the Worlds started getting destroyed. Lord Brahma and the other Gods were worried and went to Lord Vishnu and said, "Oh Hari! Vasudeva! Parandhama! Purushothama! Protect us. Lord Siva with Goddess Sathi's body on His shoulder is doing *Thandavam*. The Worlds are getting destroyed; if You do not take any action immediately, these Worlds will be destroyed completely, so please protect us".

Lord Vishnu said, "As long as Goddess Sathi's body is on the shoulder of Lord Siva, He will not come out of this trance. So, Goddess Sathi's body should be removed from His shoulder. Now I will remove that body from His shoulder". Lord

Vishnu reached the place where Lord Siva was running with Goddess Sathi's body. Lord Vishnu has a bow named *Sarangam*. He raised His bow and shot 108 arrows. These arrows hit Goddess Sathi's body and the body was divided into 108 parts. All these parts fell on different parts of the Earth with a great sound. As Sathi's body disappeared Lord Siva became normal. Then He called Lord Brahma and said, "Oh Brahma! Sathi's body parts have fallen on Earth. They are so sacred. So please build temples where they have fallen." Immediately Lord Brahma built temples for these 108 parts. These temples are the 108 *SHAKTHI PEETAMS*. Among these 108 Shakthi Peethams 18 became very famous.

Janamejeya asked "Where are they? Can you tell me the names of these *Peethams*?".

| Sl. No | Goddess                 | Place             |
|--------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1      | Visalaakshi             | Varanasi          |
| 2      | Gowri                   | Mukha Nivas       |
| 3      | Linga Dharini (Lalitha) | Naimisharanyam    |
| 4      | Lalitha or Madhavi      | Prayaga           |
| 5      | Kamuki                  | Gandhamadhana     |
| 6      | Kumudha                 | Mansa             |
| 7      | Matha                   | Kayavanam         |
| 8      | Viswa kama              | Dakshina Kshetra  |
| 9      | Viswa kama Prapurni     | Uttara Kshetra    |
| 10     | Gomati                  | Gomant            |
| 11     | Kamacharini             | Mandara Mountain  |
| 12     | Madotkata               | Chaitratha        |
| 13     | Jayanti                 | Hastinapur        |
| 14     | Gowri                   | Kanyakubjam       |
| 15     | Rambha                  | Malayachalam      |
| 16     | Ekambari                | Ekambaram, Kanchi |
| 17     | Visveswari              | Vishvakshetram    |

| Sl. No | Goddess                 | Place  |
|--------|-------------------------|--|
| 18     | Puruhitika              | Pushkar  |
| 19     | Sanmargadhayini, Gowri  | Kedar  |
| 20     | Manda                   | Himalaya   |
| 21     | Bhadrakarnika           | Gokarna  |
| 22     | Bhavani                 | Sthaneshwar  |
| 23     | Bilvaputrika            | Bilva kshetram   |
| 24     | Madhavi, Bhramarambhika | Srisailam  |
| 25     | Bhadreshwari            | Bhadreswaram   |
| 26     | Jaya                    | Varaha   |
| 27     | Kamala                  | Kamalalayam  |
| 28     | Rudrani                 | Rudrakoti  |
| 29     | Kali                    | Kalanjar kshetram  |
| 30     | Mahadevi                | Shalagram  |
| 31     | Jalapriya               | Sivalinga kshetram   |
| 32     | Kapila                  | Mahaling   |
| 33     | Mukuteshwari            | Makot kshetram   |
| 34     | Kumari, Mansa devi      | Mayapuri, in Haridwar she was born from the heart of Lord Siva. One who visits this place with the Guru their heart will be purified |
| 35     | Lalitambika             | Santhan kshetram   |
| 36     | Mangala Devi            | Gaya   |
| 37     | Vimala Devi             | Purushottam Puram, Puri Jaganath   |
| 38     | Utpalakshi              | Sahasraksham   |
| 39     | Mahottpala              | Hiranyaksham   |
| 40     | Amoghakshi              | Virupasham   |
| 41     | Padala                  | Pundravardhanam, Patna   |
| 42     | Narayani                | Suparsavam   |

| Sl. No | Goddess             | Place                          |
|--------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 43     | Rudrasundari        | Thrikuta Mountain in Jharkhand |
| 44     | Vipul Devi          | Vipul kshetram                 |
| 45     | Kalyani             | Malayachalam                   |
| 46     | Ekavira             | Sahyadri                       |
| 47     | Chandrika           | Harishchandra kshetram         |
| 48     | Ramani              | Ramatirtham                    |
| 49     | Mrigavati           | Yamuna                         |
| 50     | Kotavi              | Kotitirtham                    |
| 51     | Sugandha            | Madhavaam                      |
| 52     | Trisandhya          | Godavari                       |
| 53     | Ratipriya           | Gangadwar                      |
| 54     | Shubhananda         | Sivakundam                     |
| 55     | Nandini             | Devi Thatakam                  |
| 56     | Rukmani             | Dwaravati                      |
| 57     | Radha               | Brundavanam                    |
| 58     | Devaki              | Mathura                        |
| 59     | Parameshwari        | Patalam                        |
| 60     | Sita                | Chitrakuta                     |
| 61     | Vindhyachala Vasini | Vindhya near Kasi (100 Kms)    |
| 62     | Mahalakshmi         | Karvir (Kolhapur)              |
| 63     | Uma Devi            | Vinayaka Kshetram Near Gokarna |
| 64     | Arogya devi         | Vaidyanatham                   |
| 65     | Maheshwari          | Mahakala kshetram, Ujjain      |
| 66     | Abhaya              | Ushnatirtham, Badari           |
| 67     | Nitamba             | Vindhyaparvatam                |
| 68     | Mandavi             | Mandavya in Pakistan           |
| 69     | Swaha Devi          | Maheshwaripur in China         |

| Sl. No | Goddess                        | Place  |
|--------|--------------------------------|--|
| 70     | Prachanda Devi                 | Chagaland  |
| 71     | Chandika                       | Amarkantakam Mountains, banks of River Narmada   |
| 72     | Vararoha                       | Someshwaram in Sourashtra  |
| 73     | Pushkaravati                   | Prabhas Thirtham   |
| 74     | Devamata                       | River Saraswathi Once Devi was residing beside a huge stone by the name Bheem Pul                            |
| 75     | Paravara Devi                  | Coast of Dwaraka, there is a deity behind Rukmini devi   |
| 76     | Mahabhaga                      | Mahalayam  |
| 77     | Pingaleshwari                  | Payoshni   |
| 78     | Simhika                        | In Srilanka, Sankari Devi merged in the sea. She will be visible as a shadow when looked from Ravana's Idol. |
| 79     | Athisankari Devi               | Karthikam  |
| 80     | Lola Devi                      | Utpalavartakam, Utpala Forest  |
| 81     | Subhadra                       | Shaunasangam   |
| 82     | Lakshmi Mata                   | Siddhavan  |
| 83     | Ananga                         | Bharathashram  |
| 84     | Vishwamukhi                    | Jalandhar  |
| 85     | Tara Devi                      | Kishkindha parvatam near Hampi   |
| 86     | Pushti                         | Devdaruvanam, Dwaraka near Nageswara Jyothir Linga   |
| 87     | Medha Devi known as Saraswathi | Kashmir  |
| 88     | Bhima Devi                     | Himadri  |
| 89     | Tushti Visveswari              | Himadri  |
| 90     | Dhara Devi                     | Shankhodwar  |



| Sl. No | Goddess     | Place                |
|--------|-------------|----------------------|
| 91     | Suddhi      | Kapala Mochana       |
| 92     | Dhriti      | Pindakaram           |
| 93     | Kala Devi   | Chandrabhaga         |
| 94     | Sivadharini | Achhodham            |
| 95     | Amrita Devi | Vena                 |
| 96     | Urvashi     | Badri                |
| 97     | Oushadhi    | Uttara kuru kshetram |
| 98     | Kushodana   | Kushadweepam         |
| 99     | Manmatha    | Hemkutam             |
| 100    | Satyavadini | Kumuda kshetram      |
| 101    | Vandaniya   | Ashwatthamam         |
| 102    | Nidhi       | Vaisravanam          |
| 103    | Gayatri     | Vedavadanam          |
| 104    | Parvathi    | Sivasannidhi         |
| 105    | Indrani     | Devalokam            |
| 106    | Saraswathi  | Brahmamukh           |
| 107    | Prabha      | Suryabimbam          |
| 108    | Vaishnavi   | Matrimadha           |

The Devi is in the form of Arundhathi in Sathi, Tilothama in Women, Brahma in will and She will be in the form of Shakthi in all the people who possess bodies. 75% of these Deities will not give Darshan in Kali Yuga. Goddess Sathi's body parts fell in all these *Shakthi Peethams* and these places became most sacred. While visiting these Peethams devotees should not think about existence of a temple. Those whoever listens to or reads these names with attention knowingly or unknowingly they will come out of all the sins and will reach the Devi's World. If one learns the method of doing pilgrimage through the Guru and goes to any of these *Shakti Peethams*, wherever the devotee dies he will get the virtue of dying in Kasi. It is not easy to get the virtue of dying in Kasi or to die in Kasi.

Sage Vyasa said, “I have told, about the 108 *Shakti Peethams*”. To know about these *Peethams* we have to worship the *MAYA BEEJA PEETA UPASANA*. The devotee should receive this Worship from a Guru and follow it with attention and devotion and such a devotee’s home will become *Manidweepam*. Many devotees are not able to visit these 18 Peethams with the Guru. Then devotee should hold the feet of Guru and receive the procedure of worship. Along with the *Beejaksharam* he has to receive the *HRUDAYA NIVASA YOGAM*. Once the devotee starts chanting the *Maya Beejam*, his home will be like *Manidweepam* from that moment. There will not be any difference between the Devi and Her Devotee. For this worship one should need utmost devotion and attention. The man who does this worship is called as *Bahiravudu* and the woman will be called as *Bhairavi*. These devotees will reach *Manidweepam* in this life itself. These names are most sacred and can be chanted daily. Especially these 108 names should be chanted/ read while paying homage to ancestral Gods. They will experience bliss and give plenty of blessings for the growth of the clan. Their blessings help avoiding Hell.

Janamejeya asked, “Oh Guru! You said that Goddess Sathi Devi’s body was separated and each part has become a *Shakthi Peetham*. Then how did She incarnate again”. “As Goddess Sathi lost Her life Lord Siva was without a wife. Grieving the loss of His wife, Lord Siva went to the Himalayas and started doing Tapas and this lasted for 1000 years. At that time a Demon by name *TARAKASURUDU* was born and got a boon that he will die in the hands of the person who would emerge out of the sperm of Lord Siva. The Gods thought, “Unless Lord Siva gets married, Tarakasurudu will not die. So, Lord Siva should be married and give birth to a son and that son will kill Tarakasurudu”. So, all the Gods and the Himalaya Mountains who took the form of a King, started praying to the Devi with devotion.

The Devi was pleased with the prayer and asked them, “What do you want”? King Himavanthudu replied, “Oh Jaganmatha! Bless me. If You are born as my daughter and marry Lord Siva, He will be my Son-in-law. They both will give birth to a son and he will kill Tarakasurudu. We are praying to You for this. Protect us”. The prayers were offered by the Gods. These are Vedic prayers:

*Namo Deveyai Maha Deveyai Sivayai Siththam Namaha  
Namah Prakruthyai Bhadrayai Niyathaha Pranatha Smathaaam  
Thaamagni Varnaam Thapasa Jwalantheem Vairochaneem Karmaphaleshu Jushtam  
Durgam Deveem Saranamaham Prapadhye Sutharasi Tharase Namaha  
Deveem Vachamajanayantha Devaha Tham Viswarupaha Pasavo Vadhanthi  
Sa No Mandrashamurjam Dhubanaam Dhenurvagasmanupasushutu Thaithu  
Kalaratreem Brahmastutham Vaishnavim Skandhamatharam Saraswathim Adithim  
Dhakshadhubitharam Namamaha Paavanam Sivaam  
Maha Lakhmaicha Vidhmahe Sarvasakthaicha Dhemahi Thanno Devi Prachothayath*

*Oh Devi! You are the Supreme Deity of all Worlds. No Mother is superior than You. There will be always good fortunes with You and that is why You have been called as SIVA, Greetings to You. (Siva means good luck or good fortune). You are the Nature. You are the main reason for these Worlds emerging. You are Bhadra (means the good luck and fortune), Greetings to You. You will shine like fire and shine with the Energy of Tapas. You are the Form of Tapas, Greetings to You. Oh Durga! Greetings to You. Save us from falling into cycle of life and death. When You are in the form of Goddess Saraswathi, all the Gods prayed to You and You take the form of VAKDEVI. From then we are able to speak. Oh Devi! Greeting to You.*

*You are Kamdhenu for us, please fulfil our wishes/ desires. You are Kalarathri, black in color with terrible form, You are prayed to by Lord Brahma. You are in the form of Vaishnavi with Lord Vishnu. You are in the forms of Goddesses Parvathi, Skandhamatharam, Saraswathi, Adithi, You are daughter of Daksha, Greetings to You.*

*Now we have identified You as Goddess Maha Lakshmi. We realize that You are the embodiment of Omnipotence. We meditate on You so please put our minds in the right path. Oh Devi! Protect us.*

The Devi was pleased with the prayer and said, “I will fulfil my word as soon as possible. I will be born as daughter to Himalayan King Himavanthudu and Menaka (Himavanthudu’s Wife). As I am the daughter of Himavanthudu I will be called as

*Bhagavathi*. As I am also daughter to Parvathudu (Mountain) I will also be called as *Parvathi*. As I am also daughter to Menaka I will also be called as *Menathmaja*. I will be with many names *Uma*, *Kathyayini* and since I am golden hued, I will also be called as *Gowri*. I am the Moon, Stars, Sky, Air, Fire, Earth, Water and I am all the forces that exist in this world. I am the form of *Hreem*, *Kleem*, *Beejam*. I receive the *Panchopacharamulu* (five treats), *Gandham*: Sandal wood (Earth), *Pushpam*: Flowers (Space), *Dhoopam*: Incense (Air), *Deepam*: Lamp (Fire) and *Naivedyam*: Food (water)). I am *Sura*, *Sidha*, *Gandharva*, *Yakshas*, *Kinneras*, *Kimpurushas*, *Nagas*, *Suparnas*, *Vanaras*, *Vidyadharas*, *Valakilyas*. I am *Bholokam*, *Bhuvvarloka*, *Suvarloka*, *Maharloka*, *Janarloka* *Goloka*, *Thapoloka*, *Satyalo*ka, *Patalalok* and I am the whole Universe. I am the Trinity. I will be in living beings in the form of hunger, and I will be like intelligence in the brain. I will be in the form of meditation. I will be like life in the heart, I will be in throat, and in all the organs of the body. I am in form sometimes and without form and will be spread all over the Universe.”

“Due to the illusion, you perceive so many creatures in this World with different forms and with different names but all are in Me. That is why during the *Pralayam* all will combine into a big ball and I am that illusion”. The Devi showed Her *Viswarupam* (one can see the entire Universe in God). The directions are like the Devi’s ears, the Fire as Her face, the Sky like Her hair, Earth as Her feet, all the Worlds are in the Devi’s body. Lord Vishnu is on Her chest, Lord Siva on Her throat, Lord Brahma at the center of Her eyebrows. Lord Karthikeya and Lord Ganapathi are on Her feet. Indra and the other Gods are Her teeth. In the place of Stomach, Sea and Rivers are there. The trees and creepers are like the Devi’s hair follicles. She seemed huge, young and old at the same time and She presented a strange and marvelous form to everyone.

The Gods and other Deities were thrilled to see the Devi’s *Viswarupam* and greeted Her with devotion. She then came to Her original form and said, “Now you go peacefully, I am going to incarnate as Hymavathi”. As per Her word the Devi was born to Himavanthudu and married Lord Siva and They became Parvathi Parameswarulu. Lord Siva got back His Energy. Siva Parvathi and Lakshmi Narayana got Their full Energies and all the Creation and Nurturance and Destruction again

started happening like before. The Devi then said, “Do not ignore My Energy. I am the soul in you, I am the Energy, I am the Consciousness and identify these. You can see the body but not the soul. There is death to body but no death to the soul. The soul will not be born as it is always there and has come from Me. Soul will not be destroyed. It will be there all the time. It is old but always new. As the soul takes new bodies so it is always new. To come out of this cycle of Birth and Death you have to take refuge in Me. This is a sacred story and named as *YOGA MANTRA SIDHI GADHA*. Knowingly or unknowingly, whoever listens to this story for a short period also, will get the grace of the Devi and to worship Her with the help of the Guru will get them salvation”.

*DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XX CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*



## CHAPTER 21

### KEY POINTS

Description of different kinds of Hells and Punishments

Saraswathi Moola Mantra

Importance of Saraswathi Kavacham

How to greet the Guru (Namaskar/ Pranam)?

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

In olden days sometimes Kings used to visit places in their Kingdom and meet people instead of people coming to meet the King. The King will sit under a tree and the citizens in nearby villages will come and tell about their problems and desires. Generally, when people are happy they do not remember God or the Guru, but when they are in trouble, they will remember everyone. Same way, people will also come and talk about their problems to their King. A King coming out and having a meeting with people is known as *BAYALIKOLUVU*. Sage Naradha once did pilgrimage and reached Vaikuntam. That day Lord Vishnu came out of the Seven Prakaras (compounds) to *BAHYA SABHA STHALI* (Assembly outside the palace) and this place is known as *MANDARA MANDAPAM*. Lord Vishnu was on *Bayalikuluvu*, at the *Mandara Mandapam* to listen to the problems of Gods and other Deities. There was a beautiful throne covered with different Lotus flowers.

Lord Vishnu sat on this Throne and talked to the people who had come to visit him. He listens to the problems of Gods and sometimes in this assembly He will come to know about the Demons and rescues the Gods from them. After reaching there, Sage Naradha greeted Him and said, “I have wandered on Earth with the intention of pilgrimage, from Kashmir to Rameswaram. During this pilgrimage I observed that humans are having troubles and hardships. I did not see anyone happy. Seeing all this I got a doubt. Why are people suffering? Why are people going to Hell? How to come out of Hell? I want to clear my doubts with the person who is knowledgeable. People who have committed great sins will go to Hell. They will be punished according to the sins committed by them. Once their punishment is completed, they will be born again on Earth with some disabilities (like blind, deaf or any other disability). Finally, they will be freed from these sins. How many Hells are there? What are the different features of these Hells? Why will people go to Hell and what are the punishments for their sins? After the punishments how is Mankind going to be born again and how they will conduct their life thereafter? I want to know about all these”.

Sage Naradha and others who were present there were waiting for the reply. Lord Vishnu started replying to all, as this will help them and they will also spread it in their Worlds. “Hells are innumerable, but 21 Hells are important. Sinners who take or steal the money of others unjustly, who abduct other’s wives, who occupies other’s property or homes, all of them will reach this terrible Hell.

| NAMES OF NARAKAMS (HELLS) WITH THE PUNISHMENTS   |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Tamisram (Heavy Flogging by insects)   | Andhatamisram (Flogging in dark by insects)  | Rauravam (Torments by insects which has 84 legs and iron beaks)                      |
| Mahararuravam (Death by insects with iron beaks and Snakes)                                  | Kumbhipakam (body cooked in rotten oil)      | Kalasutram (A very Hot place)  |
| Asipatravanam (in this forest leaves will be as sharp as knives, flogging with these leaves) | Sukaramukham (Crushed and tormented by pigs) | Andhakupam ( <b>pushed into a well of beasts.</b> Attack by the animals in darkness) |



| NAMES OF NARAKAMS (HELLS) WITH THE PUNISHMENTS            |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Krimibhojanam (Food for worms)                            | Taptamurti or Agnikundam (Burnt Alive)                                  | Vajrakantakam or Vajrakandaka (Embracing Sharp images) |
| Salmali (Embracing Red silk cotton tree with iron thorns) | Vaitarani (Thrown in River of Filth)                                    | Puyodakam (Thrown in Well of urine and faeces)         |
| Pranarodham (cutting Piece by Piece)                      | Lalabhaksham (eating the mucus and saliva)<br>Avichi (turned into dust) | Ayahpanam (Drinking of burning substances)             |
| Ksharakardamam (hanged upside down)                       | Sulaprotam (Trident Torture)  | Sucimukham (Tortured by needles)                       |
| Paryavartanakam (torture from birds)                      | Raksobjaksam (Revenge attacks)  | Atarodham (weapon torture)                             |

An individual who has utmost devotion on God will attain permanent salvation. The people who are having devotion and follow the rules of morality and ethics, and who listen to or read *Puranas*, their souls will reach Heaven in a Divine Body. The people who have committed sins, their soul will reach Hell. That soul will be put inside in a body in Hell known as *YATHANA SARIRAM* (Body of suffering). That body will be dark black in color and will not have any gender. It will be 6 feet in height and it can sense pain but it will not die. Depending on the Sin committed, the punishment will be given for certain number of years. During the punishment the body will lose a few parts, but will join again and become normal. Once the body becomes normal the punishment will continue.

*Kumbhipakam* Hell is where the body is cooked in hot oil. *Kubham* is a pot and the food cooked in that is known as *Kumbhipakam*. The pot here is not in a round shape but as a rectangle. A big iron vessel which is 84 sq miles in size will be filled with filthy oil and this oil is brought to a boil. The *Yathana Sariram* will then be pushed into this oil. After it has been fully burnt, the *Yama Kinkaras* (soldiers) present there will take the body out. Once the body is taken out it will become normal. The soldiers will ask about this soul's experience and again put the body back in the boiling oil. *Devi Bhagavatam* mentions some of the punishments for sins committed by humans on Earth:

- While eating food one has to sit and eat. They should not stand and walk while eating. There is an exception to this, while travelling one can stand and eat.
- Stealing or taking money unjustly has become most common and the sinner will be taken to *Tamisram* Hell. In this Hell the sinner will be tied with a rope and beaten with whips. They will also be threatened and subjected to many other tortures.

There is a small story regarding the same. Once there was a great donor, who along with his wife served food to whoever came to his house. Even at midnight, they would wake up and cook food and serve the guests. And they would, as a practice never eat without serving others. Once a scholar wayfarer reached this village at midnight. He was searching for food in some *Satram* (Dharmshalas). Those at the *Satram* asked him to go to the donor's house and he would surely find food there. The wayfarer reached the donor's house and knocked on the door. The donor opened the door and asked, "Are you hungry?" The wayfarer said he was hungry. The donor and his wife cooked the food and served him hot food on a plate. The wayfarer looked at it and said, "I will not eat on a plate; this is my regulation. I will eat only on a leaf." The donor searched for the leaf at his home but it was not there. He was a bit confused and did not know what to do.

Suddenly the donor remembered that his neighbour was having a banana plant with plenty of leaves which was approachable from his compound wall. The donor wanted to ask his neighbour and take the leaf to serve food, but as it was midnight, he did not want to disturb him. If anyone wants to take something from others it has to be informed to them or it is a great sin. By informing them we can reduce the intensity of the sin committed. He thought he will intimate them the next day morning by saying, "I have plucked a banana leaf to serve food to a wayfarer". So, he went near the compound wall and cut one leaf which was leaning into his house. He served the food to the wayfarer in that. Next day morning the donor forgot to inform the owner about the leaf. After some time, they left their body and Lord Yama came to take them to Hell. (Generally, Lord Yama Dharma Raja will not come for all, he comes only for virtuous people). Yama said, "You have been virtuous throughout your life by listening to and reading *Puranas*. You cooked and served food to many, even at midnight. But there is a mistake done by you.

One midnight to serve food to a wayfarer you plucked a banana leaf from your neighbour's plant without informing him. It is considered as stealing. That mistake now became a great sin and you have to face the punishment in Hell. But for the good deeds done you can enjoy pleasures in Heaven. So, which do you want first?" The couple were shocked about this incident and said, "After enjoying the pleasures we cannot go to Hell. So, we will go to Hell first". For plucking a banana leaf they were punished in *Tamisram* Hell for 1000 years. This is the description of Hell which was mentioned in *Devi Bhagavatham*, *Bhagavatham*, *Markandeya Puranam* and many other *Puranas*. In *Vishnu Puranam* more detailed descriptions have been given.

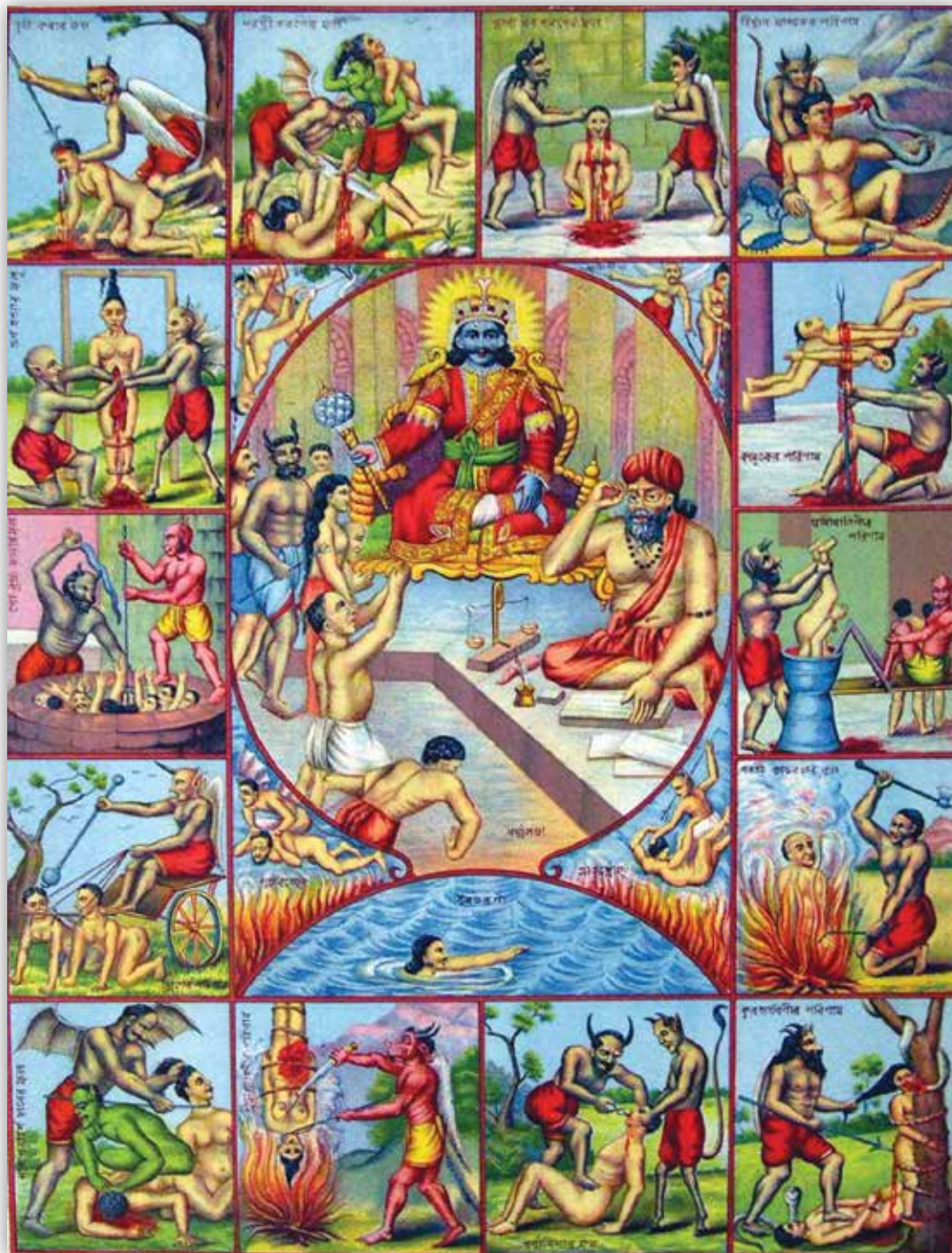
- Those who steal knowingly or unknowingly from others is a sin and will go to Hell.
- An astrologer should not fix a rate and collect money from the people. He has to accept whatever people give him. If he collects money that is a sin.
- Any employee who does not show any interest in his work and who will feel like vacationing in the absence of his owner. Or a person who is not working properly and stealing money in the absence of the owner/ employer or not helping the organization to develop, or who are responsible for the bankruptcy of the owner/ employer will go to *Andha Tamisram*. So, when the owner is not there, employees should be more careful and attentive in their work.
- People with jealousy about other's prosperity will go to *Andha Tamisram* and *Maha Rauravam* Hell.
- People who desecrate or excrete near a Yagna, or steal gold, money and items which are kept with us by others, will go to *Kumbhipakam* Hell. Such people will be reborn with leprosy. Hence, we must return back the items or gold given by others.
- People who steal others clothes will go to *Kshuthpipasa* Hell. In this Hell people will die without food and water. In *Markandeya Puranam* it has been stated that we do not know where our ancestors are and that is why we have to help them by

performing regular rituals. The water and sesame seeds offered to the ancestors as a ritual will be converted as food for them.

- People who kill animals will be punished by insect bites which is the Krimi Bhojanam Hell. (Offered as feast to the insects)
- People who kill, or commit acid attacks on women will be punished by *AYOMAYAGNI STHAMBHA NARAKAM*. The iron statue of the woman killed or attacked will be made and it will be heated to red hot colour and the person will be tied to that hot statue.
- People who are not paying attention and disturbing others while *Puranas* were being recited will be punished with *JIHVA KANDANA* (*Jihva* is tongue and *kandana* is cutting: cutting of the tongue). This punishment will be repeated as many times as the person created disturbance during the discourse of the *Puranas*.
- We should not eat inedible items and consume prohibited drinks. The punishment for having done these, is that they will be put in *Salmali* Hell. They will be dragged on iron thorns attached to a red silk cotton tree.
- The person who kills dogs will be punished in *Sarameya Dhanam*. Iron dogs will bite them with fangs.

There are 84,00,000 types of punishments in Hell. In Kali Yuga human beings will commit sins which are not written in the *Puranas*. Depending on the time and the sin, punishment will be given. To come out of all these Hells and to be happy on Earth there is only one way and that is by Worshipping Devi and listening to or reading Her stories or *Devi Bhagavatham*. The sins committed till then will disappear. By listening to *Devi Bhagavatham*, the sins committed daily will also vanish and one can come out of these punishments in Hell. As like the waves in the sea, in this life with family and other attachments, we will commit sins knowingly or unknowingly. Those in the family life will find it difficult to come out of it but if in this lifetime the Devi is worshipped wholeheartedly or listens to the *Devi Bhagavatam* without interruption, there is a chance that one can come out of sins and family life. Anyone taking refuge at the feet of the Devi can come out of family life and from the cycle





Punishments in Hell

of life and death. They will also be worshipped by the Gods and reach Heaven. So clearly the easy way to come out of Hell or to avoid Hell is to hold on to the feet of the Devi with devotion.”

Sage Naradha asked, “What is Dharma? A person who does not know about Dharma, how will he worship Devi? How will he get salvation?” Lord Narayana replied, “Dharma means the rules and guidelines which should be followed by Humans. These are clearly defined in *Smruthis* like *Yagna Valka Smruthi*, *Vasishta Smruthi*, *Brubaspathi Smruthi*, *Shukra Smruthi* and others. These Sages also wrote *Sambhitas*. Some guidelines are in the Vedas, Upanishads and others, all these are called as *Sastras* (Guidelines). As they are difficult to understand, Veda Vyasa has written them as *Puranas*. The rules explained in these are also known as Dharma. In Krutha Yuga to get salvation there are many rituals that can be followed, like *Yagna*, *Dana*, *Sat Karma Charanas* (following the right path) and many others. But in Kali Yuga, only one rule, that is listening to *Puranam* with attention and devotion. There is no other virtue than listening to *Puranas* in Kali Yuga. These *Puranas* explained to us the guiding principles to be followed. Sometimes these *Puranas* have narrated the guidelines through stories of Gods like the incarnation of Lord Rama and others. By listening to these stories also we will know about the principles by which we are to live by.

The Dharmas are different in different Yugas such as *Krutha*, *Tretha*, *Dwapara* and *Kali*. For example, fasting in Krutha Yuga means there is no intake of food or water except the water taken as ritual. In *Padma Puranam* in the *Bhagavatham* chapter, Sage Vyasa had stated about the fasting procedure for human beings in Kali Yuga. The rules have been amended generously. The person on fasting can have a little food. Humans cannot follow the rules of Krutha Yuga in Kali Yuga. We will get to know the guidelines by following the behaviour of our elders”.

Sage Naradha asked, “How should we worship Devi to get redemption from Hell? How to worship Devi from the day of *Padyami* to *Amavasya*”? Lord Vishnu replied:

- **On Padyami day** wake up early in the morning, take bath and light a ghee lamp. Offer Cow Ghee as *Naivedyam* (food offered to Gods) to Devi and donate cow ghee. Such persons will not suffer from illness and will not go to Hell.

- **On Vidhiya day** offer sugar as *Naivedyam* and donate sugar for longevity of life. *The people, who are suffering from heart problems, should perform Abhishekam (pouring water or other sacred substances on a statue of a deity) to Devi's Idol. Offer some sugar as Naivedyam (sugar used for Abhishekam should not be used), the sugar used for Abhishekam and Naivedyam should be donated to a priest. This helps in longevity and also for those who have had a surgery.*
- **On Thruthiya (Thadiya) day**, perform *Abhishekam* with Cow milk and offer it as *Naivedyam*, then donate the cow milk. *This individual will come out of all the sorrows and will be happy.*
- **On Chaturthi day**, for few persons, the works which have been started will not be completed on time due to Hurdles. To come out of these hurdles, wake up early in the morning and prepare *APPALU* (deep-fried sweet *dish* prepared to offer as *Naivedyam*), perform *Abhishekam* with them and offer it as *Naivedyam* and donate them. Such person will never have any hurdles in completion of the works.
- **On Panchami day**, get good Bananas and perform *Abhishekam* with them and offer it as *Naivedyam* and donate them. Such person will become a great scholar and his intelligence will improve.
- **On Shashti Day**, perform *Abhishekam* to Devi with Honey and offer it as *Naivedyam* and donate the Honey to someone. The individual will come out of skin diseases. The skin will become clear and bright.
- **On Sapthami Day**, perform *Abhishekam* to Devi with Jaggery and offer it as *Naivedyam* and donate the same Jaggery. The individual will come out of sorrows and jealousy.
- **On Ashtami Day**, perform *Abhishekam* to Devi with Coconut pieces and offer a whole coconut as *Naivedyam* and donate the same. The person will come out of heat problems and fever. He will also come out of *ADHYATMIKAM* (disturbances stemming from the self with attachment or aversion). *ADHIBOUTHIKAM* (disturbances that come from the world, noisy neighbours, the phone ringing,



family arguments, we have some control over these disturbances), *ADHIDAIVIKAM* (mental disturbances that come from God that are utterly beyond our control: hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions).

- **On Navami Day**, perform *Abhishekam* to Devi with Pelalu (Parched grain) and offer it as *Naivedyam* and donate it. The individual will enjoy all the comforts on time. He will not have hurdles in all journeys.
- **On Dashami Day**, perform *Abhishekam* to Devi with Black Sesame seeds and offer it as *Naivedyam* and donate it. The individual will not have fear of Yama Dharma Raja and problems with Saturn (Shani) will be removed and all the planets will become favourable.
- **On Ekadashi Day**, perform *Abhishekam* to Devi with curd and offer it as *Naivedyam* and donate it. The individual will get the love of the Devi and will be happy forever. After leaving the body he will reach the Devi's World.
- **On Dwadasi Day**, perform *Abhishekam* to Devi with Atukulu (Beaten rice) and offer it as *Naivedyam* and donate it. The individual will get the love of the Devi and he will become a nobleman, scholar, gets fame and great honours.
- **On Thrayodasi Day**, perform *Abhishekam* to Devi with raw Chick Peas (Dried Peas soaked in water and dried) and offer it as *Naivedyam* and donate it. The individual will get good children and preferred gender of the child also (boy or girl).
- **On Chathurdasa day**, perform *Abhishekam* with Pela-Pindi (Parched grain flour) and offer it as *Naivedyam* and donate it. The individual becomes equal to Goddess Parvathi and will reach the Devi's World in this life itself.
- **On Pournima day**, prepare *Payasam* with cow milk, (*Payasam* is a traditional Indian Sweet *pudding* made using milk, grains, lentils with a sweetener like jaggery or sugar) the *Payasam* should be made with only milk without water. Perform *Abhishekam* to Devi with it (the *Payasam* should not be hot, it should be Luke warm) and offer it as *Naivedyam* and donate it. The individual will get deliverance for all the ancestors, and he becomes the perpetual Yagna to all Gods.

He will be equal to the Sage Veda Vyasa who wrote 18 *Puranas* and in the next life he will be born as Sage Vyasa.

- **On Amavasya Day**, perform *Abhishekam* with balls made with Sesame seed and Jaggery, and offer it as *Naivedyam* and donate it. The individual will get prosperity in all the business and the farmers will get good agriculture produce. *The one who worships the Devi as said, with devotion will get the grace of the Devi, be happy, enjoys all the comforts and reach the Devi's world.*

The Devi can be worshipped at any time and on all days. There is no rule that on a particular day Devi should be worshiped, but worshipping on specific days will give better results. In the month of *Aswayuja*, during *Shukla Paksham* from *Padyami* to *Navami*, are known as *Devi Nava Ratri*. In the month of *Chaitra*, during *Shukla Paksham* from *Padyami* to *Navami* are known as *Vasanth Nava Ratri*. Worship Devi on *Aswayuja*, *Chaitra*, *Magha* and *Aashada* months in *Shukla Paksham*, from *Padyami* to *Navami* (nine days). The Devi will be pleased. These nine days Devi should be worshipped with devotion and attention by offering *Pushpam* (flowers), *Gandham* (sandalwood), with *Dhoopam* (*Dhoopam* is a form of smoke produced from a perfumed incense) and *Deepam* (*Deepam*, or *Deepak* is an oil lamp usually made from clay, with a cotton wick dipped in ghee or oil) and the above said *Naivedyam*. The individual will not have any physical or mental illness, or the one who has these will get rid of the illness.

The one who worships Devi for money will get money, the one who wants Dharma will get Dharma, in fact all desires will be fulfilled. The one who wants salvation will get salvation. All this was narrated by Lord Vishnu to Sage Naradha. (End of 8 Skandha).

Sage Naradha asked, "How many forms does Devi have and what are their main attributes?" Lord Narayana replied, "Devi with five attributes takes five forms and that is why she is known as *PANCHA PRAKRUTHI SWARUPINI*. The first form is the Mother of Lord Ganesha, *Goddess Durga*. Second is *Goddess Radha*, third is *Goddess Lakshmi*, fourth is *Goddess Saraswathi* and fifth is *Goddess Savitri*. Initially Devi was in these five forms. In these forms She was doing five tasks. Actually,

Devi does not require any form, attribute and Karma, but She took these forms and attributes for us and to bless us. In masculine form She is *Lord Brahma*, *Lord Vishnu*, *Lord Rudra*, *Lord Sadasiva* and *Lord Mahasiva*. But when in feminine form, She will be as Goddesses *Durga*, *Radha*, *Lakshmi*, *Saraswathi* and *Savitri*.

In the first form of Goddess *Parvathi (Durga)*, She will be Lord Siva and watch all the worlds with Her three eyes. In that form She is *SARVARUPA*. She is also referred to as *SANATHANI*, which means ancient. *SARANAGATHADEENARTHA PARITHRANA PARAYANA* means if someone comes to take refuge, She will protect them immediately. The one who worships Her in these forms will get timely ideas and they can sleep on time and feel hungry on time and they can digest food easily.

The second form is Goddess *Radha* which is the form of love and devotion. Lord Krishna is the pioneer for all the Worlds. He is in Golokam and Goddess *Radha* is the force and energy behind Lord Krishna. In the name of Sriman Narayana, Lord Vishnu will be in Vaikuntam and Goddess *Lakshmi* is force and energy behind Lord Vishnu. Lord Vishnu created Lord Brahma for the welfare of the Universe. Goddess *Saraswathi* will be with Lord Brahma on His tongue and She will give energy and intellect for creation. In the form of Goddess *Savitri* She will protect all the creatures. She is also known as Goddess *Gayatri* and Goddess *Saraswathi*. All the three forms are one with different names. In the morning She is in the form of Goddess *Gayatri*, in the noon She will be in the form of Goddess *Savitri* and in the evening She will be in the form of Goddess *Saraswathi*. There are differences in all these forms and attributes. Depending on the needs, people worship one or all these forms.

Of these, *Maha Saraswathi* is the most essential form for human beings. When the form of Goddess *Saraswathi* is on the tongue for a few, they become good orators. Whatever they speak, will have a standard and people will believe what they say. Few have Goddess *Saraswathi* on their hand and they become good writers and poets but they may not be able to speak well. Few have Goddess *Saraswathi* in their brain. Whatever they think will have a standard and people will get attracted to these thoughts and ideas. Very few have Goddess *Saraswathi* all over their body, their behavior will be good, whatever they talk will have standard and the writings

will be useful to the Universe. Their thoughts will be useful to self and Universe. Sage Veda Vyasa, Kalidas and Tenali Ramakrishna are a few examples, who have possessed the full form of Goddess *Saraswathi*. Listening to this Sage Naradha got a doubt, “How does Goddess *Saraswathi* look? How can we see Her? When did She incarnate? Are there any hymns related to Goddess *Saraswathi*? Can you please tell me all about this?”

Lord Vishnu replied, “In ancient times, many creatures were born in this universe. As they could not talk, they used gestures for their communication.

All the Gods came to Me and said, “Oh Lord! We are only communicating by gesturing, we want speech. Bless us with speech”.

Then I replied, “There is a founding father to Me, He is Lord Krishna. He lives in Golokam. All of you go to Him. The founding father of the Universe is also Lord Krishna. His body split into two, first as *NARAYANA* and the second as *NARA* (Human). (In *ISKCON* culture devotees believe that Lord Krishna created everything. The same is mentioned in *Devi Bhagavatham* and *Brahma Vaivārtha Puranam*. He is the form of Maha Narayana in Vaikuntam, as Lord Krishna in Golokam and He also took many incarnations. Bhakta Jayadeva did not mention Lord Krishna as an incarnation, but he described Him as the Ultimate God. (*Krishnasthu Bhagavan Swayam*). According to Jayadeva, Lord Krishna was not an incarnation and the God came to Earth directly. Which is why he did not add Lord Krishna’s name in the *DASAVATHARAS*. After Lord Rama, Jayadeva wrote Balarama’s name and skipped Lord Krishna’s name totally).

Sage Veda Vyasa also repeated the same slokas in *Devi Bhagavatham* and *Brahma Vaivārtha Puranam*. Sage Veda Vyasa said, “God has taken many incarnations but Lord Krishna is “God” by Himself. On the request of Gods, Lord Krishna in Golokam created a Beautiful Woman from His body on *Magha Masam* (month), *Sukla Paksham* and on *Panchami* day. As Lord Krishna was blue in color the Woman incarnated from His body was also blue in color. As Gods were watching, the Woman extracted this blue color from Herself and united it in Lord Krishna’s hair. From that day Lord Krishna’s hair was shining like turquoise blue. After the blue disappeared

from the skin of that Woman, She changed into pure white color. The day She incarnated, is celebrated as *Magha Sukla Panchami* (Vasanth Panchami is a wrong word and should not be used). Light was emanating from Her and that is why She was named as *Saraswathi* (woman with the flow of light). Goddess *Saraswathi* was white in color and Her attire and jewelry were also white.

The Gods were pleased by Her appearance and wanted to pray to Her, but They were not able to do so because language was not yet under their control. So, They asked Lord Krishna to write and give a hymn to pray to Her. The worship to Goddess *Saraswathi* was started by the Gods with devotion with the hymn written by Lord Krishna. Even though Goddess *Saraswathi* originated from Lord Krishna, he still composed a hymn with devotion thinking that, “With My good fortune the Devi has incarnated from My body as Goddess *Saraswathi*. Without Her there will not be any communication, so I will write a hymn with utmost devotion”. The puja procedure and the Sthotram (prayer) written by Lord Krishna is being practiced at so many places. This Sthotram is known as *SARASWATHI KAVACHAM*.

This *Kavacham* is very sacred. By reciting this, a fool can become a scholar. Goddess *Saraswathi* was born when Goddess *Radha* and Lord *Krishna* were united and were in one form. So, Goddess *Saraswathi* has the energies of both Goddess *Radha* and Lord *Krishna* in Her. Hence by worshipping Goddess *Saraswathi*, a person will have love, knowledge, and education. They will understand righteousness and unrighteousness. With this knowledge they will know how to behave. Lord Vishnu then started narrating about the worshipping procedure of Goddess *Saraswathi* to Sage *Naradha*. As Goddess *Saraswathi* was born in the month of *Magha*, *Sukla Paksham* and on *Panchami* day, worshipping Her on every *Sukla Panchami* and before starting the education to children (*AKSHARABHYASA*) will give good results. Goddess *Saraswathi* can also be worshiped whenever a person intends to go for higher education.

The devotee should wake up early in the morning and take a bath. Start the worship with puja to Lord *Ganesha*. Place an idol or picture of Goddess *Saraswathi* and spread a clean cloth in the place of worship, Pour white rice (without any insects). Arrange a *KALASAM* (literally “pitcher, pot”, is a metal, brass, copper, silver or gold pot with a large base and small mouth, large enough to hold a coconut.)



*Kalasam*

After arranging the *Kalasam*, Goddess *Saraswathi* should be invoked into that. To have a sharp brain, butter should be offered as *Naivedyam*. Cow milk, Fresh Curd, Pelalu (parched grain), Sesame balls made with jaggery, pieces of sugarcane, sugarcane juice, white jaggery and honey should be offered. One can offer all or at least one as *Naivedyam*. After offering, sit in front of the Goddess and meditate.

Dhyayami Dhyanam Samarpayami

*Goddess Saraswathi Dhyana slokam:*

*Saraswatheem Shukla Varnam, Sasmitaam Sumanoharam,  
Koti Chandra Prabhamushta Pushta Sriyuktha Vighram  
Vanni Sudham Sukhadhanam Veena Pusthaka Dharinim  
Ratnasarendra Nirmana Nava Bhushana Bhushitham*

*Saraswathi is white in color and always smiling. Her form gives pleasure to mind and shining with the light of a million moons. The sari worn by Saraswathi looks as if it is been purified by fire. She is holding the musical instrument known as KACHAPI in one hand and in the other hand She is holding a book. She wears ornaments which are studded with precious stones; Greetings to such a Goddess.*

Another Sloka

*Ya Kundendhu Thusharahara Davala, Ya Subhra Vastranvitha  
Ya Veena Varadbanda Manditha Kara, Ya Swetha Padmasana  
Ya Brahma Chyutha Sankara Prabhruthi Virdevaihi Sada Pujitha  
Sa Mam Pathu Saraswathi Bhagavathi Nissesha Jadyapaha*





*Goddess Saraswathi*

*Saraswathi is white in color like moon, jasmine, snow and pearl chain. She is wearing a pure white sari. She is holding the Kachapi and sitting on a white Lotus (also known as Pundarikam). She is worshiped by Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva. Such a Saraswathi remove idiocy completely and protect me. Once idiocy is removed the individual will become active. Saraswathi who will clear all doubts, such a Devi protect me.*



After praying to the Devi with this meditation, slokas and after worship, *MULA MANTRA* (one that begins with Beejaksharams) *Sloka* should be chanted. The process of making the *Mula Mantra* is explained in this *Sloka*

*Saraswathi Chathurdhyanatham Varnijayantha Mevacha  
Lakshmi Maya Dhika Chevamanthroyam Kalpa Padapaha*

Lord Vishnu told to Sage Naradha, “If you chant these *Mula Mantras* it will protect you like *Kalpavriksham* (wish fulfilling tree). In this Mantra Goddess *Saraswathi's* name has to be changed into Chaturdhi Vibhakthi. *Beejam* should be added with *Swaha* (wife of Lord Agni) so it will become:

*Aim Sreem Hreem Saraswathai Swaha*

This most sacred Mantra will give immense virtue. This Mantra can be chanted when the devotee is pure and at home. It can also be chanted anytime but without the word *SWAHA* and by adding the word *NAMAHA*.

*Aim Sreem Hreem Saraswathai Namaha*

This mantra was given by Lord Vishnu to Sage Valmiki who after chanting this mantra with devotion on the banks of River Ganga wrote *RAMAYANA*. Lord Brahma gave it to Sage Bhrigu in Badri and he gave it to Sukracharya, and this was useful for him to get the *MRUTHA SANJEEVANI* mantra. Sage Kasyapudu (son of Sage Marrechi) gave it to Chandra (Moon) and other Gods. Sage Jarathkarudu gave it to his son Sage Aasthikudu near the Ocean of Milk. Vibhandakudu gave it to Rushaya Sringudu at Sringeri. Lord Siva gave it to Khanadhudu and Sage Gouthama. Surya gave this mantra to Yagna Valka and Kaatyayanudu (He is also known as Varuchi for his expertise in grammar).

Adi Sesha gave it to Sage Panini. After receiving the mantra Sage Panini performed Tapas for Lord Siva at *CHIDHAMBARAM*. Nataraja was pleased with the Tapas and he did *THANDAVAM* (*Tandavam* is a form of dance that is performed with great energy and strength). After the *Tandavam* He beat the drum (Damaroo) in His hand 14 times. These sounds are the basics rules for Sanskrit. These are known as *Maheswara Sutrams*. Sage Panini was able to write them only because he got the

mantra from Adishesha and chanted it. Adishesha also gave it to Sage Bharadwaja and to Sakatayanudu in Patala Lokam. The person who chants this mantra for 4,00,000 times will be equal to Goddess *Saraswathi*. They will become a scholar and be equal to Sage Bruhaspathi. One can conquer the World with this mantra.

In addition to this mantra Lord Narayana gave *Saraswathi Kavacham* to Sage Naradha. For *Saraswathi Kavacham*, Viprendra is the Sage, Bruhathi is the Chandassu and Saradha is the Goddess.

*Om Sreem Hreem Saraswathai Swaha Sirome Pathu Sarwathaha*  
*Om Sreem Vakdevatayai Swaha Phalame Sarwadhavathu*  
*Om Hreem Saraswathai Swahethi Sthothrepathu Nirantharam*  
*Om Sreem Hreem Bhagavathyai Saraswathai Swaha Netrayugmam Sadavathu*  
*Om Aim Hreem Vagdevinai Swaha Nasame Sarwa Dhavathu*  
*Om Hreem Vidhya Dishtatru Devayai Swaha choshtam Sadavathu*  
*Om Sreem Hreem Bramyai Swahethi Danhta Pankthim Sadavathu*  
*Om Aim Itheyekaksharo Mantra Mama Kantam Sadavathu*  
*Om Sreem Hreem Pathume Grevam Skandoume Sreem Sadavathu*  
*Om Hreem Vidhya Dishtatru Devayai Swaha Vakshaha Sadavathu*  
*Om Hreem Vidhyadhi Swarupayai Swaha Pathu Nabhi Kaam*  
*Om Hreem Kleem Vanayai Swahethi Mama Hasthou Sadavathu*  
*Om Swarna Varnathmikayai Padayugmum Sadavathu*  
*Om Vaga Dishtathru Devayai Swaha Sarwangam Sadavathu*  
*Om Sarwa Kanta Vasinayi Swaha Prachayam Sadavathu*  
*Om Sarva Jihavagra Vasinayi Swaha Agnidisi Rakshathu*  
*Om Sreem Hreem Kleem Saraswathayi Budha Jananayi Swaha*  
*Sathatham Mantra Rajoyam Dakshane Maam Sadavathu*  
*Om Aim Hreem Sreem Thyaksharo Mantra Nairuthayam Sarwa Davathu*  
*Om Aim Hreem Jihva Grvasinayi Swaha Maam Vaarunevathu*  
*Om Sarwambikayai Swaha Vayeveyam Maam Sadavathu*  
*Om Aim Sreem Kleem Gadhyavasinayi Swaha Maam utharevathu*  
*Om Aim Sarva Sastra Vasinayi Swaha Eesanyam Sadavathu*  
*Om Hreem Sarwa Pujithayai Swaha Cha Uordhvam Sadavathu*

*Om Hreem Pusthaka Vasinayai Swaha Adhomaam Sadavathu  
Om Grandha Beeja Swarupayai Swaha Maam Sarvathovathu  
Idham Viswaya Jayam Nama Kavacham Brahma Rupakam*

This *Kavacham* is the form of Lord Brahma and also known as *VISWA JAYAM*. On Gandhamadana mountain Lord Krishna gave this Kavacham to Sages Nara and Narayana who were born from His body.

After doing *SASHTANGA NAMSKARAM* one should receive the Mantra from a Guru. (A *Sashtanga Namaskaram* is one of the many types of *Namaskar*, done with eight body parts or *angas* touching the ground. First the chest should touch the ground, then eyes, then head, heart, lips, legs, hands, ears. This type of *Namaskaram* is also commonly known as “*Sashtanga Dandakara Namaskaram*” and “*Uddanda Namaskaram*”. The word “*danda*” means “stick”. Therefore, the *Dandakara Namaskaram* is one where the person doing the *Namaskaram* lies on the ground just like a fallen stick.) Men have to follow the above mentioned procedure but for women it is slightly different as shown in the picture below, where their chest should not touch the ground (Panch angas). Once the person receives the mantra by doing this from the GURU, that person will get great power.



*Namaskaram Postures for Men and Women*

The one who chants this *Kavacham* for 5,00,000 times, Goddess *Saraswathi* will become as the skin of that person and protects them as an armor. She protects at all times and in all situations. That person will be equal to Sage Bruhaspathi and becomes a good orator, a poet in all the three Worlds and will reach *Manidweepam* and can perform concert in the presence of the Devi. This is very sacred”. This was told by Lord Vishnu to Sage Naradha.

Again, Lord Vishnu said, “I will tell you who got this *Kavacham*. Sage Vyasa had a disciple named Vysampayanudu. He read the complete *YAJUR VEDA*. He was the one who narrated *Mahabaratham* to Janamejeya. Yagnavalki was his disciple. Once, Yagnavalki did not obey the words of his Guru, Sage Vysampayanudu. Sage Vysampayanudu was angry, so he said, “You vomit all the education you have learnt”. Saying this he hit him lightly on his head. Yagnavalki vomited all the education he had learnt. Sage Vysampayanudu called the rest of his disciples and asked them to drink the vomited material telling them, “These are Vedas and knowledge but it may not look like that”. The disciples refused to do so. Sage Vysampayanudu changed all his disciples into *TITUVU* birds (The yellow- wattle Lapwing).

All the birds ate the vomited substance. Yagnavalki lost all his knowledge and became worthless. Yagnavalki started weeping and took the refuge of his Guru Sage Vysampayanudu. His Guru denied him and said, “You promised that you will obey the Guru’s word but you disobeyed. Whoever disobeys the Guru will never have good fortune”. Yagnavalki went to the Sun God, and said, “I was been cursed by my Guru, I lost all my education. Please protect me”. Sun God replied, “I cannot do you any favor but I can teach you *Saraswathi Kavacham*. If you chant it for 5 lakh times you will be blessed by Goddess *Saraswathi*”. Saying so he taught *Saraswathi Kavacham* to Yagnavalki. Yagnavalki chanted this *Kavacham* with devotion and attention. Finally, he held the feet of Goddess *Saraswathi* and prayed.

“Oh *Jaganmatha*! I chanted your *Kavacham* with devotion and belief. Due to the curse by my Guru, I lost all my knowledge, charm and memory. I am suffering a lot without them. Please bless me with knowledge, education and memory. Give me the power to write books and teach lessons to my disciples”.

Goddess *Saraswathi* replied, “Even though you did the chanting of *Kavacham* with devotion there is a small error in you which is stopping Me from giving you knowledge. That error is to deny your Guru. So, go and hold the feet of your Guru and plead for his forgiveness. Once he forgives you, I will give back your knowledge”. Therefore, denying Guru is very dangerous.

Yagnavalki again went to his Guru Sage Vysampayanudu and held his feet and said, “Please forgive me for the mistake I have made”. Sage Vysampayanudu forgave him. Yagnavalki came back to Goddess *Saraswathi*.

Goddess *Saraswathi* put Her hand on Yagnavalki’s head and said, “I am giving you memory. Now go and re-learn the education from the Sun God”.

Yagnavalki went to Sun God to learn the Vedas. The Sun was moving very fast, Yagnavalki also was running behind him and received his education while moving. Both of them were in constant motion. As Sun God was moving there were changes in the tone. Yagnavalki was not able to hear the Vedas clearly, so a new Veda: *Shukla Yajurveda* had emerged from *Yajur Veda*. With the grace of Goddess *Saraswathi*, Yagnavalki was able to write a new Veda called *Sukla Yajurveda* and gave it to the World. The one who had been cursed by his Guru got the grace of Goddess *Saraswathi* and was able to come out of it and wrote a new Veda. This *Kavacham* has the power to give education to anyone. This *Kavacham* was told by Lord Narayana to Sage Naradha.

## *DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XXI CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*





## CHAPTER 22

### KEY POINTS

The traits of a human who came from Hell  
The traits of a good devotee  
The traits of people in Kali Yuga  
How Earth was created?  
How the Varaha Incarnation took place?  
How to take Holy dip in Rivers?  
Why Brunda was cursed by Radha?

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

In the previous chapters we were discussing about the conversation between Sage Naradha and Lord Narayana. Lord Narayana in the form of the Guru was clearing the doubts of Sage Naradha. As a part of this conversation Sage Naradha asked, “What are the attributes of devotees? Especially in Kali Yuga everyone claims to be a devotee. These devotees are not following the rules and are not keeping their promises. By looking at a few of them, I want to know about the quality of a true devotee. So please explain it to me completely. If any devotee or disciple knowingly or unknowingly commit a mistake, how can it be rectified?”

Lord Narayana replied, “Once Goddess Lakshmi also got the same doubt about humans. She asked me, “Dear God, you always bless the devotees, so I am asking



you a few doubts. What are the characteristic features of a good Devotee? Whom can we call as a true devotee? Whom can we say are worse? Those who do not have Devotion on God, which Hell will they go to? A few are initially innocent and they become devotees and disciples, but after some time betray God and Guru. Is there any way to rectify their mistakes?”

Then Lord Narayana replied, “A knowledgeable person can understand who is the best and who is the worst from their behavior. Mankind will have people coming from Heaven and Hell. The people who come from Hell may look like devotees but their traits will be seen in their behavior.

- The one who always talks harshly and hurts others and other devotees are from the Hell. They may look like devotees but they are not. Constantly speaking harshly means a sinner from Hell and therefore not a good devotee.
- Someone who constantly points out others mistakes is a sinner from Hell.
- Someone who constantly does harm to others and never does favors is a sinner from Hell. (For example, one has to distribute Prasadam, but he will not do that. He will eat it or throws it in the trash).
- The one who accumulates money, who is a miser and who does not do minimum charity is a sinner from Hell. This person will not enjoy the wealth nor gives it to others, is known as *KRUPANATHVAM*. Such wealth finally will go to waste.
- The person, who will not take bath on time, eats food and goes to temples, also is a sinner from Hell.
- Goddess Lakshmi will bless the one who is wearing the freshly washed clothes. Do not wear the clothes which are not washed after taking bath. Goddess Lakshmi was away from Dharmaraja for some time after he lost at the game of Ludo. While leaving Dharmaraja, Goddess Lakshmi said, “How can I leave him? He has all the good qualities. He will not wear the clothes once worn without washing?” The silk cloth which is worn only for worshipping (*Madi Cloth*) can be reused for seven days as it is used only for this purpose. While going to hear *Puranas* same clothes can be used. But one should not attend or visit temples with the clothes worn from the morning. This is an attribute of a non-devotee

and a great sin. So never wear clothes which are already worn without washing. “Dharmaraja never did such a mistake. How can I leave him and go”? So as a devotee we have to be clean all the time.

- Those who serve others first and in turn the others serve us are called as *SRI*. Goddess Lakshmi got this name because we serve Her first and in turn She will serve us in the form of wealth, money, food, cattle, and servants and in the form of wife to a husband and husband to a wife. Without Her service we will be destroyed. Serving the one who served us is *Sri*. In the same way *Brahma Sri* means the one who is serving the knowledge of Brahma. The one who is jealous about other's fame is also not a good devotee.
- The one who always scolds or criticizes the Gods consistently is also a person from Hell. It is also applicable to the people who scold other Gods, like Lord Siva devotees scolding Lord Vishnu's devotees. Worshipping one God and abusing other Gods is also considered as a sin. The God may be in different forms and different attributes, but all are one and the same.
- The one who is stealing money from others, then, they have come from Hell. A devotee will never steal other's money or things.
- The one who never showed pity, compassion to others and hating others is an indication that they are from Hell. A devotee will always love others and give respect to others.
- The devotee should not have anger and should not show it on other devotees. They should be patient and reply with respect. The one who is always angry is not a devotee and they are from Hell.
- Harming the one who showed the act of kindness to us. This is not a trait of the devotee, so they are from Hell.
- Goddess Lakshmi was invoked by Lord Vishnu into His body and all the Rivers were created. First Lord Vishnu added Her in His foot and created a River and that River is *GANGA* also known as *VISHNU PADODHBAVA*. From His waist Lord Vishnu created another River known as *YAMUNA*. Lord Vishnu is called

*KALINDHI UDARAM* (person with river as stomach). From His tongue Lord Vishnu created another River known as *SARASWATI*.

- Hence all the Rivers are the form of Sri Maha Lakshmi. Spoiling the Rivers by spitting in them or excreting on the riverbanks and washing the body after excretion, such beings are from Hell. These acts of spitting, blowing the nose and excreting in the rivers are considered to be great sins.

After creating them Lord Vishnu got a doubt that these Rivers may not be taken care of properly. He called upon all the Rivers and Gods and said, “Till the Kali Yuga comes you be in the form of Rivers. In Kali Yuga after 5000 years, you withdraw from your River form and reach My World. The day Lord Sri Krishna completed His life and His incarnation as Lord Krishna ended, the Kali Yuga started. As Kali entered the Universe, it was the start of misfortunes for all the Worlds. As long as Lord Krishna was in this world Kali was not able to enter completely. Kali was afraid of Lord Krishna. “As the incarnation of Lord Krishna was for the establishment of Dharma, I cannot spread the sins in this World as long as He is there”. So, Kali was waiting for Lord Krishna to leave His body and to end His incarnation.

Lord Krishna leaving his Body and Kali entering the Universe happened at the same time. Lord Krishna took His soul and went to Vaikuntam with great speed. As Lord Krishna’s soul was leaving to Vaikuntam, Kali saw Him. Till 5000 years in Kali Yuga the Goddess will exist in the Rivers. Goddess Ganga is in the waters of River Ganga, Goddess Yamuna is in the waters of River Yamuna, Goddess Saraswathi is in the waters of River Saraswathi and as long as the Goddesses were there, they were known as River Goddesses. After 5000 years these Goddesses will leave the Rivers. So now the rivers exist without the Goddesses and their Energies. Now Rivers Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswathi are there without Goddesses and Their energies. (2020 *UGADHI* is the 5120 year of Kali Yuga). The devotees are taking a holy dip in these rivers but are not able to get the benefits and touch of the Goddess.

Now the devotees may get a doubt whether we will get the sacred benefits of a holy dip or not in the river? Yes, the devotee can get it if he remembers the Guru with devotion and chant the Hari mantra and performs the *Sankalpam* (Oath). Then it is possible to get the benefits of taking bath in it. ***First the devotee has to chant***

*Sri Gurubhyo namaha, then Kesavaya Swaha, Narayanaya Swaha and Madhavaya Swaha (take the oath), Sankalpam and then Ganga Snanam Aham Karishye.* The Goddess of the river will hear this and thinks, “Someone is remembering the Guru and Lord Hari so I have to be present in that place where he is taking bath”. So, the Goddess will come and merge in the river. So, to take a holy dip in the river we have to invite the River Goddess. For that, first we have to remember the Guru. Then remember Lord Vishnu’s names with the ritual of *Aachamanam*, then do the *Sankalpam*. If we do not know any of the rituals, then just state your name and say *Ganga Snanam Aham Karishye*. For that moment, the Goddess of the river will be present in that place in the water. Once the devotee comes out of the river the Goddess will also leave the river.

The ones who do not know all these or who do not do these processes are not going to get the benefits of holy dip in the River Ganga or other Rivers. Lord Vishnu told these things to Goddess Lakshmi. This is not only applicable to rivers but is also applicable to temples. When the temples are closed, the Gods will return to their Worlds. The Gods will return back when the priests do the *ARCHANA* (a special, personal, abbreviated puja done by temple priests). If the priests are not there, the temple and the idol are there without the energy of the deity(God). That is why we have to respect and protect the priests. There is an exception for this. In the *Guru Peethams* priests are not required as long as the Guru or Sri Chakra or Guru Images and the lineage of Guru are there. That is why these *Peethams* have great energy.

There are two places on Earth without the effect of Kali. In these two places there will be Divine power all the time. The Goddess will not leave the River and go to her Worlds. The Gods will not leave the idols. Those two places are ***KASI and BRUNDAVANAM***. Which is why the person who leaves his body in these places will have deliverance. It is said that in Kasi, Lord Siva wanders about all the time and it does not matter whether the devotee does the rituals of *Sankalpam* or not. He gives salvation even to creatures like ants and mosquitoes. Similarly, in Brundavanam, Radha and Lord Krishna are present everywhere so there is no need to do any worship or *Sankalpam* here. It is enough to apply the soil on the forehead and body. Devotees here roll on the ground chanting *Radhe! Radhe!* for this reason. These two places are most sacred. In the remaining places Gods leave the idols.

After 10,000 years in Kali Yuga (after 4,880 years from now) the Energy and Power from the *SALIGRAMA* will leave and they will also be like ordinary stones. So, what should be done at that time? Pour water on the *Saligramam* and invoke Lord Vishnu into it by chanting. “*Sri Maha Vishnu Avahayami, Sthapayami, Pujayami*”. As the Mantra is chanted, immediately Lord Vishnu will come and sit in the *Saligramam*. Once again, the *Saligramam* will get its Power and Energy. It is the same with *SIVA LINGA* kept at home (*Bana lingam from the river Narmada*). After 10,000 years in Kali Yuga it will lose its Power and Energy and become like a normal stone. Daily the devotee has to invoke Lord Siva into it and worship it, then the devotee will get the benefit of the worship.

There is nothing to worry about these changes. Once the *Sankalpam* is done the Gods will come and give benefit of the worship. Only with *Sankalpam* we can bring back the Gods to Earth. In temples the priests do the worship by invoking the Gods into the idol. When temples close the Gods go back to their World. As a mark of respect temples cannot open on demand and is of not much use too because the idol is without the God Energy at that time. When the priest comes, God comes back to receive their worship.

- Until the next 4880 years, *NARMADA BANA LINGAM* (*Swayambhu Siva Lingas*) that have taken shape in the Sacred River Narmada will have energy and power (The Narmada Siva Linga is a most sacred symbol and Divine Energy manifestation). It will enhance the positive energy in the place of worship.



• *Narmada Bana Lingam*

- The Saligramam is the most sacred stone and form of Lord Vishnu, worshipped by the Vaishnavas and Vishnu Bhaktas. Saligramam is a black stone found in River Gandaki in Nepal.



*Salagrama*

- *SRI CHAKRAM* is an iconic representation of the deepest intuitions of the Vedas. It represents both the recursive structure of reality and also expresses the fact that Nature and Consciousness are interpenetrating.



*Sri Chakram*

These three, *Narmada Bana Lingam*, *Saligramam* and *Srichakram* do not need the invoking of the Gods as they are always having Energy and Power in them. Gods will always be present in such places where these three are there. That is why in Kali Yuga devotees will have them in their homes. But a few devotees have doubts whether they can place these three at home. In *Siva Puranam*, Nandi said, “Why so many doubts?. Anyone who is a devotee can place the *Siva Lingam* at home and worship it. Man, Woman, Impotent, anyone can worship *Siva Lingam* and to worship *Siva Lingam* we need only devotion”. Hence, we can keep *Siva Lingam*,

*Saligramam and Srichakram* at home. The one who worships these with devotion will get deliverance in this Yuga.

*Who are the real devotees? What are the attributes of a good devotee?*

A real devotee is filled with virtues. They are always smiling. Those who immediately atoned for their sins they have committed. They are thrilled to hear the stories of God and helping others all the time with materialistic and non-materialistic things. By helping them they attain salvation. Who are the great devotees? The one who will hold the feet of Guru and says, “Oh Guru! This God is my favorite. If you teach me the mantra related to this God, I will chant it with devotion. I will not leave you forever” (mentally). Receiving the mantra from the Guru and meditating on him and chanting the mantra of their favorite God, that person is considered as the best and a holy devotee as per the Vedas. The good devotee, once receives the Mantra, will meditate on that Guru forever and will not hate him mentally also. The devotee who meditates on Guru will also deliver his ancestors from Hell immediately. Lord Vishnu said this to Goddess Lakshmi, “The one who has devotion on the Guru will have the Power to deliver others instantly by taking a resolution with a thought”. So once the devotee takes a resolution to deliver the people in Hell, they will immediately get salvation. As the Hell and Heaven are not permanent, the one who is in Heaven will also get relief.

Any creature on this Earth (maybe an ant, fly, bird or any other) once remembering the Guru and chanting the Gods name will reach Vaikuntam instantly along with his family. In Kali Yuga chanting the name of Lord Hari is very sacred. There is no other name that gives faster salvation than the name of Lord Vishnu in Kali Yuga. Therefore, after meditating on the Guru, always we should remember and chant *Hari, Narayana, Vasudeva* or *Parandhama*.

*In this Kali Yuga who are devotees and who are genuine devotees?*

The one who shows interest in going for pilgrimages are my devotees. The devotee who takes a holy dip in Rivers *GANGA, YAMUNA, SARASWATHI* and other Rivers and feels that they are not rivers but that they are the sacred places helps them in



their deliverance and can see Gods in these rivers. The one who does the rituals to ancestors after taking holy dip, the one who worships Gods on the River banks, the one who does charity, all of them are my devotees. All of them will get Salvation. The individual whoever pours water with a conch in rituals for ancestors will be liberated in this life itself.

Lord Vishnu started explaining about the attributes of Kali Yuga.

- In this Yuga, worshipping and chanting of the Gods' name will be much reduced.
- In this Yuga, the Worship of God will be reduced to advertisement and to draw the attention of the lay people. Many will cleverly start chanting and pretend to be God's chosen ones and use His name to attract followers.
- In this Yuga, people will name themselves as *Raja rishi*, *Brahma rishi* and so on. These Gurus will use the name of God and bless the devotees and collect money from them. These Gurus will put their hand on the devotee's head and give them a false sense of hope. So finally, Gods name will be sold.
- In this Yuga, the person who speaks even a little truth will get great benefit. The individual who speaks even a single truth, will get the benefit of saying 1000 truths. In this Yuga there will be very few people who can utter at least a single truth per day. From sunrise to sunset uttering at least one truth will give the benefit of speaking the truth the whole day. But to even say this single truth the people in this Yuga are not equipped to do it.
- A worship is not completed without Tulasi. But in Kali Yuga worshipping God with Tulasi and worshipping Tulasi plant will be reduced. The more the Tulasi plants the more the Wealth. So, every home should have a Tulasi Plant.
- In this Yuga, people will be adamant and stubborn. They will promise on their Guru's feet, but will not follow Dharma and they are called as *SATULU* (Stubborn)
- In this Yuga, people behave as savages and they are high in number.

- In this Yuga, individuals will be filled with hypocrisy from head to toe. Most of the time their appearance will not have congruence with their nature. The purity should be internal not with the external things, but in this Yuga most of the people will not have internal Purity. People want to cheat others with their appearances. Whatever may be their appearance, the individual should be pure from inside.
- In this Yuga, all the individuals will have Ego. Few will have ego to some extent and few will have boundless ego (totally Egoistic).
- In this Yuga, knaves (dishonest or unscrupulous individuals) will increase.
- In this Yuga, violent people and violent behavior will increase.
- In this Yuga, individuals will get married without gender difference (man marrying man and woman marrying woman)
- In this Yuga, persons will not have respect on ownership and owner of things.
- In this Yuga, individuals will take others' things and belongings without informing them.
- In this Yuga, the head of the family is unknown and changes frequently. Mostly woman will be holding the ownership of the family.
- In this Yuga, some men will torture women and snatch their money from them. Few will kill women for money or wealth.
- In this Yuga, individuals will stop *SANDHYA VANDHANAM* (salutation during the time of Sandhya that is evening).
- In this Yuga, individuals will discard the *YAGNOPAVEETAM*. Yagna means sacred ritual and Upadesham means imparting knowledge. Yagnopaveetham is a sacred thread and should be white and fresh and it should not be used for any other purpose than being there on the body.
- In this Yuga, individuals who are from different communities will commit the sins which are prohibited in Hinduism.

- In this Yuga, very few will learn Sanskrit as a Language and people will learn other languages and will communicate in different languages except Sanskrit.
- In this Yuga, individuals will wear less clothes.
- In this Yuga, individuals will be interested in profession or occupations that should not be done according to Dharma.
- In this Yuga, there will only be a few people who will speak the truth.
- In this Yuga, to increase the produce of crops, chemicals will be used and so the quality of food will be reduced and polluted. The fruit bearing trees will not have natural fruits. The fruits will be grown in an artificial way.
- In this Yuga, the number of children people have will be reduced.
- The impotency in men will increase in this Yuga. As a result, people depend on medication for getting pregnant and some will depend on artificial way for getting pregnant.
- The natural milk in Cows will decrease and the artificial way of increasing the milk will come into practice in this Yuga.
- There will be less bonding between the couples in this Yuga. They will fight as if they are enemies.
- The water in the Rivers will decrease. A few will even become dry in this Yuga.
- Countries will be headed by the persons whose lineage comes from different religions and following many other religions during this Yuga.
- In this Yuga, people without Dharma and Virtue will increase. Out of lakhs there might be just one individual having these attributes.
- In this Yuga, the forests will be converted into Cities, Towns and Villages.
- In this Yuga, the cultivated lands will become fisheries. The fish and prawn production will be increased. The fields will be filled with this water and the crops

will not be produced. As a result, people will live on eating raw fish. The scholars who are reciting the *Puranas* will eat fish due to hunger. As the agricultural land is converted into fisheries, it will be flooded with water. So, the cultivation will be done in rivers and ponds with special plants.

- In this Yuga, the grazing lands will be converted into plots for sale.
- In this Yuga, all the persons will have money but without adequate food.
- In this Yuga, for women the menstrual cycle will start by the age of 8 years. The girls will become pregnant by the age of 8 and by 9 years they will lose the capacity to bear a child. By the age of 16 years both men and women will become old. They will die between the ages of 18 to 20.
- In Patala Lokam there will be a time wheel with 12 spokes (the sticks supporting the wheels). These spokes in the time wheel are the 12 months in a year. The time wheel is spun by *KALAPURUSHA*. Due to its movement, we get day and night. In the Kali Yuga this *Kalapurusha* will spin the time wheel fast. Hence the time will move very fast and sun rise and sun set will also happen very soon. So, 100 years of life seems to end in 20 years. People will become old very fast.
- The people will be very short in this Yuga. They will be 12 inches in height. People will use ladder to pluck the fruits.
- The woman will be pregnant without getting married and the men and women will have multiple relationships in this Yuga.
- The brothers will have lust on their own sisters. Some will fulfil their needs with their sisters. (Incest will be on the rise.)
- The sons will have physical relationship with mothers and step mothers. Due to this every home will become a house of sins during this Yuga.
- In this Yuga, every house is filled with sinners. Trust will not exist. The liars will increase.
- As the Yuga progresses everyone will become a thief.

- In this Yuga, the Universe will be filled with sinners.
- As the Kali Yuga progresses the height of the trees will be 12 inches and the human will be the size of the thumb in our hand.



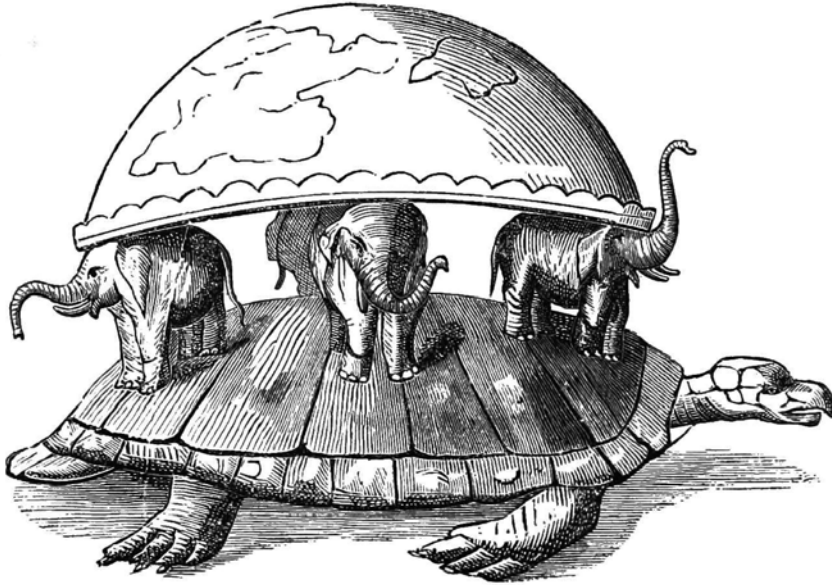
*Kalki Avatharam*

- When human will be reduced to the height of a thumb then Lord Vishnu will incarnate to establish Dharma on Earth. He will be born as a son to a Brahmin named *VISHNU YASUDU*. He will be named as *KALKI* and He will be super

strong. He will be born tall and He will have a strong white horse. He will hold a long sword in the shape of comet. He will start killing all the people who are against the Hindu religion and the people who eat Cows. He will take just three nights to kill all of them.

By killing all the sinners, the World will be free from sin. After this the sky will be enveloped with black clouds making a loud noise. The humans and the other living beings will be afraid of the loud noise. Lightning will occur, thunderstorms, hails and meteors fall from the sky. There will be a strange weather on the Earth. Heavy rain will fall for 6 days and 6 nights continuously.

The Earth has been carried by 8 elephants, known as *ASHTA DIKGAJAMULU*. They are *Airaavatham*, *Pundarikam*, *Vamanam*, *Kumudam*, *Anjanam*, *Pushpa-Dantam*, *Sarva-Bhaumam* and *Supratikam*. The names of four elephants supporting the Earth from the four directions are given in the Ramayana: *Viroopaaksha* (East), *Mahaapadma* (South), *SauMansa* (West), *Bhadra* (North). The rain looks as if these elephants are pouring water with their trunks. Due to continuous rains the Earth will be filled with water and merge into the sea.



*The Earth carried by four elephants*



There will be no houses, no ground and no trees. Then God will make 12 Suns appear in the sky. They will evaporate this water little by little. It will take 1000 Yugas, (means one Yuga is 43,20,000 human years and multiplied by 1000 (4,32,00,00,000) years). Once the water has dried the Earth will be visible again. Then Lord Brahma will start the Creation. The Yuga which comes after the Creation is *KRUTHA*. The attributes of human in Krutha Yuga are.

- Everyone will do Tapas. They are peace loving people and the Dharma will be re-established fully on the Earth. Dharma will be seen in business, work and in relationships. The scholars and people with virtues will increase. There will be solidarity in families and people will have glory.
- Everyone will have devotion on the Devi and everyone will chant the Devi Mantram. Everyone will follow Dharma and maintain relationships according to Dharma. Everyone will learn, read and have the full knowledge of *Puranas*, Vedas and Upanishads. This is the most sacred Yuga. So, “Oh Lakshmi! Whoever listens to this event with attention and belief will not go to Hell”.

This chapter is very sacred. Lord Vishnu explained these details to Goddess Lakshmi and the same was repeated to Sage Naradha. So, this was directly told by God. Hence whoever reads or listens to this chapter, by mistake also, will not go to Hell.

Sage Naradha asked, “How was the Earth Created? When was it Created? Will it be there forever? In Pralayam what will happen to the Earth”?.

Lord Vishnu replied, “The Earth was created from the *MAHAVIRATPURUSHA*. At the time of Pralayam I will be called by this name. During that time the whole Universe is filled with Me. I am omnipresent, that is why I am named as *Vishnuvu*” (meaning spread all over). It so happened that once He was lying at a place (it was not the Ocean of Milk then). From Lord Vishnu’s body, first water had formed. After sometime a great object was formed. This object has become the place for so many creatures. That is why it is called as *VASUDHA* (Earth). God has hair follicles on His body, which are helpful in excreting the sweat from the body. From



all these follicles energy came out and formed as a round lump. That is called as Earth. Initially the Earth was small in the size of a blueberry. Two Demons by name Madhu and Kaitaba were born from Lord Vishnu's ears. (The story told in the previous chapters). As the God killed them and their brains joined the Earth it became a larger object. From that time, it was called as *MEDHINI*, as the flesh from the brains merged with Earth.



*Varaha incarnation of Lord Vishnu*

This Earth will always be there. During *Pralayam* it will be submerged in the water and it will re-emerge. (Unknowingly a few people say that Hiranyaksha submerged the Earth in the sea; that is not correct). Due to *Pralayam* once the Earth was submerged in sea. Lord Brahma wanted to start the Creation, but there was no Earth. He prayed to Lord Vishnu, "How can I Create creatures without Earth? Please help me". Then Lord Vishnu emerged from the nose of Lord Brahma in the size of a small mosquito. From this small size of mosquito, He then expanded to a huge size and became as a white Varaham

(pig) known as *Swetha Varaha*. Lord Vishnu in the form of *Swetha Varaham* said "I accepted your prayer and emerged from your nose. I will bring the Earth out of the sea". Lord Varaha went deep into the sea and picked up the Earth with both hands and came out of the sea. So, Lord Vishnu protected the Earth in the form of *Varaha* incarnation. As He was bringing up the Earth from the sea, Hiranyaksha wanted to steal the Earth. Lord Vishnu killed Hiranyaksha and protected the Earth.

During the *Pralayam*, the Earth will plunge deep into the sea. Lord Vishnu will bring it back. In Varaha incarnation the Earth was held on Lord Varaha's tusks. The Earth said, "Oh God! I have been saved by You and You bore me, so You are my husband" Lord Varaha replied, "From today I will be Sri Bhuvallabhu" (Husband to Bhoomi, that is Earth). He accepted the Earth as His wife in his form of *Varaham*. Since then, He protected and carried Bhudevi; sometimes on His left thigh, sometimes on His left shoulder and sometimes on his tusks.



*Lord Varaha with Bhudevi*

A son was born to Bhudevi known as *MANGALUDU* or *KUJUDU* (Ku=Ground, Jha= Born) Mars. Even though Bhudevi was the wife of Lord Vishnu, *Kujha* was born to Lord Siva. Once Lord Siva was doing his Tapas on the Earth and while doing Tapas, like an ordinary human being, the body of Lord Siva started sweating. Lord Siva removed the sweat and dropped it on the Earth. Bhudevi: (Mother Earth) absorbed it and gave birth to a son instantly. He was named as *KUJHA*, planet Mars. That is why *Kujha* is known as son of Earth and son of Lord Siva.

Mangaludu had a son named *GHATESUDU*. He will always be beside his father. So, whenever we are greeting Mangaludu we have to greet his son *Ghatesa* also. The Mantra that has to be chanted is:

*Thath Puthro Mangalo Gneyo Ghateso Mangalatmaja*

What are the benefits of chanting this mantra? Without the planet *Kujha*'s (Mars) grace we cannot get back our lands. *Kujha* likes his son. Whenever someone is praising him, he will keep his son beside him. As this mantra has his son's name, he blesses that, "By chanting this mantra, the adverse effects of the planet *Kujha* (Mars) will be removed". Marriages will take place properly and the land disputes will be resolved and you will get your lands back. So, whenever we are praying to *Kujha* we have to chant this sloka and greet both *Kujha* and his son *Ghatesa*. By chanting this Sloka and praying to planet *Kujha* we will get back our land and we will get rid of our debts.

By listening to the story of Bhudevi, Sage Naradha was very happy, and asked, "Who worshipped the Earth first? What are the do's and don'ts on Earth? How to worship Bhudevi? Is there any Mantra for Bhudevi? Please tell me all these details for the welfare of the world". Whoever reads or listens to this will get good fortunes. Without the grace of Bhudevi we can neither go to Heaven or Hell. We are committing many offences on Earth and to come out of these offenses we have to read carefully the following story. Lord Narayana started talking about the special features of the Earth to Sage Naradha.

The Bhoomi (Earth) will be always in the form of a female. That is why we call it as Bhudevi. She is part of Maha Lakshmi and She is also known as Vasudha. *Vasuvu* means Gold, *dha* is home. So Vasudha is home for gold. *Vasuvu* also means life. Without Earth no living being can live. With living beings like trees, crops, animals and others we get food. Hence with food the Earth is giving life to all of us. We will be born on the Earth and we can live only on Earth. Due to all these dependencies the Earth is also known as Vasundhara. Every day after waking up you have to touch the ground and greet it. This person will get the grace of Earth and he will get his land and property back. Without greeting Bhudevi whoever does their daily routine will be betraying Mother Earth. They will not have the grace of Bhudevi and die with diseases. Hence after waking up in the morning, we have to touch the ground and greet it with joined hands. After taking bath we should say, "Oh Mother Earth! Because of You we are having our food; we are happy because of You; please protect us." There are certain things which we should not do on the Earth. They are:

- A pearl and its cover shell should not be directly placed on the ground and this is considered as a great sin.
- The idol of Lord Vishnu should not be placed on the ground directly.
- The Siva Lingam should not be directly placed on the ground.
- The idol of Goddess Parvathi Devi should not be directly placed on the ground.
- The conch should not be directly placed on the ground. If so the men in the family will become impotent and they will have sinners as children.
- The Deepam (lamp for worshipping God) should not be directly placed on the ground. Gold and Silver Deepams should not be placed on the ground. At least a leaf should be placed. This rule is not applicable to the lamp made with soil.
- Sri Chakram and other Yantras should not be directly placed on the ground.
- A Diamond should not be directly placed on the ground.
- The Yagnopaveetham should not be directly placed on the ground. If in an emergency, if it has to be placed on the ground it can be placed on Udhi (Bhasmam). Without Udhi if the Yagnopaveetham is kept on the ground he will reach the Kalasutram Hell and the soldiers there will tie the neck with a thin thread and torture that person.
- The flowers should not be directly placed on the ground. It may fall on ground from the plants or trees.
- The Books should not be directly placed on the ground. In next birth he will be born dumb. The children in the family will be uneducated and have speech disorders.
- The Tulasi leaves should not be directly placed on the ground.
- Japamala (chain used for japam), Garland, Camphor, Gold, Sandal wood, Saligramam water, should not be directly placed on the ground. Mother Earth said, "I cannot bear all these so keep them away from me". Listening to this God cursed that whoever places these things on the ground will be punished in

Kalasutram Hell for 100 years. If unknowingly we have done it all these days, then how do we come out of this sin? Lord Vishnu has created and written and given a mantra to Bhudevi. Whoever chants this Bhudevi Mantra, will get redemption immediately from the mistakes previously done. This mantra is called as *Vasudha Mantra* or *Bhudevi Mantra*. This mantra was told by Lord Vishnu when he was in the form of Varaha. First Lord Vishnu created this mantra, chanted this mantra and worshiped Bhudevi and then gave it to the world. He did this worship near the Swamy Pushkarini in Tirumala. This is an example of a Husband worshipping the Wife, which has to be learned by all mankind.

***Bhudevi Mantra:***

***Om Hreem Sreem Kleem Vasundhara Swaha***

Lord Vishnu chanted this Mantra millions of times. *Swaha* cannot be chanted all the time so it can be changed to *Namaha*. Whoever chants this mantra in the morning will get the grace of Mother Earth. The mistakes so far done to Mother Earth will be removed. Mother Earth will bless us with precious stones.

***Bhudevi Dhyanam***

*Jaye Jaye Jaladhare, Jala Seele, Jala Pradhe  
Yagna Sukara Jaye Thvam Jayam Dehe Jaya Vahe*

*Mangale Mangaladhare, Mangalye Mangalapradhe,  
Mangalardham Mangalese Mangalam Dehi Me Bahve*

*Sarwadhare Cha Sarvagne Sarwashakthi Samanvithe,  
Sarwakamapradhe Devi Sarveshtam Dehi Me Bhave*

*Punya Swarupe Punyananam Bijarupe Sanathani  
Punyaasraye Punyavathamalaye Punyade Bhave*

*Sarwa Sasya Laye Sarwa Sasyadye Sarwa Sasyade  
Sarwa Sasya Hare Kale Sarwa Sasyathmike Bhave*



*Bhoo Me Bhoomie Pa Sarwasve Bhoomi Pala Parayane  
Bhoomi Pavaam Sukhakare Bhumim Dhehi Cha Bhumide*

These Slokas were written by Lord Vishnu. With these Slokas Lord Vishnu meditated on Goddess Bhudevi. We have to do *Bhudevi Dhyanam* first and chant *Bhudevi Mantra* later. If it is not possible, we can chant only *Bhudevi Mantra* also.

*Oh Mother Earth! You are the form of victory. The one who meditates on You will have success all the time and will not face failure. You are present wherever the water is present and You are the source of water. You give us water and quench our thirst and will make the crops grow. You are the wife of Lord Vishnu who is in Swetha Varaha form, Greetings to You. Give us accomplishment, you are the form of good fortune and source for good fortune, You give happiness and good fortune. You are created to give us good fortunes, Greetings to You. You are the origin for books, trees, water, fire, crops and all these will exist only if You are there. No one can give us all these. To rule, to perform Yagnas, to build houses we need Earth, Greetings to You.*

*Idham Sthotram Mahapunyam Prathuruthaya yah pathet  
Koti janmasu sa bhavedhbalavan Bhumi peswaraha*

The one who reads this Sthotram (Dhyanam) in the morning after taking bath will get the grace of Goddess Bhudevi for a crore years. It is not easy to get salvation for Human beings. Goddess Bhudevi will show Her grace in Heaven and also on Earth. The individual will get the effect of performing 100 *ASWAMEDHA YAGAS* and Lord Vishnu had also said that, the virtue that comes from chanting one lakh Sthotram will come by chanting this one Sthotram. Once a person has done this, he is born on Earth, acquires lands, wealth, becomes a King and have all the sins removed. Great sins that will be removed by chanting this Sthotram (Dhyanam) are

- The sin of not donating land and occupying others land unknowingly.
- Taking water from other's well without informing them.
- Digging the land on Aswayuja and Phalguna month and certain other days.
- Leaving the seminal fluid on ground.

- The sin from placing the lamps on the ground
- The individual will be delivered from great sins.

*How to get the grace of Goddess Bhudevi?*

- The one who donates a small piece of land will attain great virtue and they will not have re-birth.
- Donating land with the crop. The individual who does so will be in Lord Vishnu's World permanently. The person will stay in Vaikuntam as many years as equal to the number of dust particles in the land he donated.
- The one who donates a village, land and grains to a scholar will be in the World of the Devi permanently. In Kali Yuga donating a small piece of land will also give the same benefits or one can also donate the money equal to the value of the land. (The money should be donated by pouring water in the hand as a symbol of donation). If a small piece of land in a place like Kasi or money equal to that is donated, not only the person who donated but his clan and his friends also will reach Vaikuntam. Knowingly or unknowingly if he takes back the donation, he will be punished in Kalasutram Hell until the Sun and Moon exist.
- Goddess Bhudevi likes the person who donates water. Hence the individual who donates water will be felicitated by Lord Vishnu for 1000 years and then reaches *Manidweepam*.
- The one who feeds cattle will acquire great virtue and have grace of Lord Krishna. He will reach Golokam, because Goddess Bhudevi likes it.
- The one who excretes in the Rivers and in Pushkarini will acquire great sin and the rituals after death also will not liberate them. To get the atonement from these sins one should donate land or the money equal to it.
- The Pinda (Pindas are balls of cooked rice and/or barley flour mixed with ghee and black sesame seeds offered to ancestors during Hindu rites) should not be placed on the ground. If done he will be in Hell permanently. To get the atonement from this sin, on a Saturday, black sesame seeds can be donated with money to a priest who takes it.



- The sin of placing lamps on the bare ground can result in being born blind for seven births.
- The one who places the conch on the ground will suffer from leprosy.
- The one who places diamond, gold, pearl, on the ground will suffer from eye problems.
- The one who places the Siva Lingam and the Idol of Goddess Parvathi on the ground will suffer from sores and worms will come out of it.
- The one who places the Yantram, Tulasi, Saligramam, water and flowers on the ground will be in Hell forever. To get the atonement from these sins one should donate clothes and books. Before donating he has to bow to the ground, greet and say, “We have placed the things which should not be placed on the ground. To get the atonement from those sins we are donating these clothes and books”. He will then get rid of this sin.
- The one who places the *Yagnopaveetham* on the ground will get terrible Hell. They will suffer from arthritis and problems related to nose, like cold and cough. To get the atonement from this sin, donate *Yagnopaveetham* with gold. These are the details related to Earth told by Lord Vishnu.

Now Lord Vishnu started telling about the greatness of River Ganga. The most favorite for God is River Ganga. This River Ganga was incarnated from the feet of Lord Vishnu. Then Ganga reached Himalayas and on to the head of Lord Siva. From there it started flowing on Earth and on the way several rivers joined in it. This is a Sacred Woman in the form of a River. Knowingly or unknowingly, whoever takes a holy dip in it will get all the good fortunes. As it had been clearly mentioned earlier, without the *Sankalpam*, remembering the Guru and meditating on Lord Hari, taking a holy dip will not benefit the devotee. It is equal to *ROKALI* (A wooden pestle, a rice-pounder) bath. But in *Haridwar*, (On the way from Delhi to Rishikesh which is one of the *Saptha Moksha Puras* and it is also known as *MAYA PURAM*) *Sukha Sthala* (Sage Sukha preached Bhagavatham to Parikshit), *Varanasi*,

(River Ganga bath ghats in Kasi) even without *Sankalpam*, a normal dip also will give a great virtue.



*Women pounding rice with Rokali*

Lord Vishnu has given this blessing and power to these places and the River Ganga. The one, who is taking holy dip whenever possible, will get the grace of Lord Vishnu and River Ganga. There is no procedure to take bath in these places, like taking the *Sankalpam* or remembering the Guru or Lord Hari. Taking a dip like a crow will also give great benefit.

Sage Naradha asked Lord Narayana, “Oh Lord Vishnu! You like Tulasi, You will be happy if someone offers You Tulasi, you will be happy with Tulasi water as *THEERTHAM* (holy water that is offered in temples and after pujas). Who is this Tulasi? What is the relationship between Tulasi and *Saligramam*? Devotees worship Tulasi and grow Tulasi in their homes. They call Tulasi as their Mother. Please tell me about Tulasi”. Lord Narayana replied, “Once upon a time in Golokam there was an associate of Radha Devi by name Brunda (Brundavanam is on her name). She was constantly worshipping Goddess Radha and Lord Krishna. Brunda adores both of them. She will be thrilled by remembering them. Once Lord Krishna was singing a song. His song was so melodious that the dried trees became alive and bore new shoots and new leaves. Snakes began dancing and stones started melting. The Gopikas who heard His words and songs were not willing to leave Him and go. Brunda who was listening to Lord Krishna’s song had forgotten herself. Meanwhile

Goddess Radha asked Brunda to get some water from the River Kalindhi. (There was a sacred river in Golokam that is Kalindhi, on Earth it is known as Yamuna) to wash the feet of Lord Krishna. As Brunda was mesmerized by the song she did not hear Goddess Radha's words.

Goddess Radha again asked, "Brunda get some water". Again She asked, and She got angry this time. So She said, "I asked you get water to wash the feet of my God, but you did not listen. Listening to the song you are mesmerized. You did not obey My orders. So go and be born like a human and get married to a Demon". Goddess Radha thus cursed Brunda. Brunda was shocked by the curse and said, "Oh Radha! I cannot live without listening to Lord Krishna's song but You cursed me so badly. Please take Your curse back".



*Lord Krishna with the Gopikas*

Goddess Radha felt pity and replied by giving a boon, "There is a reason behind this curse. You will be born as daughter of Dharmadwajudu and will be named as Tulasi. You will marry a Demon named Shankachududu and then you will become

the most auspicious plant named as Tulasi. Your body will become a River and be useful to the world. Lord Krishna has an associate by name Sudama. He is a good person. Lord Krishna likes sandal wood. Once I asked Sudama, to bring sandal wood. Sudama did not hear and he was looking at Lord Krishna with devotion. I was angry, so I cursed him to be born as a Demon. Sudama pleaded. So, I replied, “In future you will marry a woman who has come from this World. After that birth again both of you will reach Lord Krishna. Sudama you will be born as Demon Shankachududu and Brunda will be born as Tulasi to King Dharmadwajudu and you both will become a couple. A few great things are to happen because of both of you and after this birth you will reach Golokam. Brunda will unite in Me and Sudama in Lord Krishna”.

Because of the boon by Goddess Radha, Brunda was born as daughter to King Dharmadwajudu. At the same time Sudama was born to Jalandhar as Shankachududu.

*DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XXII CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*



## CHAPTER 23

### KEY POINTS

Why did Radha curse Sudama and Brunda?  
The Birth Story of Tulasi  
Why we should fulfil our responsibilities?  
Why we should not steal flowers to worship God?  
How Saligramam emerged?  
How Tulasi became an Auspicious Plant?  
The miracles of Tulasi plant  
How was Savitri able to see Yama Dharma Raja?  
What is this human life about?

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

The conversation between Sage Naradha and Lord Vishnu resulted in the narration of incredible and auspicious stories. These stories are filled with Divine power and energy. They are the essence of all the Mantras. The story of Tulasi is one among them. Radha Devi cursed Her associate Brunda to be born on Earth and marry a Demon. She also cursed Krishna's associate Sudama to be born as a Demon and marry Brunda. Many doubts will come to those who listen to this story. Should Radha Devi blatantly curse Brunda just for not responding to Her call and being ignorant about the call? As long as the body is there, doubts will be there for human beings. Vyasa Maharshi cleared these doubts through a story.

Once, there was a King in the Ikshvaku dynasty who ruled his Kingdom in accordance with Dharma. During his time, bandits came from the desert or the Himalayas to invade the Kingdom. These bandits destroyed temples, disrupted Yagnas and stole all the money. The dacoits used to come and destroy things frequently, so the King appointed guards near the borders of Himalayas and their job was to patrol the area day and night. If they saw someone coming towards the border, they would alert the border security guards by blowing trumpets to attack the bandits and destroy them. One of the guards was a young boy.

One day this boy came to the King at dawn and said, “Maharaja, whatever I say it will become true. I get dreams early in the morning, and whatever comes in these dreams will become true. God gave me that power so I came running to you”. The King asked, “What dream did you get?”. The Boy replied “The day after tomorrow, on the day of the new moon, some dacoits will come to invade our Kingdom. I saw this dream early in the morning so it will become true. Hence if you take care from now on and guard with an army near the border, we can conquer the enemies”. King asked, “Where do you stay”. The boy replied, “Near the border, I am the early morning guard”.

The King sent an army and as predicted by the boy the enemies came on that particular day. As the King was careful beforehand, he massacred his enemies and saved his Kingdom. The King called this boy and fired him from his job. The lad was disappointed and said, “Oh King! Because of my prediction you got this success. Instead of promotion you are firing me”. The King replied, “Your duty is to guard the border. But how did you get the dream? It is because you were sleeping. When you are sleeping the other guards may also feel sleepy. My Kingdom might be invaded by the enemies. Therefore, sleeping during guarding hours is an unforgivable offence. So, you cannot continue you as a guard”. The King continued, “You will be sentenced for one year in prison for sleeping during the guarding hours. Because you saved my Kingdom with your dream, after the one year of punishment I will arrange everything to live a comfortable life”. Even though the guard saved the Kingdom the punishment is for not performing his duty as a guard correctly.



Here comes the real sense behind Goddess Radha's curse. Always the mistake should be punished and the favor should be rewarded. This is a great lesson for all. Everyone should fulfil their responsibilities. It is the duty of Brunda and Sudama to serve guests by giving sandalwood and taking care of their comforts during the dance performance, but they forgot their duty and were mesmerized by Lord Krishna's song. Even though Goddess Radha was merciful and had love towards them, yet She cursed them for their mistake. The greatest worship of all is fulfilling the given responsibility. The sin is like a sludge. Sometimes the Guru's curse will purify the sins of a disciple. Gold becomes shining and an ornament only after the process of purification by heating and beating. If it is not purified, it has low value. Therefore, human life is like raw gold to be purified and shaped into jewelry by the curse of the Guru.

So, Brunda cursed earlier, was born as Tulasi to the King Dharmadwajudu and Queen Madhavi. From an early age she had high devotion towards Lord Krishna. She was thrilled by remembering Lord Krishna's name. She meditated and worshipped Lord Krishna and His Divine form in her mind. A few may get a doubt that this story happened in Krutha Yuga. Did Lord Krishna exist then? We all know that He belongs to the Dwapara Yuga. In Golokam Lord Krishna and Goddess Radha exist forever. Initially Lord Krishna was like an infant on the Fig (Banyan tree) leaf and in the due course of time He took four forms as *Narayana*, *Hari*, *Vasudeva* and *Nara*.

One day her mother told Tulasi, "Everyone born on Earth must do Tapas to fulfil their desires and you also do the Tapas for Lord Brahma". Tulasi did Tapas for Lord Brahma and He appeared and asked, "What boon do you want? She replied, "I want Lord Krishna to be my husband. Once listening to His song, I was mesmerized and have been cursed by Goddess Radha. Due to the curse, I was born as a human being on Earth. So, I need Lord Krishna to be a companion of my soul". Lord Brahma replied, "One of the elements of Lord Krishna, who was an associate (Sudama) to Lord Krishna was born as Demon on Earth due to the curse of Goddess Radha. You will get married to him and stay on Earth for a thousand years happily. Then both of you will become sacred things which will be used in worship of God (Pooja) and your souls will join Lord Krishna in Golokam". Tulasi happily returned home and



worshipped Lord Krishna's idol daily in the *Krishnam Vandhe Jagath Gurum form*. Everyone likes this form of Lord Krishna. Brunda saw this form when she was in Golokam so she worshipped the same form.

During this period there was a monster named Viprachithi. He was a great disciple of Emperor Bali. For the welfare of the World Lord Vishnu took the incarnation of *Vamana* avatar. By seeing this form of Lord Vishnu, Viprachithi started worshipping Lord Vishnu and he was constantly meditating on this form. As a result of this meditation, he was blessed with a son named Dhambudu. When Dhambudu entered into water, it would freeze. So, they called him Jalandharudu. He was able to live in water, as we live on ground. He had high devotion towards Lord Krishna. Sudama after being cursed by Goddess Radha, was born to Jalandharudu by the name Shankachududu. He was blue in color like Lord Krishna and was also very handsome. He also did Tapas to Lord Brahma, and when Lord Brahma appeared he expressed his wish to unite with Lord Krishna.

Lord Brahma replied, "That is not easy, as you are born as a Demon and born with a curse. Anyway, I will give you an idol of Lord Krishna. Take this idol, place this in your home and worship it. You will marry a most gorgeous woman. You both will fulfil the responsibility of following *Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha*. Without entering into *Gruhasthu Ashram* you cannot attain salvation".

But Shankachududu requested Lord Brahma to make him a Sanyasi.

Lord Brahma replied, "I will give you an Idol of Lord Krishna, take it and go home. If you have a strong desire to be Sanyasi until you reach home, I will come and offer you *Sanyasa Ashram*".

Shankachududu replied, "I will maintain my celibacy until I reach home."

Lord Brahma gave him the idol and said, "Your desire to be a Sanyasi will not be fulfilled. On the way you will get attracted to a woman and you will marry her. Once you get married to her you will have life as long as she is with chastity. Once she loses her chastity you will die. You will die in the hands of Lord Siva. The thought what you have now is not permanent. If you are not getting attracted to this woman then you will be united with Lord Krishna immediately".



*Krishnam Vandhe Jagath Gurum*

Shankachududu thought, “Lord Brahma said his view. I will not get attracted to a woman. Nothing can distract me and I am going to unite in Lord Krishna. He decided to follow the path of celibacy”. So Shankachududu took the idol and started for his home. On the way he got attracted by a floral fragrance and started walking towards it. He saw a beautiful garden with lots of different flowering plants. This garden belonged to King Dharmadwajudu and he started wandering in the garden. At the same time Tulasi was also in the garden. He saw Tulasi, was mesmerized with her beauty and got attracted. God has created man and woman, gave them attraction and bonding to enter into Family life (*Gruhasthu ashram*) and in turn continue his Creation. This is the Greatest Dharma in the Universe. Lord Vishnu developed this system, we cannot destroy this system. Till then Shankachududu was thinking of being celibate and uniting in Lord Krishna. All those thoughts vanished when he saw Tulasi and this is a great illusion (*Maha Maya*).

Shankachududu came to Tulasi and asked, “Oh Beauty! Who are you?”

Tulasi replied, “Who are you?”

Shankachududu said, “I am the grandson of Viprachithi and son of Jalandharudu and my name is Shankachududu. I got boons from Lord Brahma. Oh Beauty! Before seeing you, I thought of being a Sanyasi and was not willing to get in to *Gruhasthu Ashram*. I constantly wanted to meditate on Lord Vishnu and wished to unite with Lord Krishna. But after seeing you I feel what Lord Brahma said is true. *Gruhasthu Ashram* is the best. If you do not have a problem, will you marry me?”

Tulasi replied, “We should not believe men. When they see a woman, they say beauty you are my life. They will promise to obey all the wishes of the wife. Once the attraction comes down, they will leave the woman and go. Man likes new things all the time so I will not believe you and will not marry you”. Tulasi denies his wish to get married.

Shankachududu said, “Lord Brahma also said about you I am not like other men. I am an element of Lord Krishna”. And he told her about the pre-birth curse of Goddess Radha. He also said, “I will not look at other females and will follow whatever you say. We will have a good family life”. And Tulasi remembered what

Lord Brahma told her. They both got married in Gandharva Style. They also got the permission from their parents. (A Gandharva marriage is one of the eight classical types of Hindu marriage. This ancient marriage tradition from the Indian subcontinent was based on mutual attraction between two people, with no rituals, witnesses or family participation). Once married they started living happily.

Meanwhile the rest of the Demon race, followers of the Emperor Bali like Viprachithi, Sambrasurudu, Hayagrivudu joined together and thought, “After a long time we got a warrior in this clan. If we make Shankachududu as a King, we can again conquer the Heaven”. With this thought, they had approached Sukracharya (Guru of the Demons) and told him about it. Sukracharya liked the thought and along with the others reached Shankachududu. Looking at his Guru, Shankachududu greeted and said, “Guru what can I do for you?”

Sukracharya replied, “You are born to develop our clan and you should not be an ordinary person. Many times, Lord Brahma and Lord Siva gave boons to the Demon clan but Lord Vishnu is destroying them. The Demons have been beaten many times by Lord Vishnu. We thought at least you can be the saviour of this demon clan and the Demon World. But now you are married and got into this family life. The one who is born in a royal family and a valiant must defend his race with prowess and develop his clan. The one who does not have respect for his clan is equal to being dead. This is your Dharma to protect our Danava clan. By becoming the King, we have a chance to maintain the respect for our clan and can also conquer Heaven again”.

Shankachududu agreed and became the King of the Demons and went to war against the Gods. A fierce battle took place and went on for a few years. There was no death for Shankachududu so long as Tulasi did not lose her chastity. Also, as per his boon he will die only in the hands of Lord Siva. So, they were able to conquer Heaven easily.

All the Gods had to leave Heaven and hide in the woods. One day all of them went to Lord Brahma to find a way to defeat Shankachududu because He had given these boons to him. They expressed their hardships and said, “Oh Lord! What is

this injustice for us. The Demons are invading us and destroying us. Now the King is strange. He came from Golokam to Bhulokam (Earth) and became the King of the Demons. Actually, he was a devotee of Lord Krishna. Since he was born in the Demon clan he started fighting against the Gods. We were destroyed by him thanks to the boons you gave him. How are We to get back our Heaven?”

Lord Brahma replied, “Shankachududu will die only in the hands of Lord Siva with his Trishul, so all of you go and pray to Lord Siva”.

All of them convinced Lord Brahma to join them and went to visit Lord Siva at Kailasam. They prayed to Lord Siva with devotion and conveyed their wish to re-conquer Heaven.

“Oh God! You are worshiped and greeted by Indra and other Gods, Greetings to You. You wear moon on Your hair, nurture the devotees, You always give and never take anything from others. You are a great donor and You give Your life for the sake of others. You put yourself in trouble by giving boons, such as the ones where if one placed a hand on the head of another person then that person will be burnt to ashes, Greetings to You. In the recent times the Demon Shankachududu, has invaded Heaven. We completely lost the war and are hiding in the woods. Please kill this Demon and protect us and get back our Heaven.” Lord Siva accepted to their plea and before going to the battle He called Pushpadantha (one of the Gandharvas and a great devotee of Lord Siva who wrote *Siva Mahimna Sthotram* in Pushpadantha Virachitam in Sanskrit) to mediate.

Pushpadantha a great devotee of Lord Siva was given an opportunity to go to Earth. After reaching Earth, he desired to perform rituals for Lord Siva with the flowers from the planet. So, he started searching for a good garden to get beautiful and fragrant flowers. On searching he found a garden which belonged to a King. This King was also a great devotee of Lord Siva and built a Siva Temple near his palace. He developed a beautiful garden with many flowering plants to enable his worship of Lord Siva.

Every day Pushpadantha went to this garden and plucked the flowers and reached Kailasam (Place where Lord Siva lives) and finished his puja rituals to Lord Siva.



Stealing flowers for the worship of God is a great sin. This rule is applicable for the flowers and plants in temples too. Nothing can be taken or used without the permission of the owner, especially flowers, Bilva leaves or any objects for worship. Pushpadantha did not want the flowers from Kailasam or Gandharva Lokam. He wished to worship Lord Siva with the best flowers from the Earth.

In Kali Yuga people have many doubts about having a Siva Lingam at home. But having a Siva Lingam at home is very auspicious. In Kasi there is no house without a Siva Lingam. *Puranas* stated that we should not eat food in the house where there is no Siva Lingam. Every home should be a temple. Having a Saligramam and idol of Lord Vishnu and the Devi is also very auspicious. Devotees offer different *Naivedyam* to the God. The Devi loves Her devotees unconditionally. She will accept a flower or leaf given with devotion. By this offering the devotee earns good health. We have to worship God and then have our food. The home without God is equal to a Grave yard.

The King developed a beautiful garden with different flowering plants, especially Hibiscus. Lord Siva likes Hibiscus flowers (this flower is also known as *KAMARAJA PUSHPAM*, means the flower that will fulfil the wishes. So, after offering waters from the River Ganga to the Siva Lingam, one has to place a Hibiscus flower). This, has been clearly written in *Siva Panchakshari Mantram* (written by Shankaracharya). The King was normally plucking the flowers early in morning for his worship. But, Pushpadantha was plucking all the flowers even before the King came to the garden. The King was upset because he was not having enough flowers to worship Lord Siva. He observed one day that the plants were full of buds but by the morning they had all disappeared. So he asked the guards there where had all the flowers gone? “Without your help, no one can enter the garden. Have you been helping someone to take away the flowers? The guards said, “Oh King! We are innocent and we are not helping anyone and we are loyal. The flowers are there in the garden until early morning till about 2 a.m. but they are disappearing after that and we cannot see anyone plucking them”. The King asked the guards to be more cautious. Pushpadantha is a Gandharvudu so humans were not able to see him. The King then called his Guru and told him all about the disappearing flowers. And asked his advice about what he should do to prevent flowers from vanishing.

The Guru told the King, “This is not an act of a human; someone is doing this in an invisible form”.

So, the King asked, “Guru how can I know who is doing this and I want a solution for this problem”.

The Guru replied, “The Gods will not set their foot on the ground, so you get flowers from other places and finish your worship to Lord Siva. Next day collect these flowers (these flowers are called *Siva Nirmalyam*) and spread it all over the garden on the plants in such a way that without stepping on these used flowers no one can pluck the flowers. None should touch these flowers with their foot. Once they touch, they lose their powers and become a normal human. Then you can catch him and save your garden”.

The King followed the instructions given by his Guru. He worshiped Lord Siva for three to four days and collected all the flowers (after the worship) and spread it all over the garden. Pushpadantha was unaware about this, reached the garden in an invisible form and started collecting the flowers as usual. Unknowingly his foot touched the flowers spread by the King and he suddenly lost his powers and turned into a normal human and fell from the tree. Pushpadantha was shocked and realized that he had lost his powers and he was not able to fly in the air and also lost his invisible form. He was worried about punishment that would be given by the King for stealing the flowers. So he hid behind a bush.

Pushpadantha started thinking, “What should I do now? I have stolen flowers to worship the God. Stealing flowers to worship God is a great sin and it has put me in trouble”. He started praying to Lord Siva and this prayer is known as *SIVA MAHIMNA STOTRAM*. Lord Siva appeared and Pushpadantha told Him about his situation and pleaded with Lord Siva to make him a Gandharva again. Lord Siva gave his previous powers back and said, “Stamping on *Siva Nirmalyam* is a great sin. Due to your devotion and prayer, I have come to save you. This Stotram has great glory. You should not steal flowers to worship God. To get rid of the sin I will call the King and ask him to forgive you. Both of you are My devotees. I will mediate between the both of you, hereafter you both can pray together”. As promised Lord Siva called the King and showed him the person who was plucking the flowers from



the garden and said, “I did not curse Pushpadantha as he is an innocent devotee and I request you to forgive him”. Then the King and Pushpadantha become good friends and started worshipping Lord Siva together.

There was a Sanyasi who worshiped and did Tapas to Goddess *MOKSHA LAKSHMI* (the names of Goddess Lakshmi are *Siddha Lakshmi*, *Moksha Lakshmi*, *Jaya Lakshmi* and *Saraswathi*). The one who does Tapas for *Moksha Lakshmi* will get deliverance and attain salvation. *Moksha Lakshmi* appeared and said, “You have to experience the benefits of good and bad virtues. You have done a few virtues so you have to enjoy the benefits of it. You will get wealth and comforts and you will enjoy it for 1000 years. As you are enjoying the wealth do not leave your virtue and do some charity. You will get deliverance and salvation after 1000 years”. The Sanyasi was very happy and said, “I am happy that I am going to get salvation after 1000 years but I have a few doubts. As You have granted me Your Darshan in person, I will ask those doubts, please clarify them”. Goddess Maha Lakshmi was pleased with him and She said, “I will clear your 9 doubts in the form of stories. After that I will disappear”. Goddess Lakshmi cleared the Sanyasi’s nine doubts and disappeared. (These nine stories were written as poetries known as *MANAVA KATHA* (MA=Lakshmi, NAVA= Nine, other meaning is New) by **Pujya Guru Ji Sri Vaddiparthi Padmakar Garu**).

The one who knowingly or unknowingly plucks flowers for the worship or take others things without informing them, or does mistakes while worshipping, all these sins will be removed by reciting the *Siva Mahimna Sthotram*.

Lord Siva further told Pushpadantha, “Go and inform Shankachududu that he was from Golokam. But in this life, he was born as a Demon. Going against the Gods is a great sin. So, ask him to surrender Heaven.” As a messenger of Lord Siva, Pushpadantha reached Shankachududu and said, “This is Indra’s tenure. Until he finishes his tenure you should not take it. Anyway, you have done it so there are two options left for you. Either you and your followers stay happily in Patala Lokam or you have to fight against Lord Siva”. Shankachududu was reluctant to leave Heaven and go to the Netherworld. He was completely transformed under the influence of the Demons. He opted for a battle with Lord Siva.

Tulasi did not like the idea and tried to convince Shankachududu saying, “Lord Siva always fulfils the wishes of Demons and going against Him is not a good thought. Lord Vishnu will kill the Demons but Lord Siva will not, hence do not fight with such a God. Please listen to me and take refuge in Lord Siva.” But Shankachududu did not listen to her also and decided to battle with Lord Siva. When the time is not in our favor we will not even listen to the Gods. The company we are in will have extreme effects on us. However good a person may be but they will change because of the company they are with. Shankachududu was the best example of that.

On the Mount Mandara, the battle between Lord Siva and Shankachududu continued for hundred years. Whenever Lord Siva severed (cutoff) Shankachududu’s head with his Trishul (Lord Siva’s weapon) it glued itself to the body again. Lord Siva tried it many times and was wondering why He was not able to sever Shankachududu’s head. He called Lord Vishnu to know about the reason. Lord Vishnu said, “You cannot take the life of Shankachududu until Tulasi is chaste and this boon was given by Lord Brahma. Hence as long as she is chaste, we cannot kill him. Now, We have to defile Tulasi and I will take care of that. You continue with the war”.

Lord Vishnu disguised himself as Shankachududu and went home. Tulasi’s servants informed her that Shankachududu was back from the battlefield. By looking at him she thought that her husband was back. She then asked him, “You went to the battlefield without listening to me. You came back? Hopefully you might have won on the Gods. There are many warriors in the army of the Gods like Lord Ganesha, Lord Kumaraswamy, Indra and others. How did you win on the army of the Gods all alone? How were you successful in the war? You said that you will not come back without winning the war. As you have come back means you have won the war. How is it possible for you?”Tulasi innocently asked.

Shankachududu (Lord Vishnu in disguise) replied, “Your chastity had saved my life. Lord Siva and me were fighting fiercely for one hundred years and He tried to cut off my head a number of times but it glued itself automatically. This happened only because of you. Finally, one day, I laughed at Lord Siva and told Him, until you are chaste no one can kill me. By listening to this, Lord Siva said, “I like the

Demon clan that is why I give boons to Demons. Even your Guru Sukracharya was my disciple. So, I have forgiven you”. And asked me to continue in Heaven and Gods will live henceforth on Earth. This is your greatness; I got the power to conquer Lord Siva”. After hearing this Tulasi felt very happy. Also, Shankachududu expressed his pain of separation towards her, leading to their cohabitation.

Lord Siva was successful in severing Shankachududu’s head as soon as Lord Vishnu defiled Tulasi. A messenger from the battle came running to Tulasi to inform her about this incident and started knocking at her door. When she woke up from her sleep and looked at her husband (Lord Vishnu in disguise) she saw only Lord Vishnu there (there is a saying that when people sleep, they are in their original form with the exception of Lord Siva, Lord Vishnu and Lord Brahma. But as she had to know the truth Lord Vishnu was in his original form of Lord Krishna with four hands). Looking at Lord Vishnu she was shocked and asked “Who are you? Where is my husband Shankachududu?” Lord Vishnu showed only His original form to her.

Lord Vishnu was dark in color, with white eyes looking like white Lotus flower, very handsome, body adorned with different ornaments made of gold and precious stones, wearing a yellow attire and had four hands and a peacock feather in the crown. Lord Vishnu appeared in the form of Lord Krishna and Lord Narayana.

Shaken, Tulasi looked at Him and said, “Oh Wicked One! You are the God I worship. I always remember Your name and chant Your name, but to kill my husband You came in His form. Now I understood why the messenger is knocking at the door. You spoiled my chastity (defiled me) and got my husband killed by unjust methods. For a virtuous woman, husband is God. You are the main reason for my husband’s death. You have no heart, no pity, you are stone hearted. You never showed any empathy towards your devotees, so I curse You to become a stone immediately”.

Lord Vishnu after receiving the curse explained why he had to do this. “You have meditated for thousands of years on this Earth for Me. Due to this meditation, you were born as Radha’s companion, with the name Brunda. As Brunda you made a small mistake and was cursed by Goddess Radha. Due to the curse, you were



*Lord Krishna in Narayana form*

born as Tulasi in this current life and are still praying to Me continuously; for that reason I came to your home. There is no difference between Us. I am in you and you are in Me. I created you. I was pleased by your devotion, so, I came to your home. Shankachududu was also born with the curse from Goddess Radha. You have to now end this life and go back to your World (*GOLOKAM*). If the both of you are not ending this life you may again commit sins in this lifetime and have to go to Hell. Again, you will be born on this Earth and this cycle will be continued. To avoid all this, I have indirectly helped you by taking his life”.

Lord Vishnu continued, “You cursed Me to become a stone. You are my devotee so I have to accept it. I will become a stone. But leave your breath through the yoga technique by closing the nine holes in your body (eyes, ears, nose, mouth, anus and the urethra). Your breath will break your head and leave your body. Your soul will reach your World and gets its previous form (Brunda in Golokam) and body will fall on the ground. I am giving a great boon to it. The body will turn into a river called Gandaki in this Kingdom (India). (At present the river is in Nepal, initially Nepal was a part of India). I am going to leave this body and transform into stones in this River Gandaki and will be there forever (*Saligramam* or *Saligrama*, are stones inside which exists a fossilized shell considered as an iconic symbol and reminder of Lord Vishnu by the Hindus. *Saligramams* are usually collected from river-beds or from the banks of River Gandaki in Nepal. They are considered to be the form of Lord Vishnu and worshipping them at home is considered very auspicious.)”

The water offered and used for *ABHISHEKAM* (bathing of the Divinity to which worship is offered) to *Saligramam* should be used as *THEERTHAM* (it is referred to as the physical holy water associated with a temple or Deity). The water used for *Abhishekam* of *Saligramam* is the real *theertham*. Anything else is normal water. The devotee should believe that this *theertham* is equal to the waters of River Ganga and will remove all the sins when received and given with devotion. Without Mantra and devotion, any *theertham* will be normal water.

Lord Vishnu added, “After your death, hair from your head will fall on this Earth and turn into the most sacred plant on this Earth. This plant will be beautiful with aromatic leaves known as Tulasi”. “Tulasi’s hair was in different shades of black, white,



grey and in total they were in 108 colors. This turned into 108 varieties of Tulasi plants (like Krishna Tulasi, Vishnu Tulasi, Swetha Tulasi, Arka Tulasi and so on). Out of these varieties, Krishna Tulasi, Vishnu Tulasi and Swetha Tulasi will be most popular. When death is approaching and near, putting basil or the Tulasi water into the mouth of the dying ensures that they will not see Lord Yama and the individual will go straight to Heaven (Vaikuntam)). Because of you the whole World will come out of the fear of death, apart from the plant becoming the greatest of all on Earth.”

He further added saying,

- People who plant and water Tulasi plants and use Tulasi for worshipping God will reach Me.
- These plants will be there in Swargam (Heaven), Patala Lokam, Golokam, Bhulokam (Earth) and in Vaikuntam (where Lord Vishnu lives).
- You will be valued more on the banks of River Yamuna (Brundavanam) and devotees will make garlands with these leaves and worship Me and Goddess Radha.
- The best worship is to pour water for a Tulasi plant. There is no greater pilgrimage than doing this.
- The individual who takes bath with Tulasi leaves will get the result of anointing Me with a thousand pots of ambrosia (Amrutham).
- While donating in month of Karthika (An auspicious month which comes after Diwali known as Karthika masam) one should include Tulasi leaves. Adding Tulasi leaves is equivalent to donating ten thousand cows.
- For the individual who takes Tulasi water at the time of death, his soul will get liberated from all the sins and reaches Heaven.
- Adding Tulasi leaves in the drinking water after using it for worshipping Lord Vishnu is equivalent to performing one lakh *Ashvamedha Yagnas*. (*Ashvamedha Yaga* is a horse sacrifice ritual followed by the Śrauta tradition of Vedic religion used by ancient Indian Kings. While living on the Earth, the performer enjoys

enough material pleasure due to the virtue acquired by this horse sacrifice and reaches Heaven after death. The horse that is sacrificed also goes to Heaven, which is otherwise impossible for a creature with an animal body to reach Heaven. And in the next birth, the horse gets a human life to attain salvation).

- A person who plants Tulasi at home will reach Heaven (Vishnu Lokam).
- Make a garland with the dried stems from the Tulasi plant and use it as an ornament for Me.
- Never lie to anyone holding Tulasi leaves in hand, which is a great sin and punishment for this is Kumbhipakam (Kumbhipakam is a Hell that is mentioned in Hindu Tradition. Details about Hells are found in the *Garuda Puranam*. As part of the punishment, the person who has committed the sin is put in a huge vessel of boiling oil and is stirred continuously for 14 Indra periods (One Indra Period is 43,20,000 years).
- A person who takes even one drop of Tulasi water before death will reach Heaven in a gem studded aircraft.
- **Tulasi and Bilva leaves should not be plucked on Sunday, Tuesday and Friday.** They can be used to worship God by storing these even for a week. Tulasi leaves can be reused after worship and even kept in the refrigerator. But this is not applicable for other flowers.
- Purnima (full moon day) and Dwadashi (twelfth lunar day) are very auspicious days to worship Tulasi plant.
- Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Narayana are always present in the house where the Saligrama is worshiped under a Tulasi plant.
- Plucking these leaves with impure body is equivalent to beheading Lord Vishnu's head. Sleeping on the ground for three nights and worshipping Tulasi in the morning is to be followed as redemption for this sin. Wake up in the morning and ask for the forgiveness of Tulasi for committing the mistake knowingly or unknowingly.



- Avoid watering Tulasi with salt water.
- Tulasi likes *Pradakshinam* and song. So, we have to do *Pradakshinam* around Tulasi plant and by doing it great sins like Brahma Hatya (killing/ assassination) will be removed immediately. By doing *Pradakshinam* around Tulasi plant the major sins will disappear like how snakes disappear seeing an eagle.
- By offering water to Tulasi which is used for *Abhishekam* of *Salaigramam*, will give great virtue and the person will reach Lord Vishnu's world. By pouring the *Saligramam Abhisheka* water on the ground, Goddess Bhudevi (Mother Earth) will be thrilled and will bless us. Their entire clan will become prosperous.
- Whoever plucks Tulasi leaves holding *Saligramam* and *Shankam* (Conch) in hand will become widowed and suffer with diseases for 7 lives. To get rid of that sin Tulasi has to be planted and worshipped. I like Goddesses Lakshmi, Saraswathi, Ganga, Parvathi and all of them exist in this plant along with Me.
- Lord Siva also likes the Tulasi leaves, by offering Tulasi leaves He will bless us with wealth.



*Tulasi plant*

As lord Vishnu gave this boon, Tulasi's body had converted into River Gandaki and her hair turned into Tulasi plants and were useful in all the Worlds. Lord Vishnu converted himself as Saligrama in that river.

Maha Vishnu narrated this story to Sage Naradha. Sage Naradha asked the method of worshipping Tulasi. Lord Vishnu replied, "Worship Tulasi with devotion, light the lamp (Deepam) away (Not near the plant which may harm the plant) from the Tulasi plant. Bow humbly and pour some water to Tulasi and finish the *Achamanam* and *Sankalpam*. Offer some sweet, sugar or jaggery (Tulasi likes sweet) and give it to someone but don't leave those near the plant. "Lord Vishnu has given a mantra for chanting

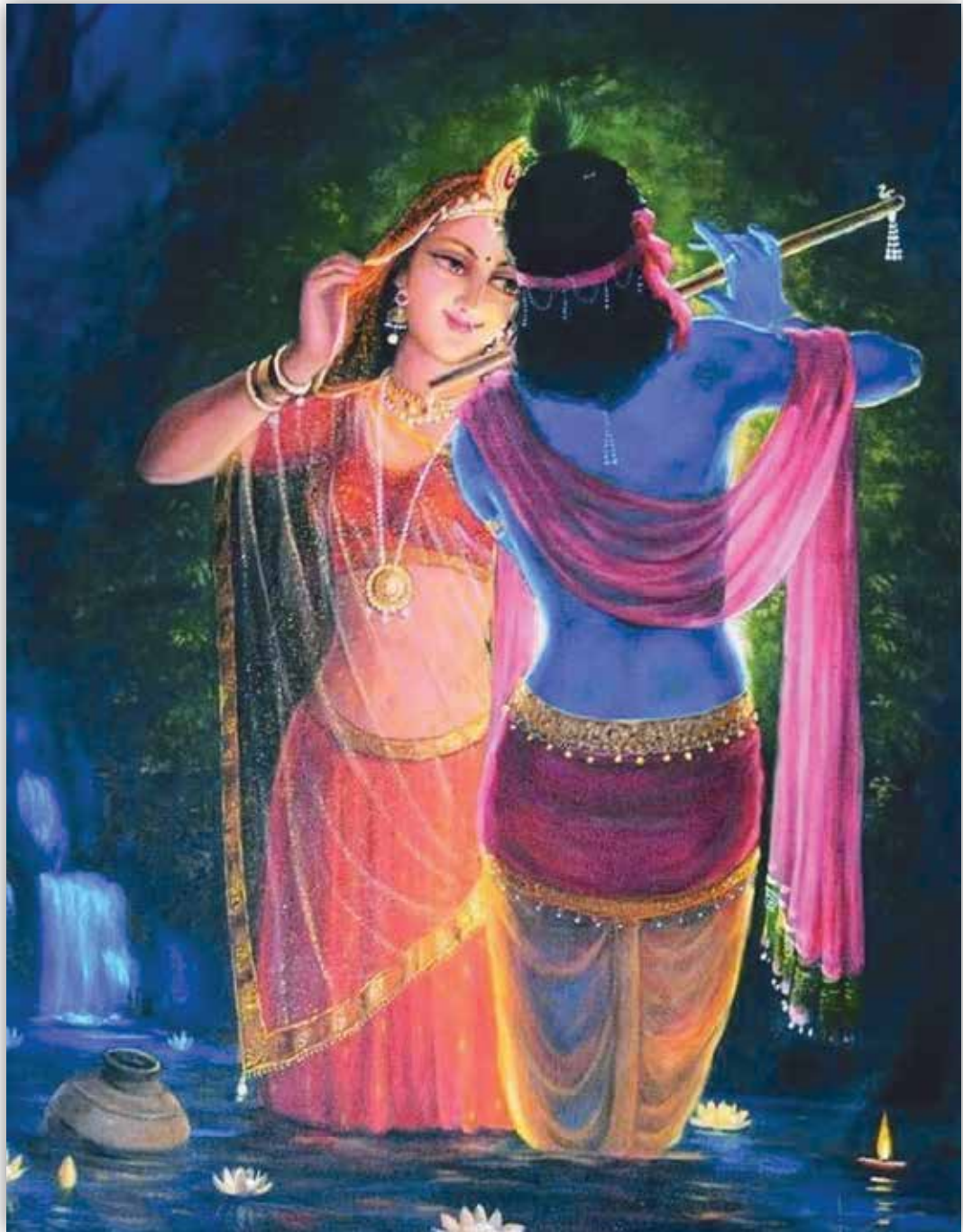
for Tulasi. (It has been written in *Devi Bhagavatam* 25<sup>th</sup> Chapter 9<sup>th</sup> subdivision 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> poem. If not daily, one should chant this while doing the Tulasi worship). Lord Sri Krishna likes this Slokam. To get the grace of Lord Krishna this is the best mantra. The one who worships Tulasi plant and chants this Mantra will get the result and virtue of donating land with Tulasi garden. He will also get the virtue of visiting Brundavanam.

***OM SHREEM HREEM KLEEM AIM BRUNDAVANYEY SWAHA***

Whoever chants this verse in Brundavanam or in front of Tulasi plant on the auspicious day of Kartika Poornima (A full moon day after Diwali and also Radha Devi's favorite day) and remembers this story, offers some water, sings a song and chants this Mantra will not have rebirth and he/she will get rid of all the sins and reach Lord Krishna eventually. "Oh Naradha! Follow this and you will reach My World". Prior to the civilization near Mathura, there was a beautiful and exquisite garden in the name of *BRUNDAVANAM* (Brunda is the companion of Radha and Vanam is Garden) where Lord Krishna and Goddess Radha used to frequent. This garden is a sacred place and it was the body of Tulasi who was an incarnation of Brunda on Earth, in the form of a Garden. (While walking in this place human beings are to be very cautious, they should not spit or spoil the ground). People who do adorations and chant *Radha Krishna* and *Radha Madhava* name will be liberated from life.

Once Nandudu called Goddess Radha and gave Her responsibility to Lord Krishna. Goddess Radha and Lord Krishna crossed the Yamuna and entered Brundavanam. They were present in every plant, tree and in fact every nook and corner of this place. Whoever reads or listens to this story will come out of the delusion about the body and they will be untouched by the sins or virtues in a normal life. Lord Vishnu will take them to his World".

Sage Naradha asked Lord Vishnu, "Now tell me about the Savitri Mantram. Who is Savitri? Does anyone get benefited with the blessings of Savitri? The elders say that whoever has the grace of Savitri will not go to Hell? Please tell me about this story". Lord Vishnu replied, "Savitri is the other form of Goddess Gayathri and even the Gayathri mantra is actually the verse of Savitri".



*Radha Krishna in Brundavanam*

*Om Bhuur-Bhuvah Svah, Tat-Savitur-Varennnyam,  
Bhargo Devasya Dhiimahi, Dhiyo Yo Nah Prachothayath*

(The Gayathri Mantra is known as Savitri Mantra from the Rig-Veda)

The Presiding deity for this mantra is Goddess Savitri. This mantra is chanted during the sunrise, after taking bath and offering water to the Sun God. Those who chant this mantra will get the grace of Lord Yama Dharma Raja and they can talk to Him easily and they will also get deliverance. Savitri is Omnipotent and has five heads with five different colors (white, pearl, coral, blue and gold).

Once upon a time, the Kingdom of Madra was ruled by King Aswapathi. The King with his wife chanted Gayathri Mantram for a long time. One day Goddess Gayathri appeared and asked, “What do you want?” The King replied, “I want a son as an off spring” for which She replied, “In this life you cannot have a son as an offspring but a baby girl will be born by the name Savitri. She will be married to Satyavanthudu. Her husband will have a sudden death. Savitri will argue and win over Lord Yama Dharma Raja in order to save her husband. You will be then blessed with 100 sons with blessing of Lord Yama Dharma Raja”. A daughter was born to King Aswapathi with the grace of Goddess Gayatri. (Madra is currently Madrid, the capital city of Spain).

Lord Vishnu continued about the conversation between Savitri and Lord Yama Dharma Raja. At the age of twelve Savitri got married to Satyavrathudu (also known as Satyavanthudu) son of Dharmasenu. One day they left for the forest. After reaching there, while cutting the trees Satyavanthudu felt dizzy. He put his head on Savitri’s lap and slept, meanwhile Lord Yama Dharma Raja reached there. He took the life of Satyavanthudu. Savitri was able to see Lord Yama Dharma Raja (it is not possible for human beings to see Lord Yama Dharma Raja). She was able to see Him because she was a chaste woman. Savitri was chanting the Gayathri Mantram all the time that is why she was pure and able to see God of Death (Lord Yama). So, in olden days women chanted the Gayatri Mantram. Lord Yama was looking fair and with pure white apparel, handsome. Looking at him Savitri asked “Mahatma! Who are you?”

For that he replied, “My name is Yama Dharma Raja. I take lives of living creatures once their lifespan is over on Earth. Generally, I send my disciples to take the life,

but today I personally came to take your husband's life as he was a pure and devoted person. He was doing good service to his parents. He loved his wife and had done many good deeds in his life time. So, I did not send my disciples to take the life of your husband. It is clear that in spite of doing so many good deeds still he had committed sins for which he has to go to Hell. After he completes his punishment in Hell, I will send him to Heaven to enjoy the benefits of his good deeds. He was lucky to be your husband". Savitri asked, "People say you look scary with red eyes, two horns, fangs, dark in color and come on buffalo, but you look so normal". Lord Yama replied, "I have two forms. I look handsome for virtuous people and terrible for sinners".

Savitri then asked, "Mahatma I want to know what qualifies to be good or bad? Why human beings are born? What is the source of human birth? Why are they born in different forms? What are the consequences of misdemeanor (Karmas)?" To this Lord Yama replied, "To be born on Earth, either you have to carry out good or bad Karma. Without Karma they cannot take birth on Earth. The place of birth depends on Karma and the people who are born in the place of pilgrimage have good Karma; people with bad Karma are born at miserable places. The individuals born with terrible Karmas suffer diseases, but by engaging in good Karma, in their next life they will be born as healthy individuals. Due to the sins in previous life people are born as blind, lack of limbs, poor and with other diseases.

The individuals who serve their Gurus will be born as leaders. The birth of individuals showcases their Karma. A few meritorious individuals are born to serve the community; they coordinate with others and engage in charity. Individuals with good Karma are born as rich and use their wealth for charity and good activities. The people who reads or listens to *Puranas* (sacred Sanskrit writings) will take Divine form and reach Golokam. Whatever human beings do in this life, the results of that will be evident and experienced here on Earth itself".

### *DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XXIII CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*





## CHAPTER 24

### KEY POINTS

How should one follow Dharma?

What are the good Karmas one must do to attain salvation in this life?

How to control the Mind?

In which places will Goddess Lakshmi exist?

How to worship Goddess Lakshmi?

How to worship ancestors?

Who is Swadha Devi?

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

Savitri followed Lord Yama Dharmaraja to save her husband. She considered Lord Yama as her Guru and started asking many questions pertaining to birth, rebirth and salvation. Lord Yama replied and started telling the consequences of *KARMA PARIPAAKAM*. (The effects of a person's actions and deeds will determine his destiny in their future births). When God started His Creation, He had created all living beings in this Universe without any attachment to them. The Divine and Supreme power of God is known as *PARAMA-ATHMA* (Supreme Soul). It is the ultimate. It is like an ocean. Like the waves that emerges out of the ocean, some rays of energy emanate out of this *Paramathma*. These rays are known as *JEEVATMA*. Thus, all the *ATHMAS* (souls) have come out of the *Paramathma* (God - Supreme Soul). As the Soul is a part of this Supreme Energy it has no creation or destruction.

The God has given a form to the Jeevathmas (soul of creatures) and created nearly 84,00,000 living creatures in this Universe.

At the time of creation of these living creatures, the God had stipulated certain guidelines and rules to be followed by each individual or creature during the period of their existence and given it in the form of Sastra or Law (Sastra means precept, rules, manual, compendium, book or treatise). The God advised human beings to follow these guidelines without any deviations and live a happy and blissful life. If we do not follow the rules framed in the Sastras then we have to suffer the consequences of the actions leading to a sorrow filled life. Actions done in this or previous lives will decide the fate of our future births. These Karmas may put the individual into the cycle of life and death. In the initial stages of creation humans have followed and did their Karmas in accordance with rules mentioned in the Sastras.

But in due course of time, maybe because of effect of time, or the play of God, or due to the time of birth, all the living beings especially humans started deviating from the guidelines. Every human knows that Karma (acts of a being) is the main reason for taking birth, for experiencing happiness and sorrows in life. They also know that God has given certain rules and regulations to be followed. But people were not able to conquer their senses, so started deviating from the guidelines. The path of Dharma is difficult to follow and is less attractive. Walking down the wrong path is far more attractive when compared to path of Dharma. If the humans were given complete freedom, they would be happy. But if we ask them to follow certain guidelines and act accordingly as per Sastras, humans are generally reluctant to follow them.

Sage Veda Vyasa wrote so many sub-puranas (*Upa-Puranas*). One such sub-purana written by Sage Veda Vyasa was by name *DHUMAKETHU* (translated in Telugu with the name *Thoka Chukka*). Once there was a King and he worshipped Goddess Lakshmi. Goddess Lakshmi blessed him with Her appearance and asked the King, "What do you want?" The King asked for continuous rain of gold in his Kingdom for one week. She smiled and granted his wish and disappeared. There was continuous rain in gold in the Kingdom for one week. The Kingdom was flooded



with gold everywhere. The King called the people in his Kingdom and asked them to take away whatever quantity of gold they wanted. The people in the Kingdom were happy and took whatever gold they could. In every house there was furniture, vessels and even the rings used for construction of wells were made up of gold.

Over a period of time, people in the Kingdom stopped cultivation, construction works, digging of wells, business and all other works which they used to do for their livelihood. One day, in the palace the servants engaged in bringing water from the canal for daily use were absent. When enquired, it was learnt that the servants have resigned from work as every person in the Kingdom was having sufficient gold in their houses and it was not necessary for them to work anymore. The King was forced to go to the river daily and take a bath. Then the cooks working in the palace stopped coming. Even the military personnel whose role was to protect the Kingdom had also stopped working. One day the enemies invaded the Kingdom and killed the King.

Lord Yama continued his narration to Savitri, “Human beings started getting attracted to short term luxuries and forgot the long-term benefits that can be achieved by following Dharma. People gradually got attracted to unrighteous ways and started committing more sins. As humans continue to do more and more sins, God created a separate World to punish the sinners and it is called *YAMA LOKAM* that is *HELL*, and made Me (*LORD YAMA*) the King for this world. Whoever does not follow the guidelines set up by God for wellbeing of humans and start committing sins shall be punished severely in this Yama Lokam. God has provided 84 crore people as assistants to Me. (*Yama Kinkarulu*). They can take many forms to perform their duties. They assist Me in punishing people, who committed sins during their life time”.

Lord Yama is like Agni (fire). Fire has an attribute of burning everything to ashes and purifying anything put into it. Similarly, people coming to Yama Lokam will undergo severe punishment depending on their sins and they will come out as purified persons. However, some part of sin will be left out in the humans without purification to enable them to take rebirth again on the Earth. This is how Lord Yama is purifying the humans by giving them punishments for their sins. At the

same time, if a human does good deeds, they will reach Heaven by their virtue, enjoy all the luxuries and comforts. In this way, humans are facing punishments in Yama Lokam and enjoying the luxuries in Heaven depending on their Karma and again taking rebirth on the Earth with their left-over virtues or sins. This leftover Karma (virtues or sins) are called as *VASANAS*. If anybody becomes addicted to bad habits like drinking, are often told that this was because of the previous *Vasanas* (balance of Karma in their previous birth/ past life).

Likewise, if any person is doing good deeds and conducting divine discourse from the beginning of their life, is only because of their past life *Vasanas*. Some people commit sins due to their bad fate up to certain point of time and age. But over time due to balance of their good Karmas and characteristics of being a Yogi in their previous life start realizing their mistakes. They repent for their deeds and sins and suddenly move in the righteous way and become Mahatmas for the remaining part of their life.

Lord Krishna said, “The persons who were scholars, but discontinued their worship in the middle of their previous life will be born in rich and sacred family, realize their sins and become saints. The intensity of their repentance for their acts or sins is so severe that it is like a *Yoga Agni* (fire) that will burn all sins like cotton in a fire. It will destroy all the sins committed by them and they come out purified and attain salvation in this birth itself”. This was told by Lord Yama to Savitri while clarifying the doubts on getting salvation without rebirth. In the ancient times, there are many examples for that which narrates the power of realization during the latter part of life. For example, *AJIMALUDU*, who got 10 years of life at the last minute and with his good deeds reached Vaikuntam. *PUNDAREEKUDU* is the other example. Pundareekudu during his early part of life was a drunkard and womanizer and even committed the great sin of kicking his mother. He was a great Yogi in his previous birth. But due to his discontinuation of worship he was born as sinner this birth. But in the later part of his life, he realized the sins committed by him, repented for his acts and become a great devotee of Lord Krishna. Later he served his parents with love and affection and attained salvation even before them.

Repentance is like the Yogic Fire. Whoever burns his Karmas like this is a great scholar. He will get salvation. The one who never had repentance will not get deliverance. However, Karma is responsible for a person's sorrows and happiness. Lord Yama continues expounding about *good Karmas that give immediate salvation*:

- The first one is, the month of Karthikam (comes in November and December) is auspicious for both Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva. On the day of Full Moon *JWALA THORANAM* (Two big wooden Logs are erected and another log is placed upon them horizontally as *THORANAM*. The horizontally placed log is tied with a huge grass mass. The grass is lit with fire at the beginning of the *JWALA THORANOTSAVAM*. Devotees carrying deities will walk through it). The one who passes through it by carrying the pictures of Lord Siva and Goddess Parvathi by chanting *Panchakshari Mantra* or *Ashtakshari Mantra* will be relieved from great sins.



*Jwala Thoranam*

- In the month of Karthikam, in *Shukla Paksham Chavithi*, *Chaturdhi* and *Shashti* are considered auspicious for Lord Kumara Swamy and Lord Ganesha. On these days performing *Milk Abhishekam* (*Abhishekam* means ritual of pouring water or other sacred substances on idol of a deity) to Lord Kumara Swamy and Lord Ganesha and offer *Naivedyam*

(food offered to deity as a part of worship) made with jaggery and sesame seeds especially to Lord Kumara Swamy. Then distribute it to others as *Prasadam*, they will be relieved from sins.

- Those who offered food and clothes to Brahmins in the month of Karthikam, in *Shukla Paksham*, *Chavithi Chaturdhi* and *Shashti* and taking their blessings will get rid of their sins and they reach the best Worlds.

- In the month of Karthikam three *thidhis* are auspicious for Lord Siva. One is *Bahula Panchami*, second one is *Ashtami* in *Krishna Paksham* and *Shukla Paksham* and the third one is *Chaturdhi*. The one who keeps a Lingam of Lord Siva, who performs *Abhishekam* to it, undertakes pilgrimages, fasts on that day and take their food after sighting of the Stars and who donates food will become eligible to be residents of Kasi and attain salvation at this great place of pilgrimage. The same was narrated both in *Devi Bhagavatham* and *Siva Puranam*.
- The person who donates in the places of pilgrimage, on the banks of rivers will get better results than the persons who donate at other places or in their homes. These donations have to be done by visiting the houses or places where Brahmins live instead of inviting them home. There is an exception in this regard for people who are old and those not in good health. They can request the priests to come to their home and take food and donations.
- The other important thing is that we should not have ill feelings towards the mother, father and the Guru. We have to respect them always irrespective of their character or profession. But at the same time, it is not necessary to follow their path or instructions if they are not righteous. For example, a person born to a thief or dacoit should not follow his father's profession, but must respect him as a father. It was mentioned in *Bhagavatham* that Lord Parasurama killed His mother and brothers on the instructions of His father. We however cannot follow such instructions when given. Any person who respects their parents irrespective of sins committed by them and not doing the same sins themselves will be regarded as a righteous person.
- In the case of Guru, we have to treat or respect them in the same way we do our favorite God. If our favorite God is Devi, Guru also is equal to Her, if our favorite God is Lord Vishnu, Guru is equal to Him, if our favorite God is Lord Siva, Guru is also equal to Him and has to be respected in the same way. In this way Lord Yama preached to Savitri the rules and regulations of the right way to be followed by humans in their life.

Likewise, He started explaining wrong things or unrighteous ways one should not do or follow in their life.

- To the maximum extent possible one should not do things or act in such a way that it hurts others. The words or acts that make us feel hurt, we should not utter the same to others. For example, if anybody scolds us and we feel hurt, we should think that “these acts or words are hurting me so I should not do the same to others”. This is the best Dharma to be followed by humans.
- The second thing is donation. We may not donate big things like property or gold, but we can donate water, food and clothes, always in our life. Not donating at least these things often will put us in Yama Lokam to face the consequences.
- Third one is doing the *SARASWATHA DAANAM* (donating education either by teaching or distribution of books). In the ancient times, scholars used to write slokas or mantras or *Puranas* on palm leaves in the form of *TALA PATRA GRANDHAM* (palm leaf manuscripts) and distribute them. The one who writes on their own or print the books consisting of sacred slokas or mantras or *Puranas* (A piece of composition whether in verse or ornamental prose) or *Puranas* or Divine stories of Gods and distribute them is called as *SARASWATHA DATHA*. They will reach Vaikuntam permanently. Few are born dumb and few cannot speak clearly, the reason for these disabilities is that in their previous life they did not do *Saraswatha Danam* (donating education or books). They will suffer in Hell. It was clearly mentioned in *Devi Bhagavatham*. The donor of the books will be praised by Goddess like *Mantrini* and *Harathi* by saying “You have done a sacred deed of distributing knowledge in the form of books and made it available to people so We will take you to *Manidweepam* permanently”. (That is why King Sri Krishna Devarayulu requested Allasani Peddana (one of his eight great poet writers) to give him one of his writings.)
- There are seven sacred deeds in this Universe. They are having children, publishing of books written by scholars, digging of ponds, construction of temples etc. Some of these like digging of ponds or construction of temples may fade over period of time. But our *Puranas* like *Devi Bhagavatham*, *Mahabharatham*, *Bhagavatham*, *Ramayanam* and others written by our sacred poets and scholars in ancient times will not fade away ever. Goddess Saraswathi in the form of these *Puranas* and books will exist forever. As long as the Universe exists these will be in our culture and in the hearts of the people.

- Hence *Saraswatha Danam* is the most sacred one. Sage Vyasa clearly stated that worshipping *Puranas* like *Devi Bhagavatham* by keeping it in the house will give the benefits of *Dharma*, *Artha*, *Kama* and *Moksha* for a person. As far as possible try to distribute epics or books containing the stories telling the glories of Gods or otherwise keep one book in the house. These *Puranas* will give permanent salvation.

In this way Lord Yama preached to Savitri, what are the Dharmas and how they should be followed by mankind. Ultimately Lord Yama blessed Savitri for her devotion and for following the path of Dharma, gave back the life to her husband Satyavanthudu. Thus, this was the conversation that took place between Lord Yama and Savitri.

Mind is responsible for every act of ours. Sometimes we have to listen to our mind or inner voice. The Inner voice will tell what is good and bad and also warns us against things which we should not do. Sometimes this voice is very loud and we do not listen to it or we ignore it. The great attribute of our mind is to identify the potential and warn us. But generally, people suppress these warnings given by the mind and continue to do bad things. If we are not able to control the mind then it is a sin. To control our mind, we have to follow certain things.

- Always associate with scholars, spend time with great people. You become the company you keep. Hearing and talking good with them, we understand how important it is to always engage in good deeds.
- Visiting temples always improves our vibrations. By seeing God in the temples, our mind will become strong and prevents us from doing sinful things to a great extent.
- Listening to the *Puranas* and other sacred stories and hearing them from the Gurus regularly. The examples of great characters in the *Puranas* and sacred stories will have positive influence on us and we can lead a life in the righteous way. There is a story concerning this fact.

Once there was a great astrologer and a scholar in a city and he could predict the future of a person accurately. Many people visited him for his astrological views pertaining to their lives. This astrologer was blessed with a son. On seeing his son's horoscope, he found that his son had the characteristics of a thief. He knew that once he predicted, it will become the reality. So, he wanted to change his son's fate and his horoscope.

He was worried and he approached Sage Vasishta and told him about his problem and sought his advice. Sage Vasishta advised him, "Changing your son's fate is in your hand. From childhood you must educate him. Tell him about the various punishments a person has to face for committing different types of thefts and diseases that he is going to suffer in his rebirth, as a result as mentioned in the *Puranas*". He started preaching to his son the *Puranas* and sacred stories. The father also told him the effects of stealing and sin accrued by it. The Father also explained to his son the details of punishment that will be given in Yama Lokam for each type of sin for the theft done on the Earth.

For example, if a person steals gold on the Earth, he will be punished with *Raourava Narakam* in Yama Lokam and in the next birth will be born with leprosy. The one who steals silver will be born with tuberculosis. By stealing money, they will be born without limbs. The father explained to his son about the punishment and life he is going to get by stealing different objects. As the son grew up, whenever he got the thought of stealing a particular item like gold, silver, money or other things, he automatically remembered the punishments like *Raourava Narakam* as told by his father and he stopped himself from stealing them. In that way the father could prevent his son from becoming a thief to a great extent. At the same time, because of preaching of the *Puranas* by his father he was well versed in them and all its rituals by the time he was 18 years.

The father was working as a priest in the King's palace. As he grew old, one day the King asked him, "Who will be the next Pandit in your place to perform regular puja rituals at the palace?". He replied, "My son is eighteen years old and he is well versed with all rituals and worshipping, so I will employ him as Pandit in the palace".



The King happily accepted it. Thereafter his son started regularly coming to the palace and performed the daily pujas after which he took his *Dakshina* (fee or donation) and went home. During his visits to the palace, he came across so many valuable items like gold, silver furniture and silver utensils. Whenever he saw such items, he was tempted to steal them because of his inborn characteristics as per his horoscope. But he immediately remembered the punishments for the theft of each item and stopped himself from committing it.

His father also requested the guards in the palace to thoroughly check his son while coming out of the palace after performing the puja. They did the same for some time. As they could not find any kind of thieving nature in the son, they became very lenient and stopped checking him. But one day the guards observed the priest carrying some item tied in his upper garment. So, they stopped and checked him and they were surprised to see that he was carrying cattle feed tied in his upper garment. As per their duty they informed the same to the King.

The King was also surprised and asked him, “Why did you steal cattle feed?”

The son replied, “To feed the cattle in my house, I took some cattle feed.

The King asked, “Why do you want to steal it? If you had asked, we might have supplied to you the required quantity”. Later the King called the father and asked, “Why is your son stealing cattle feed but not any costly items available in the palace”.

Then the father replied, “Oh King! As per his birth and his horoscope, he is having the attributes of a thief and he will become a thief. As per the advice of Sage Vasishtha I preached to him the *Puranas*, cautioning him with consequences and punishments he was going to get for each type of theft. I thought, with the fear of punishment he will control his impulse to attempt to thief. But I did not tell him about the punishment for stealing cattle feed. Due to his inherent nature and some part of his Karma he was forced to steal cattle feed. With my teaching, and making him listen to the *Puranas* regularly I was able to control my son’s characteristics of a thief to a great extent and rescued him from becoming a notorious criminal as referred to in his horoscope.” Hence by hearing to the *Puranas* regularly and being in the company of great people, a person can change his fate to a great extent and

may become a noble person. So, to change fate we have to listen to the *Puranas*. By listening to the *Puranas* continuously one can change their fate to a large extent. So, in order to achieve total change in our fate we have to perform good deeds and acquire virtues and be associated with the Sages, scholars and Gurus and listen to their advice.

As it was told by Lord Yama, in the ancient times, people used to follow his teachings and were bringing their children to hear *Puranas* preached by the Gurus. It should not be considered as a waste of time as this will enable them to learn righteous ways, develop moral values, confidence and good character and to lead a better life from their childhood. It can also change their fate to a great extent. That is the influence and greatness of Gurus. Lord Yama narrated all these Dharmas to Savitri. He then gave back life to Satyavanthudu and disappeared. Savitri was born with the blessings of Gayathri Matha, an embodiment of Devi. Hence the story of Savitri is very famous and a sacred one. In this way Lord Vishnu narrated the conversation between Lord Yama and Savitri to Sage Naradha.

Sage Naradha asked Lord Vishnu, “I want to know about Goddess Lakshmi the beloved to You (Lord Vishnu)”. Originally, when the Trinity visited *Manidweepam* and had a darshan of the Devi, She created Goddess Lakshmi, Goddess Saraswathi and Goddess Parvathi from Herself and had given them to Lord Vishnu, Lord Brahma and Lord Siva (explained in previous chapters). Subsequently They have taken different incarnations on the Earth. You have told me about the incarnations of Goddess Parvathi. I know Goddess Lakshmi was a part of the Devi and I want to know why and how She was born as *KSHEERA SAGARA TANAYA* (daughter of Ocean of Milk) and how She reached You. Please tell me the entire story”.

Lord Narayana started narrating, “Once when Lord Indra was ruling Heaven, due to his power and wealth he became egoistic, got addicted to the habit of drinking and was roaming around the world. One day Indra in a drunken state along with Rambha was riding on *Airaavatham* (elephant of Deva Lokam) and wandering, reached Kailasam. Meanwhile Sage Durvasudu visited Vaikuntam and presented a garland made up of *Parijatham* (Night jasmine) flowers to Me. I was very happy and accepted the garland and put it around My neck. I then removed the

garland and returned it to Sage Durvasa by saying, “Oh Durvasa! You presented Me a garland made up of *Parijatham* flowers. I am returning this garland to you as *Sesha Mala*. Place this on your head and take it. This Garland is very sacred and whoever wears this Mala will become rich and powerful. After placing this on your head you can present this Mala to whomsoever you like. They will achieve all the prosperity”. Saying this I blessed him. Sage Durvasudu kept the garland on his head and said to Lord Vishnu “I am very happy to receive this *Sesha Mala* and feel blessed. I will give it to the right person or any disciple”. He thanked the Lord and left Vaikuntam. The garland was highly sacred. It was shining like Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi.

On his way Sage Durvasudu saw Lord Indra roaming near Kailash Parvatham. He was happy, and thought that, “He is the King of the Gods and King for the three Worlds. If I give this garland to him, he will become rich and powerful. People will be happy with Indra. If Indra is happy, timely rainfall will occur. It will be helpful to Deva Lokam and also to Earth”. Thinking so he called Indra to offer him the *Sesha Mala* (garland). But Indra who was in a drunken state, greeted Sage Durvasa with one hand (greeting with one hand is a sin). Sage Durvasa was annoyed with Indra’s behavior, yet he offered him the *Sesha Mala* by saying that, “This garland is a sacred one and given by Lord Vishnu by taking it out from his neck. I am giving you this garland, wear this. If you wear it you will not become old, ill and it will also remove one’s sorrows and death. It will give you salvation. (There could be a doubt whether Indra has to face death. His tenure is for 43,20,000 years after which he has to leave.) You will become more powerful and wealthy and you will reach Vaikuntam after completion of your role as Indra. You will be there permanently”. Sage Durvasudu saying so took the garland and gave it to Indra very politely.

The one who receives such a sacred garland should place it on their head or should wear it on their neck. As Indra was already known for his arrogance of having power and wealth and being in a drunken state said, “You are giving a flower garland to me”? Saying so, he threw it onto the neck of *Airaavatham*. As soon as it fell on the neck of *Airaavatham*, it became very powerful and shone with a light equal to thousand Suns. *Airaavatham* converted to Lord Vishnu, threw Indra down and vanished. It is said in the *Puranas* that the head of that *Airaavatham* had replaced

the original head for Lord Vinayaka and He has been the one who is worshipped first by all Gods and humans since then, as the God who removes all obstacles. That is the great value possessed by the *Sesha Mala* of Lord Vishnu.

Seeing Indra's behavior Sage Durvasa was very angry and said, "Oh Fool! You may be wealthy, but how can you neglect the *Sesha Mala* given by Lord Vishnu? How could you place it on the neck of *Airaavatham*? Didn't you learn from Sage Bruhaspathi? What happened to your knowledge? Whenever a flower is given in Lord Vishnu's temple, we should keep it on our head. Whatever comes from Lord Vishnu, has to be treated as *SIRO DHARYAM* (placed on the head). Such a person will become great and goes to Vaikuntam. Once we place the flower on the head it shows that we have respected Lord Vishnu. All misfortunes in the horoscope will be removed. Same way a flower is given in the temple of Lord Siva, we have to place it on Nandi. In Lord Vishnu's temple if we get water, we have to take it immediately, if we get a fruit, we have to consider it as *Prasadam* and eat it immediately. This is what the *Puranas* have stated. But you Indra, instead of giving respect by placing the garland on your head, you placed it on the neck of the elephant? The one who disrespects and neglects Lord Vishnu's *Sesha Mala* will henceforth lose all his wealth and suffer poverty. You are going to lose your wealth and your intelligence will diminish. Now no one can help you. I am cursing you, that all your wealth will be subsumed by the sea. Goddess Lakshmi will leave Her place on the chest of Lord Vishnu and She will also merge into the sea. Because of this curse, the wealth (Lakshmi) from all the three Worlds will be merged into the sea". (As long as, Goddess Lakshmi is on the chest of Lord Vishnu, Indra will be wealthy so Sage Durvasa had to curse this way).

Indra was shocked by the curse and his ego and intoxication came down totally. He immediately fell at the feet of Sage Durvasa and said, "Please forgive me". Sage Durvasa replied, "I did not scold you, I am just punishing you for the sin committed by you". (Sage Durvasa is not telling this to Indra, he is conveying it to mankind)

- Knowingly or unknowingly if we get a Siva Lingam you have to keep it in a place of worship. If we do not accept or do not take it home, we will be destroyed. If we

have more than one Siva Lingam, we can immerse it in a river or sea. We should not leave God images or pictures at the temples as it is a great sin. We can bury them in the ground or immerse it in the sea. By placing the idols or images of Gods in the temples such persons will become impoverished.

- We should not throw away *Prasadam* at any time. Whatever is given as *Prasadam* at least a little amount should be consumed, even when a devotee is fasting. If a devotee is fasting on particular type of food, they can then request for fruits instead.
- Consuming prohibited drinks, consuming food used by others, spoilt food, food with insects like ants and others are great sins. We can get rid of these sins by keeping the *Sesha Mala* or flowers on the head. That is the power of Lord Vishnu's *Sesha Mala*.
- The greatest betrayal of all is that done to the Guru. Even at the cost of our life, we should not break the word or promise given to the Guru. The one who breaks the word will go to terrible Hell. Showing any kind of reluctance after Guru's instruction, talking bad or ill about him, violating his order, those disciples will be born as Demons in a waterless forest and suffer. They will be born as dogs for 49 births, then they will be born as a lame dog and then they will be born as dogs in the villages. The one who will not respect the Guru, who taught them Mantras will be born as lame dogs for 100 births. To come out of the sin committed knowingly or unknowingly, the individual should go to the Guru and repent on the mistake he has done and say, "Knowingly or unknowingly I have done this mistake, so please give redemption from the sin and I promise to adhere to further instructions". The Guru will worship Lord Vishnu and give a flower, place that flower on your head. By doing so the sin committed unknowingly to the Guru will disappear.
- *MITRA DROHAM* (betrayal of friends) is a great sin. The one who betrayed a friend will go to terrible Hell. We should not eat in the home or food served by the person who is ingrate or who denigrates faith or an atheist. At any point of time, we should not take other's money, property or things. Return the favor and

money, even if we have to face a loss. This will give suffering in this life but it saves us from terrible sin.

- We should not eat in the home or food served by the person who gives false substantiation. How can we come out of this sin? Seek the refuge of the Guru and he will give the *Prasadam* (fruit or rice) after offering it to Lord Vishnu. Once you eat this *Prasadam* all these sins will disappear.
- One may be innocent and may not know about the power of devotion or the *Puranas*. Once such an innocent person unexpectedly went to Lord Vishnu's temple. The priests in the temple kept aside the flowers in a basket, which were already used for the worship. The devotee asked, "Can I throw these used flowers outside"? The priest agreed to that. The devotee took the basket and placed it on his head to discard the flowers. As soon as he placed the basket on his head the sins for his past seven births disappeared. Unknowingly placing a basket of flowers relieved him from the sins of seven births, what may be the result if we place the flowers on the head with devotion? But this does not mean committing the sins again and again and seeking relief. Only the sins done unknowingly will disappear.

Did Sage Bruhaspathi not inform you about all these? Why did you neglect the *Sesha Mala* of Lord Vishnu?" Indra replied, "Guru has informed me about all this. Due to my misfortune, I have committed such an act. Sometimes we do not believe what the Guru says, due to the past life misdeeds. For example, Gopikas believed that Lord Krishna is not the son of Yashoda or husband of Goddess Radha. They believed that they are part of Him and not separate. But at the same time Duryodhana felt "Lord Krishna is a womanizer and because of him, their clan was destroyed". Everyone will not have the knowledge to accept the Guru. I have gained this knowledge from my Guru, but because of the poison of wealth I have behaved in an ignorant manner. This poison has given me addictions and I lost my clarity of thought. My tree of salvation was cut by the axe of wealth. So please show me the right path by giving your advice. Please take back your curse"

Sage Durvasa felt pity and said, “Will you follow whatever I say?” Indra accepted. Sage Durvasa continued, “Whatever I advise, you have to follow it as it is. If you are not able to follow then that will be trouble for both of us”. Indra promised on the feet of Sage Durvasa and accepted to do whatever he said. Sage Durvasa said, “Oh Indra! I will give you *Narayana Mantram*. Chant this for 3 days and go to your Guru, Sage Bruhaspathi. He will show you the right path.” Saying so he gave him the *Ashtakshari Narayana Mantram*.

### **OM NAMO NARAYANAYA**

Indra chanted this *Mantram* for 3 days and went to Sage Bruhaspathi and said, “Oh Guru! I have committed a great sin. I have rejected Lord Vishnu’s *Sesha Mala* given by Sage Durvasa. Since he cursed me, the three Worlds and Dikpalakas lost their wealth. I never thought that Sage Durvasa’s curse will be so tough. Please protect me. Rescue me from that curse”. Sage Bruhaspathi replied, “I can show you a right path, but cannot help you now. I do not have the power to remove the curse of Sage Durvasa. But I can show you a person who can remove it completely. We will all go and take the refuge of Lord Brahma, and He only can save us from this trouble”. Saying so he took Indra and the Dikpalakas with him to Lord Brahma.

Lord Brahma said, “Oh Indra! How can you commit such a great sin? The people who were born from My heart are known as *PRAJAPATHULU*. *Angirudu, Marichi, Atri, Dakshudu, Pulastyudu, Pulahudu, Kratu, Vasishta, Prachetas or Bhrigu and Naradha*. They are called as *BRAHMA MANSA PUTRAS* (sons born from the heart of Lord Brahma). Sage Marichi’s son was Sage Kasyapudu and you are born to Sage Kasyapudu and Adithi. You are my great grandson. You are born in such a clan, how can you throw the *Sesha Mala* on the elephant? You do not have devotion on the Guru and that is why this misfortune happened to you and you have neglected your Guru. You stopped visiting him, worshipping and following the path taught by the Guru. The one who is away from his Guru will do these kinds of sins and will lose their dignity and finally reach Hell. Lord Siva and I take the *Prasadam* of Lord Vishnu, and He is the source of all Dharma. He only can save us. I will take you there.”





*Lord Vishnu in Yogic meditation*

Goddess Lakshmi who was residing on the chest of Lord Vishnu also left him after the curse. Lord Brahma with others reached Vaikuntam. At that point of time, Goddess Lakshmi was not there and Lord Vishnu was calm in yogic meditation. He was with four hands, two hands placed near his navel and two hands at the back. Jaya and Vijaya were guarding him. Goddess Ganga (she came on behalf of Goddess Parvathi to pray to Lord Vishnu) and Goddess Saraswathi were also there. The reason is, as

Goddess Lakshmi merged into the sea, the power of Goddess Ganga and Goddess Saraswathi also had reduced. They will have complete power only when all the three exist. Therefore, the mistake done by one person affected everyone else. All of them prayed to Lord Vishnu with devotion. “Narayana, Vasudeva, protect us”. Lord Vishnu opened his eyes and said, “Do not worry; due to the mistake done by Indra, Goddess Lakshmi has merged into the sea. I know that you all lost your Energy so you came here. I will see to it that you will get back Goddess Lakshmi. I will see that She will shower her grace on all of Us and improve your wealth. To achieve this all of you have to do a task. I will tell you the Dharma to be followed by everyone. From today you have to spread it all over the World. If you promise Me that you will spread the Dharma, then I will tell you the way to get back Goddess Lakshmi”. All the Gods agreed and Lord Vishnu started revealing how Goddess Lakshmi would not be there at certain places.

***These are the places where Goddess Lakshmi will not be there.***

- Goddess Lakshmi will not be there where there is no sound of Conch
- Goddess Lakshmi will not be there where Tulasi is not there or where Lord Vishnu is not worshipped with Tulasi.
- Goddess Lakshmi will not be there where there is no worship of Lord Siva.
- Goddess Lakshmi will not be there where the priests are not given donations. Goddess Lakshmi does not mean wealth in the form of money, it also means and includes, Health, Happiness, Salvation, Mantram and Knowledge. So, in Kali Yuga Goddess Lakshmi will be there in a home which has the sound of Conch, has Tulasi plant, where Brahmins are being respected and fed.
- Goddess Lakshmi will not be there where people will blame Me (Vishnu) and my devotees.
- The one who eats food at the home of a person, who is not my devotee
- Goddess Lakshmi will not be there where people sell My name, like collect money to preach mantras or chant mantras.
- Where the guests are not fed Goddess Lakshmi will not be there.
- The persons who commit great sins in their home, Goddess Lakshmi will not be there
- Goddess Lakshmi will not be there where the heart and mind of the people are not pure.
- The people who live with violence and savagery, Goddess Lakshmi will not be there.
- The one who blames the Guru, Goddess Lakshmi will not be there and She will not forgive them.
- The one who plucks the grass and cuts it with nails or bites it with their teeth, Goddess Lakshmi will not be there.
- The one who rubs the ground with the big toe, Goddess Lakshmi will not be there.

- Goddess Lakshmi will not be there where the Brahmin has been disappointed.
- The one who eats food during sunrise and sunset Goddess Lakshmi will not be there
- Goddess Lakshmi will not be there where individuals will not follow the rituals.
- Goddess Lakshmi will not be there where the individuals roam naked at home.
- Walking with wet feet should be avoided. Goddess Lakshmi will not be there where people sleep or walk with wet feet. The people who sleep with wet feet will suffer from knee pain and they will reach Hell.
- Goddess Lakshmi will not be there where individuals sleep naked.
- The one who scolds wife habitually and repeatedly for small issues, Goddess Lakshmi will leave that home and that person. Wife also should not scold the husband.
- Goddess Lakshmi will not be there where people scold the one who is on fasting and following the rituals of worship.
- The one who indulges in violence and is ruthless, Goddess Lakshmi will not be there.

### ***What should we do to retain Goddess Lakshmi?***

- Goddess Lakshmi will be there where Lord Vishnu is worshipped regularly.
- The home where people will chant the name of Lord Vishnu, Goddess Lakshmi will be there in the form of happiness.
- Goddess Lakshmi will be there where the story of Lord Krishna is being recited.
- Goddess Lakshmi will be there in the home where Tulasi exists, the sound of conch exists, where Lord Siva is worshipped, where Goddess Durga is worshipped, where Brahmins are being respected. Goddess Lakshmi will be there in the house where worship is performed daily. Goddess Lakshmi likes all these. Please go and spread this message across the Worlds”.

Lord Vishnu said, “Now I will tell the way for Goddess Lakshmi’s re-birth. Presently Goddess Lakshmi left everyone and merged in the Ocean of Milk. All of you join together and churn the Ocean of Milk. Use Mandara Mountain and the snake Vasuki for Churning. Take the help of Emperor Bali, and all join together, churn the Ocean of Milk. (*KSHEERA SAGARA MADHANAM*). From that churning of the Ocean, Goddess Lakshmi will be born. Before the birth you have to perform Archana (to honor or praise) for Her. You have made a mistake, so to get Her grace back you have to worship Her for nine days. Start the worship on a Friday” Lord Vishnu explained the procedure for worshipping Goddess Lakshmi. This procedure was explained to Indra by Lord Vishnu. The one who follows this procedure will become wealthy.

The worship has to be started on a Friday and has to be done for 9 days. Take bath first, wear washed clothes and then arrange a *Kalasam*. To get the grace of Goddess Lakshmi we have to worship five Gods first. They are Lord Ganapathi, Sun God, Fire God (Agni) Lord Vishnu and Goddess Parvathi and Lord Parameswara together (use two betel leaves and betel nut and coin in the place of Gods and say *Ganapathi Avahayami, Sthapayami, Pujayami*). We have to invoke all the Gods mentioned above and then Goddess Lakshmi will come and seat Herself. Then the idol or a coin or an image of Goddess Lakshmi has to be placed and worshipped accordingly. (*Dhyayami, Dhyanam Samarpayami, Avahayami Aavahanam Samarpayami*). Then Deepam (lamp) has to be lit, Dhoopam (incense) shown and after which the *Naivedyam* has to be offered. We can even offer fruits as *Naivedyam*. The prayer Slokas were written by Indra and is known as *INDRA KRUTHA LAKSHMI STHOTHRAM*.

*You are the Source for all the wealth and good fortunes. You are in the form of Swarga Lakshmi in Heaven, as Rajya Lakshmi near Kings, as Gruha Lakshmi (wife) at our Homes, you are Kamdhenu, in Yagna You are in the form of Dakshina, and You are born as Deva Matha to Aditi. You are with name Kamala, You are the form of Lord Vishnu, form of Bhudevi, You are the symbol of patience. The one who does not have You is considered as worthless. You only can give us Knowledge, Education and Good Fortune.*

After the prayer, Devi appeared and gave him a Mantra known as *VYUHA LAKSHMI MAHAMANTRAM*. The Goddess Lakshmi who is on the chest of Lord Vishnu is called as *Vyuha Lakshmi*.

*Om Sree Om Namaha Parama Laksmayai Vishnu Vakshaha Sthithayai  
Ramayai Aasretha Tarakayai Namo Vandhiyayai Namaha*

This is a very sacred mantra and it is also stated in *Venkatachala Mahathyam*. Goddess Lakshmi gave this Mantra to Indra and asked him to chant as many times as he can and She said, “The churning of Ocean of Milk will be easily completed. I will be born from that. I will be in the form of Kamadhenu in Heaven, as Goddess Mahalakshmi as wife to Lord Vishnu, and will be in different forms as before. I will give the peace and comfort to all. The Sthotram which you have written for Me will be considered as most sacred and with great virtue. Whoever chants this Sthotram for three times (6 am, 12 noon and 6 pm) daily for 40 days, will get the wealth equal to *KUBERA* (God of wealth). Those whoever chants this Sthotram for 5,00,000 times they will live permanently in Vaikuntam. The one who reads this Sthotram for a month without any time restriction, will get great pleasures in life.” And this has been told by Goddess Lakshmi Herself.

Indra did the chanting of the mantra and churned the Ocean of Milk. Out of that churning, wealth and poison came out. The poison was consumed by Lord Siva. Goddess Lakshmi rejoined again on the chest of Lord Vishnu. Kamdhenu and Kalpavriksham were born again. Finally, Gods got success. Whoever reads or listens to this episode will come out of all sufferings.



*The Gods and Demons Churning the Ocean of Milk*

Sage Naradha said, “The stories You have narrated so far are very good. Now I want to know about the story of *SWAHA DEVI*. Whenever the Yagna is performed we use the word Swaha. Who is Swaha Devi and how was She born?”

Lord Vishnu replied, “Once I asked Lord Brahma to create the World. Lord Brahma created Gods and Prajapatis. After they were born all of them felt hungry, but they did not know what to eat as it was the beginning of the Creation. They were suffering from hunger pangs and they went to Lord Brahma and asked, “Oh Brahma! Why did you create Us? We are suffering from some problem with our stomach. We do not know what it is, so we went to Sage Bruhaspathi and informed him about our trouble. He said it was hunger pangs. Why did You create this stomach and how can we get rid of this hunger?”

Lord Brahma replied, “I do not know how to reduce your hunger. I only know how to Create”. Saying so He took all of them to Lord Vishnu. Lord Brahma said, “Oh Yagna Deva! God for all the Worlds, Narayana, Vasudeva! These Gods and Prajapatis are dying with hunger. You give them some food to eat”. Lord Vishnu created a beautiful Woman from the left part of His body. She was very beautiful and young. Looking at Her Lord Siva who was also present there asked, “Oh Devi! Who are you?” The woman replied, “Lord Vishnu created Me; you ask Him why He created Me”? All of them then asked Lord Vishnu about Her and He replied, “I will be in the form of fire always on Earth, I will be in the name of *Vaiswanara*. Lord Vishnu in the form of *Vaiswanara* will exist in all human beings and digest the food. So, Lord Vishnu is Fire and He is in everyone in the form of hunger and digestion. This Woman originated with elements of Goddess Lakshmi and I have named Her as *Swaha*. She will become the wife of Agni (God of fire) and with My grace She will bring food to Your stomach. I will put a process for mankind on the Earth to follow. They have to daily light a fire and perform Yagna to Indra and other Gods. While performing the Yagna they will offer ghee and other products to the fire. The things offered in Yagna will be given to You, by *Swaha Devi*. She will be a mediator between humans and the Gods. So, the humans on the Earth should feed you through *Swaha Devi*. Only She can satisfy your appetite. So, from now as wife of Agni She will provide food for all of You”.



Humans came to know about all these from the Gods and prepared the Yagna Kundam and started Yagna by chanting *Indraya Swaha* and offered food to the fire. This food will be burnt in the fire and a thin smoke that formed will reach Heaven and fall as a drop of elixir in the mouth of Indra. *Swaha Devi* changes the offerings of Yagna into elixir. That is why while performing Yagna offerings should be given while chanting the word *SWAHA*. Without this word *Swaha*, a Yagna will not be productive. “To provide food to the Gods, with the elements of Goddess Lakshmi, *Swaha Devi* was created, and joined beside the mantra. All the Gods will get food and they will be happy and healthy. With the food, they will be satisfied and bless us with wealth which is required on the Earth”.

Swaha Devi took the blessing of Lord Vishnu and said, “From now I will worship Lord Vishnu and with His grace I will follow the instructions and provide food for the Gods. I will prevent troubles for the Gods”. Lord Vishnu replied, “As You have listened and agreed to follow My instructions to feed the Gods, I will give you a blessing. In my incarnation as Varaha avatar You will be beside Me as My wife. In Dwapara Yuga I will take the incarnation of Lord Krishna and You will be born as daughter to Kosala King Nagnajith and will be named as Nagnajithi. (Lord Krishna has 8 wives they are *Rukmini, Satyabhama, Jambavathi, Kalindi, Nagnajithi, Bhadra, Lakshmana* and *Sundari*).

The King of Kosala wanted to get his daughter married. At the same time seven Oxen (actually they were not Bulls, they were The Demons in the form of Oxen) were destroying the Kingdom and killing everyone who came across them. No one was able to control them. The Oxen had a boon from Lord Brahma that they can kill anyone in an open space. But once they are surrounded by a compound wall, they can kill only the people who approached them. The King of Kosala was worried about saving his Kingdom, so he took the advice of his Guru. He then took the help of Vishwakarma and built a compound wall around them while the oxen were sleeping in the night. These oxen were thus captured by the construction of this wall. The King then announced, “My daughter Nagnajithi is very beautiful and the person who can capture these seven Oxen and ties a rope to their nose single handedly can marry my daughter”. The Princes who heard about the beauty



of Nagnajithi went to the Kingdom of Kosala and confronted the Oxen. A few died and some were injured in the attempt. Lord Krishna came to know about this.

Lord Krishna went to the King and said, “Give your daughters hand to Me and get her married to Me”. The King replied, “There is no other greater person than You to marry my daughter, but I have taken an Oath. There are seven Oxen in our Kingdom. If You can capture them then I will accept you to marry my daughter”. Lord Krishna went inside the compound and hit them with one hand and tied the rope to their nose and destroyed the Demon Energy in them. The oxen were then used for agriculture. Lord Krishna got married to Nagnajithi. Lord Krishna told Nagnajithi, “In Krutha Yuga, I have created You for Yagna. You are *Swaha Devi* and born with the element of Goddess Lakshmi. Now You are in the form of *Swaha Devi* with Agni and as Nagnajithi with Me. Once My incarnation ends You can join the God of fire, Agni”. *Swaha Devi* is a form of mantra, the one who does Yagna with this *Swaha* mantra will also get salvation. The story of *Swaha Devi* is very sacred. The one who listens to or reads this story will experience many pleasures and ultimately attain salvation. “What do you want to hear now?” Lord Vishnu asked Sage Naradha.

Sage Naradha asked, “I read that there is a Mantra for *Swaha Devi*. Whoever chants this mantra will get the benefits of performing Yagna without performing it. Please tell me more about that mantra”. (It can be chanted while reciting the *Devi Puranam*. And that place will be considered as Yagna Sthala in Vaikuntam) While lighting the Deepam if any devotee chants this Mantra, they will get the benefits of performing 100 Ashvamedha Yagnas among others.

*Om Hreem Sreem Vandhijayayai Deveyai Swaha*

Now, Sage Naradha asked Lord Vishnu to tell him about *SWADHA DEVI*. Lord Vishnu replied, “Those who die will reach *PITRULOKA* (Pitru Lokam is the World beside Yama Lokam). They are called as *Pitrudevathalu*. There were 32,000 *Pitrudevathalu*. All of them after death got a body. That body is known as *URDHVA SARIRAM* (it is not like a human body, it can move anywhere, can change its size, it can fly or swim). They were hungry and went to the Gods and said, “While we

were on Earth, we got food. Now in this body we do not know what to eat. You are getting food through *Swaha Devi*. Please provide us the same food”. The Gods replied, “That food is for Us and you cannot get the food through *Swaha Devi*, so We cannot feed you”. The *Pitrudevthalu*, were suffering from hunger. They could not get food from the Earth or from the Gods. They went to Lord Brahma and said, “We are suffering from hunger. We were happy as Humans on the Earth. You brought us here and made us suffer. Neither can we go back to Earth nor can we reach Heaven. We are suffering in between. Please protect us”.

Lord Brahma created a beautiful Woman from His heart. She was young, white in color and shining with the light of 1,00,00,000 moons. She was educated, beautiful, and wearing assorted ornaments. Lord Brahma said, “You are born from my Heart, so I will name You as *Swadha Devi*. Agni’s first wife is *Swaha Devi* and You will be his second wife. These *Pitrudevathalu* are suffering without food. For these *Pitrudevathalu*, their children will do the *PITRUYAGNAM* (rituals performed for the ancestors). They will arrange three Pindas and perform the Yagna. While performing that Yagna they will read the Mantras with *Swadha* instead of *Swaha*. When *Swadha* word is used the food will reach *Pitrudevathalu*.



*Pinda Pradhanam*

Provide food for these 32,000 Pitrudevathalu. I am going to set a rule to all the individuals on Earth. If the parents leave their body, perform the *Pinda Pradhanam*. While doing this, light the fire and the food offered in the fire will reach *Pitrudevathalu*. *Swadha Devi* will get energy with Sesame seeds, water and Darbha (Grass) and the nephew of the deceased should be present in the ritual. So, the sesame seeds and water

has to be poured on the *Pindas* using Darbha and in the presence of nephew. By this act *Swadha Devi* will give the food to *Pitrudevathalu* quickly”. That is why we have

to perform the *Pinda Pradhanam*, to feed the *Pitrudevathalu*. In turn they will bless us with children and prosperity. If we are not performing this *Pinda Pradhanam* then that family will become childless.

- When the father is alive and the mother leaves the body, the son should not perform the rituals (the husband has to do unless he is terribly sick).
- If the mother is alive and the father leaves the body then the son has to perform the rituals.
- After death, for one year we can visit temples but cannot perform special Pujas (like *Abhishekam*)
- Visiting the places like Kasi will give great virtue. People can visit the river banks to immerse the ashes.
- Sleeping in the temple for at least one night gives great virtue (after *Pinda Pradhanam* rituals).
- Lighting of the lamp (Deepam) is also acceptable (as the lamp is already lit near the head of the Body)
- Perform the *Pinda Pradhanam* on the name of *Swadha Devi*, if not possible, we can also give *SWAYAM PAAKAM* (Offering the raw food items/ groceries to the priest in the name of the parents)

By doing all this *Swadha Devi* will feed the ancestors and in turn they will bless us with children and prosperity. In the months of *MAGHA*, *KARTHIKA* (*Ashtami*, *Panchami*, *Chaturdashi*, *Amavasya*), and on full moon and new moon days performing *Pinda Pradhanam* (irrespective of dates) in *Gaya*, *Badri*, *Kasi* is considered to be very good. *Swadha Devi* will be happy and bless us forever. She likes these days and months so She will bless the clan. After the *Pinda Pradhanam* donating *Narmada Bana lingam* or any Siva Lingam and *Saligramam* with *Dakshina* is very auspicious. If anyone is not getting married in a family it may be due to the *Pitrudevathalu* not being happy. To come out of such troubles the individual has to choose the above

said days and do the *Pinda Pradhanam*. To get the grace of *Swadha Devi*, there is one Mantra which is very sacred and will fulfil all our wishes. (This mantra was created by Lord Brahma.) This is the most sacred *Swadha Devi* story, whoever reads or listens to this will get the grace of *Swadha Devi*.

*Om Hreem Sreem Kleem Swadha Deveyai Swaha*

*DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XXIV CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*





## CHAPTER 25

### KEY POINTS

Why should we praise righteous people?

Story of Dakshina Devi

Story of Shashti Devi

Story of Mangala Chandi

Story of Mansa Devi

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

In the initial stages of the Creation, to provide food for the Gods, Lord Brahma instructed mankind to start Yagnas on Earth. The things offered in Yagna like ghee and other sacred products will reach Gods immediately in the form of food. However sometimes even when the Yagna was performed by the Sages like Kasyapudu with devotion and with proper Mantras, the food offered in the Yagna was not reaching the Gods. The Gods were hungry. So, all the Gods reached Lord Vishnu and said, “Oh God! The priests are chanting the mantras with devotion and performing the Yagna with devotion and offering the things in the Yagna, but we are not able to get them. What is the reason”?

Lord Vishnu replied, “There is a reason for not getting the food. The one who is performing the Yagna are not giving Dakshina (honorarium given to the priests after a ritual) to the priests. That is why the food is not reaching you”.

The Gods were shocked and thought, “Oh! The reason behind not getting food is Dakshina, so what should we do?” They asked Lord Vishnu for a solution.

Lord Vishnu replied, “Within a short time I will give the solution for this problem, please be patient until then”.

Other than Brahma Lokam, Vaikuntam and Kailasam, there is another World which is known as Golokam in which Lord Krishna and Goddess Radha reside. They will be dancing with Sudhamudu, the Gopikas (Goddess Radha is head for all the Gopikas) and others. Lord Krishna will be performing *MANDALA NRUTHYAM* (Dancing in a circular ornamental pattern) in different forms and also playing flute and singing songs. (Music, Literature and Dance are the forms of Goddess Saraswathi, so mistakes should be avoided.)

Once the Gods went to greet Goddess Saraswathi. Sage Durvasudu also accompanied them. Sage Durvasudu bowed and touched the feet of Goddess Saraswathi. He was shocked to see that Her feet were bruised and bleeding. Sage Durvasudu immediately asked, “Oh Goddess! What happened? Your feet are bleeding as if someone had cut or injured them.”

Goddess Saraswathi replied, “No one can come to My world and injure Me. Due to the sins committed by some people My feet got injured. On Earth some had wrongly written and sang songs and verses which injured My feet”. The one who is singing and writing with mistakes knowingly will be causing injuries to Goddess Saraswathi. But when an innocent person sings a song wrongly, it won't hurt Her as they are unaware of mistakes committed by them.

In Golokam while the dancing and singing is going on, any mistake done by others will hurt Lord Krishna. So, Goddess Radha appointed a few people to take care of the place. The musicians and the singers were faultless so as to avoid mistakes while performing the dance. Goddess Radha instructed them, “For the welfare of the World Lord Krishna and I dance and it is a blessing to all the Worlds. It will give sufficient rainfall on Earth. So, there should not be any mistakes in your performance and it should not affect the flow of the dance”. To play the Veena (a Musical instrument) Goddess Radha appointed a woman by name Suseela.





*Patterns of Mandalas*

Lord Vishnu in the incarnation of Vamana avatar praised Emperor Bali by saying, “Your clan is so great; Prahalad’s son is Virochanudu and you are his son. Your father Virochanudu donated his body to the Brahmins. You are also not any less and offered not only your life, but everything if someone asked you.” Lord Vishnu praised Emperor Bali as a great donor. Some opposed this by saying, “We are not supposed to praise the donor”. Vamana was Lord Vishnu. Whatever He did was as per Dharma. It is considered ingratitude if we are not praising the donor and the person who does charity. The one who is not praising them is equal to the one who eats excreta. Once Lord Brahma appeared and wanted to give a boon to Virochanudu. Virochanudu asked, “I should die whenever I invite death (known as *SWECHA MARANAM*)” and Lord Brahma granted it. Empowered with the boon Virochanudu won the war against the Gods. All the Gods reached Lord Brahma

and said, “We are not able to kill Virochanudu as he is a great donor and with great powers. Now he has conquered Heaven and we do not know what to do”

Lord Brahma replied, “He is a great person and he will die on his own, but death will not kill him. So, you cannot kill him in a war. Unless he dies, you will not get Heaven back. But there is a way to do it. He respects Brahmins and he will give whatever they ask. So, use this weakness to kill him”.

All the Gods understood the idea and disguised themselves as old Brahmins and went to Virochanudu and said, “Oh Mahatma! Protect us”.

Virochanudu replied, “If you ask, I will give my life. Tell me what you want”. The Gods in the form of old Brahmins said, “You die immediately”.

Virochanudu understood that the Brahmins were Gods and said, “As I gave my word, I will adhere to it”. Saying so, he spread the Darbha grass and laid down on it and gave up his life.

Emperor Bali also donated three feet land and gave up his life. God also has to go as a beggar to a righteous person. When we follow the path of Dharma, God will also become small (Vamana) and fold His hands in front of us. That is the greatness of righteousness and donation. Praising righteous people is Lord Vishnu’s greatness and saying no to the praise is Emperor Bali’s greatness. Devotion towards Brahmins is the greatest of all virtues.

Coming back to the story of Goddess Radha and Lord Krishna, Suseela was given instructions to play the Veena. While playing the Veena, Suseela looked at the feet of Lord Krishna. He was blue in color, but the soles of His feet were pink in color and soft like the Lotus (that is why they are called as *PADA PADMAMULU*= Lotus feet). Looking at the feet of the Lord she stopped playing the musical instrument. When that happened the dancing also stopped. Goddess Radha became angry and cursed Suseela, “For the welfare of the World We were dancing as a Yagna but you interrupted it. So, you will leave your body and you will be born on Earth and you will suffer by marrying a stingy person”. Lord Krishna was surprised hearing the curse and said, “Suseela is my great devotee and in anger you cursed her, so I am disappearing from here”.



*Feet of Lord Krishna*

Goddess Radha is the representation of love and She will not get angry easily. But She cursed Suseela for the welfare of the World. She was shaken with the decision of Lord Krishna and felt, “The dance of Yagna has been stopped because of Suseela and in anger I cursed her. Lord Krishna listening to it wants to leave this Golokam. So, She said, “If You are not in this world My body will become filled with poison”, and wept. (This has been written by Bhakta Jayadeva in the form of a song.) While She was crying, Lord Vishnu appeared and said, “Oh Radha! You cursed Suseela; that is why I left Golokam. Now if You give her a boon, she will bring prosperity to Mankind and the Gods. Will You give her the boon which I seek?” Goddess Radha accepted to that.

Lord Vishnu continued, “You merge Suseela in the body of Goddess Lakshmi and She will originate from the left side of the Devi’s body. Name Her as *Dakshina* and She will be useful for the wellbeing of the World.” Goddess Radha followed the instruction of Lord Vishnu and *Dakshina* was born with four hands. Goddess Radha gave Her the mantra and also told Her to be near any Yagna. “You will be in this form of Money (*Dakshina*) on Earth. Whoever performs Yagna, they will offer *Dakshina* to the priests with betel leaves, nuts and money. You will provide result for any ritual or worship”. The *Dakshina Devi* created by Goddess Radha is a form of Goddess Lakshmi. The mantra given by Goddess Radha was

*Om Sreem Kleem Hreem Dakshinayai Swaha*

Lord Vishnu said, “Henceforth, after performing the Yagna, a human has to offer *Dakshina* immediately after the ritual, in the form of gold or money to the priests. Without *Dakshina*, there will be no result emanating from the worship. If the offering is delayed, the benefit of the worship or ritual will be decreased”. So, depending on our finances we can pay the *Dakshina*. This is the story of *Dakshina Devi*. Whosoever reads or listens to this, the defects in their organs will be eliminated, in future no child will be born with organ defects in their clan and the mistakes done previously while performing Yagna will also be removed. The devotees will get married to a person like Suseela and they will have good children.

Due to Goddess Radha’s curse Suseela was born as a daughter to a merchant. From childhood she was a devotee of Lord Krishna and she worshiped His idol and



thought of Him all the time. The merchant was also a great devotee and did a lot of charity. Suseela also cooked food and fed the people who came to her house. At the age of 18 she got married to a person who was a complete miser. He was such a miser that he would count everything, even the grains of rice to cook food each day. He would instruct her to not prepare any curries and would eat the food with red chili powder and buttermilk instead. He never travelled, and if he did, he would give her very little rice to cook and eat. Her husband was not a devotee, so he was preventing Suseela from worshipping or offering food to her God. Suseela was not able to disobey her husband's words. She would sit in front of Lord Krishna and say, "You did not give me the opportunity to offer food and worship You. At least You gave me the opportunity to only worship You". And like this her life went on with the miser for 12 years.

Once the husband had to go to another village to attend a wedding (he went to marriages, only to eat food for two or three days so that he could save that food at home). He gave minimal rice and chili powder and asked her to adjust with that and save if she can for him. Suseela also thought of using the groceries with care. This merchant was having the business of selling sweets. He gave a few sweets to her and asked her to sell them with the price he fixed. He then left for the wedding and she started cooking the little rice he gave her to eat. Meanwhile she heard someone calling from outside her house with a soft voice, "Oh Mother! Please save me". None will come to this house asking for protection, but for the first time she heard and she opened the door (the husband never allowed her to open the door also). She saw an eight-year-old boy outside the door.

The boy was dark in color and he had a peacock feather on the head tied with a cloth. The Child said, "Oh Suseela! I am hungry". She was shocked and thought, "The little rice which I cooked will not be enough for this child. If my husband knows that someone has entered the house, he will beat me up". But she was not able to resist herself from feeding the child, so she called the child inside and said, "If my husband comes to know that someone came into the house, he will kill me. But looking at you, I could not stop myself. Come and sit. I do not have anything to feed you, except this little rice. So please eat this."



*Child with Peacock feather on the head*

The Child said, “Your husband gave you rice for four days”.

She replied, “Good that you reminded me. I will cook all the rice and feed you”. She cooked all the rice. There were no leaves for her to place the rice (plate made with broad dried leaves called *VISTARAKU*). So, she went to her back yard and made a plate with the leaves of a plant there. She served the food on it and said “I have this rice and the chilli powder which I saved for my husband and some sour buttermilk. Will you eat it?”

He said, “Whatever you feed me is equal to Elixir. So serve me the food.” The child ate everything served on the *Vistaraku* (Plate made of leaf). After eating the Boy said, “Oh Suseela! My hunger is yet to be appeased with the food you offered, give me something more to eat”.

Suseela replied, “There is no food left to eat”.

The Boy said, “There may not be food, but think, you have some other things to offer me. While going, your husband gave you sweets to sell”.

Suseela replied, “Oh Child! What you said is correct. Without selling the sweets, if I give them to you my husband will beat me. But as you asked and I have been habituated to donating food in my parent’s home I will give you those sweets as well”. She gave him the sweets and the child ate them up quickly. Then she said, “Nothing is left now”.

The Child said, “You forgot about the fresh buttermilk which your husband gave to you to sell. He will give you sour buttermilk, but for sale he has fresh buttermilk and I like buttermilk”.

Suseela gave the child buttermilk which was kept for selling. He drank it and said, “Oh Suseela! You gave me food and buttermilk to drink, but where is my *Daskhina*? I cannot leave home without taking *Dakshina*”.

Suseela was shocked with this demand of the child. She did not have anything to give as *Dakshina*. She informed the same to the child.

The Child again said, “Do you really not have anything to give? Think about it”.

Suseela replied, “I have my *MANGALASUTRA* (The word Mangal means auspicious and Sutra means thread and together Mangalsutra means an auspicious thread uniting the souls. The groom ties the auspicious thread around the bride’s neck on the day of wedding) which I shouldn’t take off”.

The Child said, “You have a diamond ring on your finger which has been given by your father at the time of your wedding. Give that to me”.



Suseela said, “If I give this ring to you, my husband will behead me. But it is my duty to honor the guest with *Dakshina*”. Saying so, she went inside her house and got Darbha and with the ring she gave it to the Child. She said, “I am giving you this ring, so now please leave. I do not mind if something happens to me but I am worried about you. If my husband sees you, he will kill you and grab this ring. So please leave”. The child praised her and left the place. For the next two days she ate Roselle leaves (*GONGURA*) from her back yard. By the evening of the third day her husband returned and asked about the groceries. She replied that everything has been used up. He said, “You ate everything; rice, chili powder and buttermilk. Now I am hungry”.

Suseela replied, “Give me the keys. I will get the rice and chili powder from the store and cook for you”.

The husband replied, “I cannot wait until you cook food. Get me some sweets.”

Suseela said, “I have sold all the sweets”. Her husband was hungry, so he became angry and he held her by her hair and slapped her. While hitting, he saw that the ring on her finger was missing.

Immediately he asked, “Where is the ring given by your parents”?

She said, “While cooking the food, it must have fallen in the pot used to store water”

The husband said, “Go get it immediately or otherwise I will behead you”.

She went inside the house and started thinking, “How long can I lie to my husband? I fed the sweets and gave the ring as *Dakshina*”. In ancient times, while coming from the parent’s home, women were given poison to use so that whatever happens, whether life or death, it should happen in their in-law’s home. So, the same way Suseela had some poison with her. She took the poison and mixed it in water, folded her hands and said, “I am always the devotee of Lord Krishna from childhood. I thought I will worship Him forever, but because of this husband I was not able to continue. Today my husband asked me to get the diamond ring which I cannot get back. So, I want to take my life by suicide, Oh Lord Krishna! Please save

me from this sin.” She lifted the glass to drink the poisoned water, but she heard a sound from the glass. She saw the ring rotating in it. She was surprised to see the ring.

Lord Krishna in bluish color appeared and said, “Oh Suseela! You are the companion of Goddess Radha in Golokam. Due to Her curse, you have become *Dakshina* in the Yagna and you were also born on Earth. I have sent my companion Sudhamudu to test you as your miser husband. See who your husband is”. As she looked, she saw Sudhamudu there”.

When Suseela was cursed, Lord Krishna thought why should Suseela suffer in the hands of a human. So, He sent his companion Sudhamudu. Suseela also took her original form. Lord Krishna again said, “You are *Dakshina Devi* so I took the Dakshina from You. For a small mistake You were born on this Earth as a woman. Some people are *KARANA JANMULU* (take birth for a cause) who will take birth as humans and they will be tested. After achieving the success in the tests, they will be blessed with Salvation”. So, saying Lord Krishna took Suseela and left for Golokam. The one who reads or listens to the stories of *Dakshina* and Suseela will get rid of many problems and troubles. (In Kali Yuga, it is better to keep away from people and talk less about personal issues and more about spirituality. Talking about personal issues will get humans into trouble.) When people have troubles and conflicts among the relatives, or when imprisoned, the story of *Dakshina Devi* should be heard for a month. The devotee will definitely come out of these problems.

This is the most sacred story. The one who does not have belief in these stories will not get the benefit. But the ones who believe undoubtedly in this and listen for a month, they will be relieved of their problems. The result will depend on their belief”. Now listen to the *SASHTI DEVI* story.

The Devi in *Manidweepam* has Great Energy and power. Once, the sixth part of Her Energy and Power took the form of a beautiful Woman. She was the savior of the children and She is the main Deity protecting children. She is also called as *VISHNU MAYA*. No one can save children better than Her. She was called *Shashti Devi*. She was born and worshipped on the day of Shashti. She is also called as

*Kaumari, Devasena (Wife of Lord Kumara Swamy), Shashti, Prana Swarupini and Matrudevi.* The one who worships Her on the *Shukla Pakshami* (refers to the bright lunar fortnight) *Shashti*, their children will have long life. In ancient days when children were born, they worshiped Her. The devotee will apply turmeric powder to a thread while chanting *DEVASENA*, and a piece of turmeric will be tied to it. This thread will be kept at the feet of Lord Kumara Swamy and after Archana it will be tied to the mother. This thread will protect the child.

There is a story behind this ritual. Now I will tell you that story. Listen to it carefully. Lord Brahma had created two people from His body. The one born from the right hand is Swayambhu Manuvu and He created an extremely beautiful woman from His left hand. She looked like a compilation of a hundred beauties. That is why her name is *SATHA RUPA* (Satha is hundred and Rupa is beauty). Swayambhu and Satharupa were the first couple in the Creation. Lord Brahma asked them to start a family and give birth to children. They had two sons, one is *PRIYA VRATHUDU* and the second is *UTAANA PADHUDU* (Uthamudu and Druvudu were his sons). The third child was a daughter named *DEVAHUTHI*. She was married to Sage *KARDHAMUDU* and their son was Sage Kapiludu.

Priya Vratthudu and his wife Malini ruled the world for many years. They were righteous people, but they did not have any children. They once visited Sage Kasyapudu. The Sage said, “There is a reason behind your childlessness. Lord Brahma is your Guru. Once He called Malini and asked her to follow a ritual during a worship. She accepted but never followed it. Once the Guru gives a ritual to follow and if the devotee does not follow it, it is a great sin. The devotee will face a lot of hardships and reach terrible Hell after their death. They will then be reborn and have the worst of lives. Malini did not follow the instructions of Lord Brahma. Due to this sin, you did not have children. You are the son of Swayambhu Manu. But still, you did not follow the instructions of the Guru. Now to get rid of this sin, you have to go to your Guru again”. Sage Kasyapudu took Priya Vratthudu and his wife Malini and went to see Lord Brahma.

Sage Kasyapa said, “Priya Vratthudu and his wife Malini belong to Your clan and they are Your grandchildren. But they did not follow the instructions given by You

and are now suffering without a child. They wish to have a child. So please advise them”. Lord Brahma replied, “I will forgive their mistake, so they will be blessed with a child. But to get rid of the sin of contempt of the Guru, they have to perform *PUTRA KAMESHTI YAGAM* (special Yagna performed in Hinduism for the sake of having a child) under your guidance. “Sage Kasyapa with Priya Vrathudu and his wife Malini reached the banks of River Ganga. He said, “Lord Brahma asked me to perform *Putra Kameshti Yagna*, so I will guide you”. Saying this he arranged a Yagna Kundam and performed *Putra Kameshti Yagna*. The Yagna was attended by many Sages like Angirudu, Vasishta, Vamana, Suyagna and many others.

For the Yagna they prepared *CHERUHU* (Rice cooked with ghee to offer in Yagna). In *Putra Kameshti Yagna* a part of *Cheruhu* will be kept aside. This rice will be purified with the mantra and cow ghee. This rice will be given to the couple who are performing the Yagna. The priests will ask the woman to eat it so that the couple will be blessed with a child. (By eating this *Cheruhu* even a Nullipara (a barren woman) will give birth). King Dashrath was blessed with children after performing *Putra Kameshti Yagna*. Sage Kasyapa, after the *Putra Kameshti Yagna* gave the *Cheruhu* to Malini and said, “Oh Malini! Take this *Prasadam* and with devotion ask for the forgiveness of Lord Brahma and eat it”. She took it and ate it but while eating she felt, “Lord Brahma may be my Guru but why should I follow Him?”.

Every human needs to have a strong will to follow spirituality. They should have the power to control their minds and thoughts. When we are in the path of righteousness many things will distract us, and enemies will increase as we get money, name and fame. At this time, we need to be strong by ignoring the distractions and the enemies. We have to get motivated by the people who are having strong will to achieve anything. We were blessed with this human life so we have to utilize it to help others as far as possible. We should not hurt others with our words or acts. We have to be happy by making others happy. God will take care of such people. Especially people who are following a ritual like Upasana that needs the strength of the inner soul. There will be many struggles while we are under Upasana. In spite of such struggles the one who follows the right path will not have rebirth and they will reach the world of the Devi.

Even though Malini was a devotee, her thoughts slipped for a while and she started thinking, “By eating this *Cheruhu* will I get children?” By this thought she showed disbelief for a while. Immediately she realized her mistake and thought “I have performed the Yagna with devotion, but I had disbelief on the *Prasadam* (*Cheruhu*) and on my Guru, Lord Brahma. Why did I think so?”. Realizing her mistake and with devotion, she asked for forgiveness and ate the *Cheruhu*. Malini became pregnant immediately and was with that pregnancy for 12 years as a result of wrong thoughts and disbelief while taking the *Prasadam*. On completion of 12 years, she delivered a baby boy. The child was shining like Gold, with all the limbs, but he was stillborn. Getting to knowing this Malini became inconsolable and cried terribly. Priya Vrauthudu convinced her and along with her, took the child’s dead body to bury, and started walking towards the burial ground. They were weeping bitterly, but then there was a lightening that flashed across the sky.

Priya Vrauthudu and Malini rubbed their eyes and looked at the lightening. It was not actually lightening. It was a golden aircraft shining like pure crystal studded with precious stones. A Divine woman from the aircraft blessed Priya Vrauthudu and Malini. The woman was like white Champak flower, Her feet and palms were red in color, and She had thick hair. She was wearing a silk sari, assorted ornaments and had a beautiful smile on Her face. Priya Vrauthudu greeted Her by folding his hands and said, “We are going to bury the dead child in the graveyard. But You appeared as good fortune to us. Who are You? You are young and glowing. I know You have come to show grace on us. May I know who You are”?

The Goddess blessed him. “You will have good fortune. I am the sixth Power and Energy of *Lalitha Parabhattacharika Devi* who emerged from the heart of Lord Brahma. My name is *Devasena*, *Eshwari*, *Koumari* and many others. I am the wife of Lord Kumaraswamy and as I am the sixth energy of Devi I am also called *Shashti Devi*. You are facing all these troubles because You do not know about me. I give children to the childless and the unmarried will get married. I will give money to the poor and I will help the one who wishes to do the righteous things. I will control the emotions of Happiness, Sadness, Anger, Fear and keep the devotee always happy. Once, I became the leader of the Gods and I was in the form of valor in them and

helped them to achieve success. That is how I got the name *Devasena*. I am the main Deity for the results of Karma. Your Karma brought these sufferings to you.

Depending on the Karma some will have children, some have husband, some have wives, some are born beautiful and some are born without limbs. The sorrows and happiness depend upon their own Karma. Oh King! Your wife rejected the Guru, Lord Brahma and did not follow the rituals given by Him. Due to that sin, in spite of being your wife she is suffering without children. To come out of this sorrow I will give you a Sthotram known as *Shashti Devi Sthotram*.

*Namo Devyai Maha Devyai Sidhyai Santhyai Namō Namaha,  
Shubhayai Devasenayai Sashtyai Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Varadayai, Puthradayai Dhanadhayai Namō Namaha,  
Sukhdhayai, Mokshdayai , Sashtyai Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Srishtiyai , Sashtamsa Swaroopayai Sidhyai Namō Namaha,  
Mayayai Sidha Yoginyai , Sashti Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Saarayai Saradayai Cha Para Devyai Namō Namaha,  
Baladishtryai Devyai Cha Sashti Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Kalyanadayai Kalyanyai Phaladayai Cha Karmanaam,  
Prathyakshyai Sva Bhakthaanam , Sashtyai Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Poojyayai Skanda Kanthayai Sarvesham Sarva Karmasu,  
Deva Rakshana Karinyai Sashti Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Shuddha Sathwa Swaroopayai Vandhithyai, Nrunaam Sadaa,  
Himsa Krodha Varjithyai , Sashti Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Dhanam Dehi Priyam Dehi, Puthram Dehi Sureswari,  
Manam Dehi Jayam Dehi Dvisho Jahi Maheswari*

*Dharmam Dehi, Yaso Dehi, Shashti Devyai Namō Namaha.  
Dehi Bhumim, Prajaam Dehi, Vidhyaam Dehi Supoojithe,  
Kalyanam Cha Jayam Dehi, Sashti Devyai Namō Namaha.*

After giving the Sloka *Shashti Devi* said, “Take water in your hand, chant this Slokam and sprinkle this water on the dead child”. Priya Vratudu and Malini did the same and the child came to life and started crying. As She gave good fortune, she was called as *Shashti Mangala Devatha* from that time. Priya Vratudu was very happy and said, “You have given life to my son and absolved us from great sins and we will always have gratitude for this”. From then onwards, they both worshipped the Devi on every *Shukla Shashti*. Those who worship *Shashti Devi*, the children in their clan will always be happy and they will not have illness. (Especially when the child is born, and on *ANNA PRASANAM DAY*). These children will always be happy.



*Goddess Shashti Devi*

While worshipping *Shashti Devi*, one flower has to be placed at the feet of Lord Kumara Swamy and after the worship the devotee should place that flower on their head. Doing this will remove the mistakes in the worship. The one who reads and listens to this story with attention and devotion, their clan will have prosperity. Those who never had children or who give birth to still born or have frequent abortions or the children born with diseases, by worshipping *Shashti Devi*, will come out of all these problems. This was all narrated by Lord Vishnu to Sage Naradha.

Then Sage Naradha asked about the Goddess *MANAGALA CHANDIKA*. Lord Vishnu replied, “The Devi gives good luck for all the tasks, so She is known as *Mangala Chandika*. She is another form of the Devi. In ancient times there was a King called Mangaludu who belonged to the Swayambhu clan. He constantly suffered from many troubles all the time. To come out of them he worshipped Goddess *Chandika*. Pleased with his devotion the Goddess took away all his troubles and gave him



comforts. Due to this She is also known as *Mangala Chandika*. I will tell you how She had incarnated. Listen to it carefully. *Parvathi, Durga, Uma, Kathyayini, Chandi* are all names of Goddess Parvathi. *Mangala Chandika* was incarnated from Goddess Parvathi.

Once, Demons Tripurasurulu (Vidyunmali, Tarakaksha and Viryavana, sons of Demon Tarakasurudu) did Tapas for Lord Brahma and asked for a boon, “We want three cities, which can be on Water, on Air and on Earth. We should be able to go anywhere with these cities. When these three cities come into one orbit, Lord Siva should come in a Chariot which is not a chariot, and should kill us with a weapon which is not a weapon, and then only should we die.” Lord Brahma called upon Maya and asked him to build three cities. Maya built one city with Iron, one with Silver and the other with Gold. All these three cities were not on Earth; they were rotating in the sky. These cities had all the comforts. They were not stationary; they were sometimes in the Water, sometimes on the Earth and sometimes in the Sky. The Demons were troubling everyone including the Gods. The Gods went to Lord Siva and asked Him, “Protect us from Tripurasurulu. They are destroying all the Worlds”.

Lord Siva replied, “They are not going to die so easily”. Lord Siva made Mount Meru as the Chariot and made the Sun and the Moon as the wheels of the chariot. The horses were the Four Vedas. Horse reins were Vasuki and Adishesu. The captain of the chariot was Lord Brahma. He made the bow with the energy of OM, Mount Meru and the Earth, known as *PRANAVA DHANUSSU*. The thread for the bow was a snake named Karkotakudu. Lord Vishnu became the arrow known as *NARAYANA ASTRAM*. Once the chariot flew in the air and the three Kingdoms came into one orbit, then the weapon was to be used. Lord Siva ordered the chariot to fly. Tripurasurulu once worshipped Goddess Parvathi on three Tuesdays and they got the boon of collapsing any aircraft which is in front of them with just a thought. They saw the chariot flying and with their power of thought they wished that the chariot which is flying in the sky should collapse immediately. With their power, the chariot which was driven by Lord Brahma and has Vedas as horses and the Sun and Moon as wheels, collapsed.



*Lord Vishnu as Arrow, Lord Brahma as Charioteer, and Lord Siva as Warrior*

The Trinity were surprised by this and started thinking. “These Tripurasurulu have unusual powers. To kill them the chariot has to fly. What should We do now?” While in thought they saw a light as a tiny line. The Trinity understood that light as Durga Devi and She was the one who gave the boon to Tripurasurulu to collapse the chariot. They greeted that Light. Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva worshipped the Devi in the form of *CHANDI* and chanted the *Navarna Mantram* to help them in killing the Tripurasurulu. That day was Tuesday (*Mangala Vaaram* in Telugu) and they chanted with devotion to *Chandi* with *Navarna Mantram*. She then appeared with many hands, eyes and with a crown. She was bright red in color. She said, “Oh Trinity! To destroy the evil you have worshipped Me. Today is Tuesday, so from now onwards I will be known as *Mangala Chandi*. The one who remembers this story on every Tuesday, will not have any misfortune and I will bless them with good fortune. Oh Siva! With Your power the chariot will fly again and the three cities will come together into one orbit. Then You can kill them easily”.

Saying this *Mangala Chandi* disappeared. The chariot flew into the air with great speed. The Trinity then got Great Power. Lord Siva looked at the three cities with His three eyes. All the cities came into the same orbit and He immediately shot the *Narayana Astram* (arrow). This arrow with the power of fire burnt all the three cities to ashes. Some of the ash fell on Earth in the place called Tripuranthakam. Lord Siva manifested as a Lingam at this place. Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu prayed and worshiped Lord Siva here. This is a most sacred temple. (The temple entrance will be from the southwest corner). Lord Siva also prayed to His own form (Lingam) in this temple. They established the Goddess in the form of an Idol and said, “Oh *Jaganmatha*! You will be worshipped as *Mangala Chandi*. And We have established you in the form of an idol and are worshipping You”.

*Om Hreem Sreem Kleem Sarva Poojye Devi Mangala Chandike,  
Hoom Hoom Phat Swabethyevam  
Cha Apya Ekavinsakharo Manu Poojya Kalpa Tharuschaiva  
Bhakthaanam Sarva Kamadha,*

*First Lord Siva worshipped her with three slokas they are*

*Raksha Jagan Mathaha Devi Mangala Chandike,  
Harike Vipadam Rasehe Harsha Mangala Karine.  
  
Harsha Mangala Dakshecha, Harsha Mangala Dayike,  
Shubhe Mangala Dakshecha, Shubha Mangala Chandike.  
  
Mangal, Mangalarhe Cha, Sarva Mangala Mangale,  
Sathaam Mangaladhe Devi, Sarveshaam Mangalalaye.*

This is a *Stothram* that uplifts the one who is destroyed. The one who fell from a level of status due to any reason have to remember this story and have to chant this *Stothram*. (The one who chants this *Stothram* in the presence of the Devi's Idol for three consecutive Tuesdays, worships the Devi and gives Dakshina to the priest, will get back their own home). The devotee who reads or listens to this *Stothram* with attention and devotion will get all the good fortunes. Their children will prosper. Lord Vishnu told this story to Sage Naradha.

Sage Naradha had one more doubt, “Some will not get married and few will not have children, some suffer from skin ailments and spots on their skin. The elders say the reason for all these sufferings are due to *NAGA DOSHAM* (happens due to rage and extreme anger by the God of Serpents). How do we get this Dosham (error)? Which God has to be worshiped to come out of this Dosham? Is it true that the Goddess who will remove all these errors is called *Mansa Devi, Jarathkaruvu and Nageshwari*?”

Lord Vishnu replied, “The one who has Kujha (Mars) in the Seventh and Eighth place in their horoscope will have *Naga Dosham*. There are a few Great serpents and which is why elders said that we should not kill them. Few serpents are in the form of our ancestors and they will come to see their descendants or the money they kept safely during their lifetime. The miser who acquires lots of money without spending will be born as a snake near his wealth to safeguard it. The one who kills these kinds of serpents unknowingly will suffer from childlessness or spots on their skin and many other great sins. Similarly digging snake mounds or pits and building houses on them is a great sin. The Snake mounds should not be destroyed or used as space for farming. These places should be converted into a sacred place or as a temple for them. These places belong to Cows, Priests, Serpents and Gods and should not be occupied or used. Sometimes Divine snakes also visit homes on Earth. The one who kills these snakes will not have peace of mind. They will also suffer from the conflicts between the couple, and so it is better to avoid killing snakes unnecessarily. Only one God can remove all these sins and She is *MANSA DEVI*.

Once, Lord Brahma along with Indra and other Gods and Sage Kashyapudu visited Lord Siva at Kailasam. They took the waters of Goddess Ganga from His head and did *Abhishekam* to Him with devotion. Lord Siva said, “I like water and especially the waters of Ganga. All of You did *Abhishekam* with that water. I am pleased with it. Why have You come here? Please tell Me what You want”? Indra and the other Gods replied, “On Earth mankind is suffering from *Naga Dosham*. Please bless Us with a Goddess to pray, to get rid of this Dosham”. Lord Siva immediately created a Goddess from His heart. As She came from His heart She was known as *MANSA DEVI* (Manas is heart). After that She entered into the body of Sage Kasyapudu

and incarnated. So, She was also called as *KASYAPI*. Then She entered into Lord Brahma's body and incarnated as *BRAHMANI*. She was born on Earth to Sage Kasyapudu and Kadruva as a daughter and was called as *JARATHKARUVU*.

Lord Siva said, "As long as I am in Kailasam, the Goddess cannot be created. So, we will all go to Earth". All of them went to Earth, and reached Haridwar (the place where Lord Vishnu descended on Earth). On both sides of River Ganga there are two mountains. Lord Siva reached one of them, sat down and asked all the Gods to stand in front of Him. All the Gods stood in front of Lord Siva. He brought forth a Goddess from His heart. She was *Mansa Devi* and the mountain was called Mansa Mountain. She was created in the month of Kartika, *Sukla Chaturthi*. Lord Siva built an extraordinary temple. Lord Brahma and other Deities established *Mansa Devi* in the form of an Idol (This temple still exists in Haridwar). Lord Siva said, "Oh Mansa! You are the presiding deity for the serpents. The one who worships you will get the power to control their mind and heart. Bless them with that power." Lord Siva thus made Her the presiding Deity for the heart and mind. *Mansa Devi* was very happy and She became the presiding Deity for the serpents and came to be called *Nageshwari*. *Mansa Devi* is in a cave. After Darshan one has to come out of the temple and sit on that mountain and meditate on the Goddess. Dhyana Slokam for *Mansa Devi* is

*Naganam Prana Rakshitri Yagne Parikshatasya Cha,  
Nageshwari Dwikhyatha Sanaga Bhaga Neethicha*

You save us from the serpents and You gave life to Parikshit, you are also called as *Nageshwari*. The mountain is the form of many Gods, one of the favorite places for Lord Siva. It is on the banks of River Ganga.

As She was the daughter of Lord Siva She is worshipped by Gods, Gandharvas, humans and everyone else. At that time Earth was ruled by King Chandrasenu. He was a great devotee of Lord Siva. Under his rule Dharma was upheld on four pillars. He built a temple on the banks of River Ganga and worshiped Lord Siva daily. He was very obstinate about worshipping only Lord Siva. He only worshipped Lord Siva and no other Gods.





*Goddess Mansa Devi*

Sage Naradha once visited *Mansa Devi*. At that time, She was sitting, placing one leg over the other. Sage Naradha was upset with Her posture. Sage Naradha said, “Oh Mansa! How is your reign? You are the daughter of Lord Siva, so everything will be fine. Everywhere You will be worshipped and praised”.

*Mansa Devi* replied, “Everything is well. Since I was born on the *Nagula Chaturthi* day, all the serpents are worshipping Me. All the humans are also worshipping Me on that day. They are offering me different *Naivedyam*, like sesame seeds with jaggery and milk”.

Sage Naradha asked, “Oh! So almost all the humans are worshipping You”?

*Mansa Devi* replied, “Why do you say almost all? Everyone is worshipping me”. Sage Naradha again asked the same question. *Mansa Devi* replied the same.

Sage Naradha asked, “Do you know who is ruling this Earth?”

*Mansa Devi* replied, “I know. He is my father’s devotee Chandrasenudu”

Sage Naradha asked, “Did Chandrasenudu worship You and offer you milk or any other *Naivedyam*? The Gods are talking that the Gods worshipped by Chandrasenudu are great and the others are average.”

*Mansa Devi* was surprised and thought, “It’s been a long time that I have been on this mountain. Lord Brahma installed my Idol and He is coming and worshipping Me regularly. My father also comes and does *Abhishekam* to Me. But Chandrasenudu never came here or offered milk at the snake mound. Now I remember, he never worshipped Me. Maybe he does not know about Me”. Immediately She went to see Chandrasenudu. There was a big Siva Lingam at his palace. Daily, Chandrasenudu would sit in front of the Siva Lingam, meditate and also worship Him without even drinking the water (*Achamanam*). While the King was reciting the Sthotram *Mansa Devi* appeared there and said, “I am pleased with your devotion, I wish to give you a boon. Ask. What do you want?”

Chandrasenudu looked at Her and said, “I am the devotee of Lord Siva. He will grant me boons. Who are you? Why have you come without inviting?”



*Mansa Devi* replied, “Don’t you know that I am the daughter of Lord Siva, *Mansa Devi*. He made Me the main Deity of all the Worlds. I am the Presiding Deity for your heart also”.

Chandrasenudu smiled and replied, “I do not need anything, My God is Lord Siva. He will give everything to me. I worship Lord Siva, I perform *Abhishekam* to Siva Lingam, I will eat the *Prasadam* of Lord Siva. I do not have any God, other than Lord Siva. I will not think about other Gods or worship them. The whole world is filled with Lord Siva”.

*Mansa Devi* said, “I am the daughter of Lord Siva”.

Chandrasenudu replied, “I do not need anyone other than Goddess Parvathi and Lord Parmeshwara”.

*Mansa Devi* replied, “Oh Fool! If you worship Me and perform *Abhishekam* for Me I will shower My grace on you. Otherwise, I will destroy your Kingdom”.

Chandrasenudu replied, “You can do whatever You can”.

Then it started to rain and poured for seven days continuously due to *Mansa Devi*’s anger. All the agricultural lands were filled with water and it destroyed all crops and people were left without any food. They went and reported the same to King Chandrasenudu. The King replied, “Do not worry. We have an island in the sea known as *SIMHALA DWEEDAM*. I have stored huge amounts of grain on that island to use during the times of natural calamity. I will take 14 ships and bring them to feed you all. These grains will be sufficient for the next 10 years”. The King went to the island and filled the ships with grains and started back. When they were coming back *Mansa Devi* appeared on his ship. The King ignored Her presence and asked Her to leave the ship.

*Mansa Devi* replied, “Oh King! I am the reason behind the rainfall. I have already destroyed your fields and your Kingdom. I am giving you one more chance. Take refuge in Me. I will protect you and this grain will reach your Kingdom. Otherwise, you and the grain will be destroyed”.

Chandrasenudu remained defiant and replied, “Other than Lord Siva I will not worship anyone. Lord Siva is my only God”.

*DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XXV CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*





## CHAPTER 26

### KEY POINTS

How did Mansa Devi trouble the King?  
Why did Kalidas reprimand Kalika Devi?  
How Mansa Devi became a Ghoul?  
Why Vinatha became a slave to her sister Kadruva?  
The story of Jarathkaruvu and Jarathkarudu  
Story of Goddess Radha and Golokam

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

(There was a time when the holy town of Srirangam was occupied by Mohamed Bin Tughluk and the temple was closed for about 5 to 6 years. The temple was filled with filth. Finally, he was killed and Sri Ramanuja Charyulu took the initiative to restore the temple. He took the help of the devotees and cleaned the temple with the waters of River Kaveri and *Prana-Prathistha* was done for the idol by performing *Kumbhabhishekam*. Ramanuja Charyulu then climbed on to the top of the Gopuram and preached about the *Vishnu Ashtakshari Mantra*. All devotees present there took this mantra and preserved the culture of Hinduism. There are only a few Gurus who are trying to protect Hinduism. We should respect them all and follow their path as Hindus.)

*Mansa Devi* is one among the great energies of Devi. She has been created from the heart of Lord Siva and residing as a deity on the banks of River Ganga. Everyone has ego. Gods are not an exception to this. Even though *Mansa Devi* was the daughter of Lord Siva She also felt egoistic if someone did not worship Her. Sage Naradha also provoked Her and took advantage of Her ego for the welfare of the World. With this as the reason, She was troubling King Chandrasenudu. A knowledgeable person will accept that Gods can be in different forms and will worship them. There are a few devotees who are single minded about a particular God; one among them was King Chandrasenudu. He was a Great devotee of Lord Siva. He would not worship, pray or think about other Gods.

For example, Tulsidas who was a great scholar and a great poet was a great devotee of Lord Rama. He recited Ramayana in Kasi for years. Once on pilgrimage he reached Brundavanam. He saw the idol of Lord Krishna and closed his eyes. Lord Krishna (from inside the idol) asked, “Oh Devotee! Why did you close your eyes, do you not want to see Me”?

Tulsidas replied, “I do not like Your form. God means Lord Rama with a bow, a quiver of arrows and along with Goddess Sita. That is why I did not see Your face”.

Lord Krishna replied, “Oh Innocent Devotee! All the forms are My incarnations only. I am Lord Rama and Lord Krishna”.

Tulsidas replied, “I know that, but I like only the form of Lord Rama and His incarnation. If You appear as Lord Rama I will pray and greet You”.

Lord Krishna said, “For you I am giving the Darshan in the form of Lord Rama in Brundavanam. Open your eyes”. Tulsidas opened his eyes and saw Lord Rama in the place of Lord Krishna. He greeted and prayed to Lord Rama in Brundavanam.

Due to Her ego *Mansa Devi* appeared in the ship which was filled with grains. She said, “If you do not pray to Me, I am going to sink the ship along with the grains into the sea”. The King replied, “Lord Siva’s name is like the light of the Sun and our sins are like darkness. To remove the darkness, we need the Sun’s rays and Lord Siva’s name is like Sun rays. From the time we wake up we face many problems

and these problems are like cotton bundles. Lord Siva's name is like fire which will burn our troubles and gives us happiness. The Lion can attack the elephant and kill it, likewise our sins are like an elephant which gives us sudden death. Lord Siva's name is like a Lion which will save us. Our sins are like the pile of dried leaves and Lord Siva's name is like the wild wind where our sins will be blown away. Our addictions are like snakes and like Lord Siva's name is like an Eagle which will kill the addictions. My life is about worshipping Lord Siva and I do not need anything more than that".

*Mansa Devi* got very angry and broke the ships into pieces and all the people on it along with the grains and the King fell into the sea. Even after this incident King Chandrasenudu did not chant *Mansa Devi's* name, he was chanting Lord Siva's name. Lord Siva gave him a piece of wood so that the King could come out of the sea at Jagannath Puri (Puri). The King thought, "I may be destroyed or lose my life but I cannot remember anyone other than Lord Siva". As he came out of the sea, he gave *ARGHYAM* (offering water) to the Sun God. On the coast near the sea, he made a Lingam with the sand and worshipped It with devotion.

Meanwhile a boy came there and asked the King, "Oh Grandfather! You have worshipped Lord Siva. I stay nearby, do you need anything? I will get it for you".

King Chandrasenudu replied, "I am very thirsty and need some water to drink. But you do not have Udhi on your face. So, apply some Udhi and pour some water on this Lingam, then you can get me water". The King was very tired due to the continuous swimming and the hot sun, but still he did not want to drink water given by the boy unless he was a devotee of Lord Siva.

The boy replied, "This is Jagannath Puri, we worship only Lord Vishnu. If you want water then you have to worship Lord Vishnu. Then I will get you some water".

King Chandrasenudu replied, "I will die of thirst but will not worship other Gods".

The boy changed to Lord Krishna and said, "I am pleased with your innocent devotion towards Lord Siva. *Sivaya Vishnu Rupaya, Siva Rupaya Vishnave*. I am in

the form of Lord Siva and Lord Siva is in the form of Lord Vishnu”. Lord Krishna then applied Udhi on His forehead and poured water on the Lingam. He then offered the King some drinking water. If we are obstinately fixed on a particular God, then even God will make adjustments for His devotees. *UPASANA* (method for approaching or getting close to a Deity) is not easy to follow. To achieve it, we have to be steadfast. The one who is never afraid of small tests or who never steps back from the *Upasana* and dedicates their life can reach God in this life. Thus, the King came back to his Kingdom.

King Chandrasenudu had a son. Once *Mansa Devi* said, “If you do not worship Me, I will take the life of your son”. The King was not afraid of this, but he informed about it to his Guru, Sage Gouthamudu (he was a great person and there is a River named after him- Gouthami or Godavari).

Sage Gouthamudu gave a suggestion to the King, “As per his horoscope he will not have death once he is married, so get him married”.

King Chandrasenudu replied, “What if *Mansa Devi* takes my son’s life. My daughter-in-law will become a widow. Do I have to see her as a widow? I cannot do this for my selfishness”.

Sage Gouthama replied, “You are a great devotee, but sometimes are very stubborn in some issues. I am your Guru who is suggesting this. Once the Guru has suggested you must follow it. Once your son is married, he will become alive even after his death, believe me”. King Chandrasenudu respected his Guru, but was not in a position to trust him and felt that only Lord Siva had to tell him what to do.

Sage Gouthama replied, “The Guru is the form of Lord Siva. He will not come all the time to save His devotees so He will send suggestions through the Gurus”. Finally, he believed his Guru and found a beautiful woman and got his son married to her. On the wedding night *Mansa Devi* sent a snake named *KARKOTAKUDU* and the snake bit the son. The son turned black in color and died.

King Chandrasenudu said, “Oh Guru! I have told you. My daughter-in-law’s future has been destroyed”.



Sage Gouthama replied, “Still nothing has gone beyond our control. If your daughter-in-law follows my advice, your son will become alive. Our Kingdom is near a seashore. Build a beautiful ship. Your daughter-in-law along with your son’s body will sail in this ship and visit the temples which are on the sea coast. Once they have completed the pilgrimage ask her to take the body to Kasi. After reaching Kasi ask her to chant the *KALABHAIRAVA ASHTAKAM*. (This *Ashtakam* was written by Lord Brahma. It was the ancient one and now we are having the new versions). Once she chants the *Ashtakam* your son will live again. Now do not have doubt whether we can chant the name of God or recite *Ashtakam* when we are beside a dead body. As a Guru I am advising you this, so follow it”.

The King followed the advice. When the ship started, *Mansa Devi* tried to destroy it. But the daughter-in-law with utmost devotion chanted the name of Lord Siva. The daughter-in-law faced many problems due to *Mansa Devi* but she finally reached Kasi. She took the body of her husband and started walking towards tLord Kala Bhairava’s temple. *Mansa Devi* went to the scholars of the city and said, “Oh Scholars! Did you see one evil woman entering Lord Kala Bhairava’s temple with a dead body? She is a witch and had come here to worship. The bodies can be burnt in the holy land of Kasi but they should not be taken into temples. That too she is taking it to Lord Kala Bhairava’s temple. As she is a witch you break her teeth and burn that body”.

The scholars came there and did what *Mansa Devi* said. The daughter in law was very upset with this and protested and said, “Oh Kasi Visveswara! Are You there? Oh Kala Bhairava! Are You there? I am facing all the problems with the faith that You exist and will save Your devotees. But I cannot withstand this test. These people hit me and broke my teeth and finally they are going to burn my husband’s dead body. If You do not save me now, I will campaign that Lord Siva does not exist”.

While reading this, one must remember Poet *KALIDAS*. He was a great devotee of the Devi and a great poet. He also scolded the Devi once. At the time of Kalidas there were many scholars and poets. The other scholars were jealous of Kalidas. As he won the hearts of the people, his fame and fortune increased. The other scholars

went to King Bhojaraju and complained about Kalidas saying that he does not know anything. The King replied, “If Kalidas is not a great poet then tell me who is equal to him”? The scholars replied that Dandi is greater than Kalidas. He wrote many scriptures and his words are very easy to understand. The King did not want to defend anyone but at the same time he liked Kalidas. He then called him and said, “Oh Kalidas! Your colleagues are saying that you are not as great as Dandi, so what shall we do now?”

Kalidas replied, “We have Goddess Kalika Devi at Ujjain. We will go and ask Her”. On an auspicious day King Bhojaraju took all the scholars, Dandi and Kalidas and went to Goddess Mahakali’s Temple. (This is one of the most sacred Shakti Peethams) After worshipping Goddess Kalika Devi, the King asked her, “Who is the best poet?”

Kalika Devi replied, “Without doubt Dandi is the best”. All the scholars were very happy thinking that they won against Kalidas as Goddess Kalika Devi Herself endorsed it.

The scholars said, “Oh King! We have already informed you about it, but you still gave all the importance to Kalidas”.

Kalidas was annoyed with this and turned towards Goddess Kalika Devi and asked, “Oh Stupid! If Dandi is the best poet then who am I”?

Goddess Kalika Devi replied, “Oh Kalidas! He is only a poet but undoubtedly you are in the form of Me and I am in the form of you. You are equal to Me and why are you comparing yourself with other people who are on Earth? I am in the form of you but you are scolding yourself as stupid?”. Listening to this, all the scholars and Dandi greeted Kalidas and worshipped him. That is the power of the devotees. It is always very good and beneficial to speak about the Devi, narrate Her stories and remember Her! For those dying, talking or thinking about Her will ensure that they reach Her immediately.

In the same way, the daughter-in-law questioned God, “I have suffered a lot and faced so many problems to reach here. After reaching here I am going to fail, finally.



*Goddess Maha Kalika Devi - Ujjain*

They are going to burn my husband's body. Please protect me". Immediately Lord Visveswara (Lord Siva) appeared there. Lord Siva gave life to her husband. As the daughter-in-law was crying having suffered at the hands of *Mansa Devi*, the Devi turned dark in color (Black). She went running to Lord Siva and asked, "Oh Father! Please protect me. I wanted to spoil her life and dispose her husband's dead body. I have also tested Chandrasenudu, but none failed in the test. As soon as You gave life to her husband and due to her curse or Your curse my body has become like a Ghoul. I have disfigured myself, please protect me".

Lord Siva replied, "I am helpless, I did not curse you. This woman cried with agony, because her husband's body was about to be burnt. A great devotee's suffering and agony has converted into a curse and changed your body. To get back your previous form you have to ask her for forgiveness".

Then *Mansa Devi* said, "Oh Daughter-in-law of Chandrasenudu! Forgive me, I will touch your feet".

Now the daughter-in-law replied, "Please do not say such words. You are *Mansa*, daughter of Lord Siva. My father-in-law did not remember You and chant Your name. Please remember that You must qualify for worship with conduct not with compulsion and rage. You should have told my father-in-law, "Whether you worship Me or not I will bless You, then he might have greeted You. But instead, you threatened him so You lost the right to be worshipped. My sorrow, agony and suffering turned into a curse for You". She then patted the whole body of *Mansa Devi* with love, and by chanting *Om Namah Sivaya*. Goddess *Mansa Devi*'s appearance changed to Her normal form. She blessed everyone and returned back to Her mountain. Reaching there, to get rid of the sin committed, She chanted the following mantra and meditated on Goddess *Jagadamba*.

*Om Hreem Sreem Kleem Sarva Poojye Devi Mangala Chandike,  
Hoom Hoom Phat Swahethyevam*

*Cha Apya Ekavinsakharo Manu Poojya Kalpa Tharuschaiva  
Bhakthaanam Sarva Kamadha,*



Then Goddess *Jagadamba* appeared and said, “From today You will not have envy and jealousy. You will be residing here with my complete Energy and Power. On the other side of the river, I will be with the name Chandi and You be here as *Mansa Devi*. Knowingly or unknowingly, someone getting bad thoughts is a sin. With this sin the humans will go to Hell. But I will give you the power to remove the sins as a result of bad thoughts. You will also have the power to release humans from all the *Naga Dosham*. You will become famous with the name of *NAGESWARI*. In future You will be born as a sister to serpent Vasuki and You will become the God of the serpents. You will give birth to Aasthikudu and You will stop the *SARPA YAGAM* performed by Janamejeya”. Goddess *Mansa Devi*, with reverence greeted Goddess *Jagadamba* and became the presiding Deity on that mountain.

Once upon a time there were two sisters by name Vinatha and Kadruva and were married to Sage Kasyapa. One day they both went near the Ocean of Milk and saw a horse named *UCHCHAISHRAVAM*, which was white in color. (Uchchaihshravas is a seven-headed flying horse, emerged during the churning of the Ocean of Milk. It is considered to be the horse of Indra).

Looking at the horse Vinatha said, “The horse is pure white in color”.

Kadruva said, “The horse is white but the tail is black in color”. This set the tone for arguments to commence which are always harmful. There will be no conflict if we remain silent. There is a verse in Bhaaratham that explains this.

*The One Who Works Hard Will Not Have Poverty*  
*The One Who Chants or Meditates Will Not Have Sin*  
*The One Who Is Silent Will Not Have Conflicts*  
*The One Who Is Awake Will Not Have Fear*

Vinatha and Kadruva started the argument. Kadruva then set a condition, “If the tail of the horse is black you have to become my slave. If the horse is pure white then I will become your slave”. Kadruva knew that the tail of the horse is white, so she said, “Now it is going to be dark. So, we will go home and will come back tomorrow morning and decide the outcome”.



*Uchchaihshravas*

Vinatha was sure about the horse, so she agreed and both went back home. Kadruva knew that she was going to lose the challenge and to avoid becoming a slave she called upon her children. Kadruva had 1000 sons who were all serpents. They are *Adishesu*, *Vasuki*, *Karkotakudu*, *Nagudu*, *Pinjarudu* and others. *Adishesu* and *Vasuki* were white in color. *Takshakudu* was red in color and his eyes were also red. A few were brown, black, and in different colors. She called all the black serpents and said “I understood the advantage of having so many children. I had an argument with your Aunt. So, all of you go and hold the hairs on the tail of the horse. (The snakes are to hold in such a way that the hair of the tail is not visible). See that your head is not visible. As you are all black in color the tail will look black in color and I can win the challenge”.

The snakes replied, “It is wrong to win by cheating and you want to enslave our Aunt? In any challenge there should be Dharma. With Dharma you should win the challenge”.

Kadruva was angry and cursed them, “As you did not give value to my words, in future all of you are going to be burnt to ashes in the *SARPAYAGAM* performed by Janamejeya”.

The serpents were shocked and said, “A few of us did not follow your instructions. For that you have cursed all of us to die in the *Sarpa Yagam*. Now all of us are going to be burnt in it”.

Kadruva replied, “In a moment of anger I have cursed all of you. The ones who are going to make the tail look black I will save them”. A few of them went and held the tail of the horse, so the tail looked black. Vinatha lost the argument and became a slave to Kadruva. After sometime *GARUTHMANTHUDU* was born and he relieved his mother from the slavery. The rest of the serpents were worried about the curse of the mother. In that group one serpent was very young. It was sleeping when the mother Kadruva cursed them. He woke up when he heard the curse and was worried about it. He moved away from that place.

This little serpent heard some Gods and Sages who were talking among themselves, “Because of Kadruva’s curse all the serpents are going to be burnt in the Yagam. Who is going to rescue them”?

A Sage got up and said, “This Sarpa Yagam is not going to proceed till the end. It is going to be disrupted in the middle. *Adishesu* and *Vasuki* have one sister *JARATHKARUVU*. She will get married to Sage *JARATHKARUDU* and they will have a son named *AASTHIKUDU*.

This Aasthikudu is going to save all the serpents from the *Sarpa Yagam*”.

Sage Bruhaspathi got up and asked, “How did Jarathkaruvu get this power”?

The Sage replied “Goddess *Mansa Devi* was born with the element of Devi. She is the presiding deity of a mountain in Haridwar. Sage Kasyapa was a devotee of Goddess *Mansa Devi*. Once he went to the temple and greeted Her and said, “Oh *Mansa Devi*! I am Your devotee, safeguard me”.

Goddess *Mansa Devi* gave darshan with four hands and said, “What do you want?”



Sage Kasyapa replied, “One of my wives cursed our children to die in Janamejeya’s *Sarpa Yagam*. Due to this curse all the snakes are going to be burnt to ashes. A race should not be destroyed completely. So, You have to protect my children and the race of the serpents”.

Goddess *Mansa Devi* gave a boon, “I will be born as your daughter and you name Me as Jarathkaruvu. I will be present in this idol and at the same time will be born to you as your daughter. Call Me as *Mansa Jarathkaruvu*. Get Me married to a Sage with the same name. We will be blessed with a son, who will stop the *Sarpa Yagam* and protect the race of the serpents”. Goddess *Mansa Devi* entered the heart of Sage Kasyapa and from there to his seminal fluid. Kadruva become pregnant and gave birth to Goddess *Mansa Devi* and they named Her Jarathkaruvu. The little serpent heard about this and came back and repeated the information to *Vasuki*. He called upon his sister Jarathkaruvu and said, “You are born with the element of Goddess *Mansa Devi* and You are going to save our lives. As You are the form of the Devi, we are greeting You even though You are younger than us.”

Meanwhile, Jarathkarudu was born with the grace of *Pitrudevathalu*. From childhood he did not like getting married. He thought of attaining salvation as a bachelor. With the intention to do Tapas he went on a pilgrimage and finally reached the Himalaya Mountains. There he saw a tree which was almost going to fall down. Its roots were above the ground and grass around the roots was hanging from it precariously. A few Gods were holding onto this grass with their legs and hanging upside down facing towards the valley. They appeared to be performing Tapas. If the grass fell, then they would fall into the valley. Seeing them Jarathkarudu was amazed and said, “Oh Mahatmas! What are you doing? Why are you doing such austere Tapas, holding on to the grass which can be blown away anytime and hanging upside down towards the valley? Is this some kind of great Tapas?”

The Gods replied, “This is not a great Tapas, it’s a punishment for us”.

Jarathkarudu replied, “Is that so? I thought it was a great Tapas.”

The Gods again said, “One worthless Jarathkarudu was born. His Guru asked him to enter into *Gruhasthu Ashram* but he is adamant and went to do Tapas. Until

he gets married and gives birth to a son, we have to be like this. We are his ancestors and were in Heaven, and because of him we came to Earth. Indra hung us to this grass. If he is not getting married within the next ten years and gives birth to a son, at anytime this grass will be blown away and we will fall into the valley below and die. You spoke to us very kindly, so if you see Jarathkarudu please bring him here”.

Jarathkarudu said, “If you will not admonish me, I will tell you a secret. I am Jarathkarudu. I thought of achieving salvation as a bachelor”.

The Gods then told him, “Everyone has a destiny and your Guru knows about your destiny, that is why Sage Vasishta asked you to be in *Gruhasthu Ashram* for some time. He knows how you can attain Moksha. We are your ancestors, so take our word as your immediate duty, get married and benefit us and yourself as well. Listen to your Guru, he knows about the cause of your birth so follow his words and save us”.

Jarathkarudu replied, “You say I will be destroyed without marriage, but I feel I will become indulgent in the family life if I marry. On the other hand, if I do not obey the words of my ancestors, I will be destroyed. So, I will think about it”. In order to escape from getting married he said, “If I get a woman with my name then I will marry”. But he was still confused about getting married or not.

*Vasuki* knew the future. So he came in search of Jarathkarudu and asked, “Are you Sage Jarathkarudu? He answered “Yes”. *Vasuki* continued, saying, “I heard about your oath of getting married to a woman who has a name similar to yours”.

Jarathkarudu said, “There will be no woman with my name so I do not need to marry anyone”.

*Vasuki* said, “My sister’s name is Jarathkaruvu”.

Jarathkarudu replied, “I thought no woman will have my name so I took that oath. Now I have come to know about your sister. I want to talk to her in person and if she likes my conditions then I will marry her”.

Jarathkarudu said to Jarathkaruvu, “If you go against my words and instructions, I will leave you immediately”. She accepted the condition and both got married. Jarathkaruvu became pregnant and Jarathkarudu thought of leaving her and going for Tapas. So, one day he said, “I am very sleepy, I am going to sleep, do not wake me up”. Jarathkarudu did not wake up till sunset and she started thinking, “It is about to be sunset. The one who is not doing the *Sandhya Vandana* is equal to an animal. My husband follows all the rituals on time. Within a few minutes the Sun is going to set, but my husband is in deep sleep. He asked me to not to wake him up. What should I do now? My family may be broken if I go against his instructions but he should not skip his ritual.” So she decided to wake her husband. Jarathkarudu woke up and said, “I told you not to wake me up, but you did not follow my instruction, so I will leave you”.



*Sage Jarathkarudu Asking His Wife Jarathkaruvu to Leave and Go*

Jarathkaruvu was surprised and said, “Do you want to leave me for such a small reason”?

Jarathkarudu replied, “What to do, that was my rule so I am following it. Actually, I was pretending to be asleep, so that you will wake me up. Do not worry. You are going to give birth to a great person. He will stop the *Sarpa Yagam* of King Janamejeya. Once you stop the Yagam you will be leaving this body and will be united with Goddess *Mansa Devi*”. Sage Jarathkarudu left the place and Jarathkaruvu gave birth to a son and she named him Aasthikudu. After that Janamejeya performed

the *Sarpa Yagam*, in which thousands of snakes came flying and fell into the Yagna Kundam and were burnt to ashes. During the Yagam a Brahmin can ask anything as Dakshina. Taking advantage of this rule Aasthikudu asked him to stop the Yagam. The Yagam was thus stopped. Jarathkaruvu blessed her son and went to Goddess *Mansa Devi*. She prayed to the Devi with 12 names and the Sthotram is:

*Yogina viswapujasya Jarathkaru priya thataha  
Jarathkaru Jagathgowri, Mansa, Siddha Yogini  
Vaishnavi Naga Bhagini Saivi Nageshwari Thada  
Jarathkaru Priya asthika Matha Visva Harethicha  
Mahagnanayutha Chaiva Sa Devi Viswa Pujitha*

“I was born with Your element and I have finished my duty so please unite me in You”. Goddess *Mansa Devi* in the idol changed into the form of *Jaganmatha* and united Jarathkaruvu in Her. The Devi said to the Gods, “The 12 name Sthotram written by Jarathkaruvu is a very sacred one. On the auspicious days like *Naga Panchami*, *Chaturdhi* and *Shashthi* whoever worships Me with these names will not have the fear of snakes and their clan will prosper. These names will also reduce the sin of killing snakes unknowingly and any other *Naga Dosham*. Undoubtedly the person will be delivered from all the *Naga Dosham*. The one who reads this daily, their body will become equal to Goddess *Mansa Devi* and no snakes will trouble them. They will have children of their wish in the family and their children will not die due to poisoning” (they cannot commit suicide due to poison). The story of Goddess *Mansa Devi* was narrated by Lord Narayana to Sage Naradha.

Janamejeya asked Sage Vyasa to explain about Goddess Radha Devi in detail. Sage Vyasa started telling, “The Devi transformed into five forms. One of them is Goddess Radha. The meaning of Radha is constant love without hatred. She is the symbol of love but it does not mean that She will forgive a sinner or who commits mistakes. She will correct such people by cursing them. The one who has been cursed is considered to be fortunate. Hence to get forgiveness for the sins we have done, we have to worship Goddess Radha Devi. In Golokam, Goddess Radha and Lord Madhava (Krishna) will be there all the time. Lord Krishna will be in blue color, playing the flute and Goddess Radha will be red in color. In the initial stages of

Creation, they were moving around in a Divine place where the buildings were built with gold and studded with precious stones. They created a few people from Their bodies to help and assist them. Those who came from the body of Goddess Radha were known as Gopikas (*Punyaseela, Suseela, Brunda* and others) and people from Lord Krishna were known as Gopalakas (*Sudhamudu, Bandirakudu* and others).

One day, after the dance performance by all of them Lord Krishna said, “Radha I am tired after all that dancing. I do not want water, provide me milk to drink”. As it was in the initial stages of the Creation there were only the five elements of nature, but there were no cows. Goddess Radha did not know what milk was and was surprised by His request. She then asked Lord Krishna about it. He replied, “It is an *Elixir* and it is wonderful and great”. Again, She asked, “What is meant by *Elixir*” (*Elixir* came out during the churning of the Ocean of Milk-*Ksheera Sagara Madhanam*). Lord Krishna replied, “When You speak Your words are like *Elixir*. *Elixir* is in the Devi’s world at *Manidweepam*. There is a sea of *Elixir* around *Manidweepam*. Yet it did not reach other Worlds. In future it will come to the Gods’ World. But I am able to see it in Your words. When you talk it is like *Elixir*.”

Goddess Radha asked, “How can I create milk for you now”?

Lord Krishna replied, “I will show You what milk is, how it looks, and how it is going to be helpful on the Earth in the future”. Saying this He tapped his left arm and from there Kamdhenu (*SURABHI*) was born with a calf named *VATSA*. This *Surabhi* merged in the sea due to the curse of Sage Durvasudu and was reborn from the Ocean of Milk later.

The rule is that if we are donating anything to a priest, it should be pure and in a good condition. In the same way, while donating a cow it should be gentle and be with a calf. Lord Krishna also created a golden pot to contain the milk. There is an associate with Lord Krishna named *SRI RAMUDU* (who was with Lord Krishna in Brundavanam which was narrated in *Bhagavatham*). Sri Ramudu let the calf drink the milk from Surabhi and then he milked the cow. The milk thus was taken from the cow which was created by Lord Krishna. The milk was tastier than the *Elixir*. The one who drinks this milk will not have rebirth, will not become old or die. The milk was consumed by Lord Krishna and Sri Ramudu started milking the





*Kamdhenu with Calf and Golden Pot*

cow again. Lord Krishna started talking to Goddess Radha, “When You speak, Your teeth shine like moon light. Show Your affection to Me and talk to Me, sing and dance for Me”. While listening to the songs Sri Ramudu forgot himself and that the pot was filled with milk and started overflowing. The flow was so heavy that the entire place became like a pond of milk and Gopikas and others got drenched in the milk. (The cow should always be fed with raw food not cooked food. If we do not know what to feed, we can donate a certain amount to a Goshala). Lord Krishna looked at him and said, “Oh Friend! Will you still continue milking the cow or will you stop?”

Sri Ramudu replied, “Oh Lord Krishna! If You are playing the flute, singing and dancing we forget ourselves. Even the snakes will dance to Your music”. And he stopped milking the cow. The pond thus formed was of 800-mile radius and filled with milk. Lord Krishna said, “I name this Divine place as *GOLOKAM* and the pond as *KSHEERA SAROVARAM* (as the cow is born here and gave milk). In

future, We will all go to Brundavanam in Dwapara Yuga and explain to humans the importance of saving cows. We will become the role models for the people of Kali Yuga. Considering Us as path finders, many *GOSHALAS* will be established, which will protect cows in the Kali Yuga. People who are energetic can protect and take care of the cows at their convenience. Let the greatness of cow and the protection of cow spread in the World”. Lord Krishna built a golden embankment at the Pond and steps to get into it. In the month of Kartika on full moon day, Lord Krishna, Goddess Radha, Gopikas and Gopalas will come there, play, sing and dance in the Pond in Golokam. At the same time and day, He will be in Brundavanam on Earth with all of them and will play in the Kalindhi pond, on the banks of River Yamuna.

(On this day many devotees visit Brundavanam and engage in the chanting and meditation of Lord Krishna. It has also been stated in *Devi Bhagavatham* that Kasi and Brundavanam will protect the people till the end of Kali Yuga).

Lord Krishna also gave *Shadakshari* (6 letters) mantra to *Surabhi*. The one who chants this for one lakh times will have prosperity and get salvation. Every cow is the form of Goddess Lakshmi as it has been created from Lord Krishna. When we visit or see a cow, we should chant this mantra.

### *Om Surabhyai Namaha*

A cow is very sacred and is equal to River Yamuna, (the one who wants to take bath regularly in River Yamuna can apply a bit of cow dung on his body and takes bath gets the benefits of taking a holy dip in the River Yamuna). Cow urine is equal to River Narmada (the one who wants to take bath regularly in River Narmada can apply cow urine on body and take a bath, gets the benefit of taking a holy dip in the River Narmada). Cow milk is equal to River Ganga (the one who wants to take bath regularly in River Ganga can apply cow milk on body and takes a bath, gets the benefits of taking a holy dip in the River Ganga). So, the devotees are getting the benefit of taking a holy dip in the three Rivers at the same time. What can be more sacred than this? These three Rivers will not join but they are all in the Cow. Hence the Cow is the most sacred.



If the dust from the tail of the Cow touches the human, they will become wealthier and the dust enters into the home due to the hooves of Cow then Goddess Lakshmi will reside in that home. We can get the result of orbiting the Earth by moving the cow's tail around our head. Whosoever worships the Cow will become great Yogis. After sometime, Surabhi (the form of Goddess Lakshmi) merged in the sea due to the curse of Sage Durvasudu and re-emerged again during *Ksheera Sagara Madanam* as *Kamdhenu*. On the instruction of Lord Brahma, Indra went to this *Kamdhenu* and worshipped Her with devotion.

*Purandara Uvacha*

*Namo Devyai Maha Devyai Surabhye Cha Namō Nama,  
Gavaam Bheja Swaroopaayai, Namasthe Jagadambike*

*Namo Radhaa Priyaayai Cha Padmamsaayai Namō Nama,  
Namah Krishna Priyayai Cha Gaavaam Mathre Namō Namaha*

*Kalpa Vruksha Swaroopayai Sarveshaam Sathatham Pare,  
Ksheeradhaayai Dhanadhayai Budhidhayai Namō Nama*

*Shubhadhaayai Subhadrayai Gopradhaayai Namō Nama,  
Yasodhaayai Keerthidhayai Dharmadayai Namō Nama.*

*Stotra Sravana Mathrena Thushtaa, Hrushtaa Jagath Prasu,  
Aavirdhbbabhoova Thatthraiva Brahma Lokam Sanathani*

Surabhi was pleased with this Sthotram and gave a boon to Indra, "I will be in your world and in Golokam as well. I will be in the form of *KAMADHENU* in your world and fulfil your wishes". She gave this boon to Lord Indra. The one who reads and listens to this Sthotram, will get the wealth of cows and will be blessed by this Divine Being. Such people will have good children, become wealthy and get fame and honor. The one who reads this Sthotram before taking a bath will get the virtue of taking bath in all the sacred Rivers and Ponds. They will get the benefit of taking bath in all the places of pilgrimage and get the benefit of performing all the Yagnas. They will enjoy all the comforts and luxuries in this World and after leaving



*Goddess Radha and Lord Krishna in Brundavanam*

the body they will reach the World of Lord Krishna. They will not have rebirth. The one who does this every day with attention will get the status equal to Sage

Naradha. (Sage Naradha, a great Guru, is the role model for many, and he made Sage Vyasa write *Bhagavatham* and made Sage Valmiki write *Ramayanam*. He was the one who gave *Narayana Mantram* to Prahalad while he was in the womb, which made Prahalad a great devotee.)

Goddess Radha and Lord Krishna with Their love for Nature will be ever present in Golokam. Whoever remembers Goddess Radha will get rid of their sorrow. There is *Shadakshari* Mantra (Six Letters) which is most sacred and Goddess Radha likes this mantra. *Radha Madhava*, *Radha Vallabha*, *Radha Priya* are the most favorite names for Lord Krishna. He will be pleased when we remember His name with the name of Goddess Radha. Lord Krishna will be pleased easily with these names and this mantra.

### *Sri Radhayai Namaha*

On Pournami day (Full moon day) the idol of Goddess Radha and Lord Krishna should be worshipped with Tulasi, Jasmine and Parijatham flowers. The one who does so will get rid of all their mistakes or faults. There is no atonement for the sins of gambling and consuming alcohol (these two are included in the *Pancha Maha Pathakas*, Pancha = five, Maha =great, Pathakas= sins). The one who worships Goddess Radha and Lord Madhava with Parijatham flowers on full moon day, will get rid of these sins immediately and they will get the effect of consuming *Elixir*. Goddess Radha Devi emanated from the Devi on Full Moon Day in the month of Kartika. Depending on the convenience we can visit Brundavanam or we can worship the idol of Goddess Radha and Lord Madhava. We have to offer many foods (*naivedyam*) prepared with cow ghee and cow milk. As a part of worship if we sing and dance, Goddess Radha will be pleased and take us to Golokam. Golokam is the World with unparalleled bliss that is why it is called as *NITHYA NANDHANAM* (Continuous pleasure). We can also chant Jayadeva Ashtapadhi (Jayadeva wrote it out of passion and devotion as an ode to Goddess Radha and Lord Krishna's love.) He had the continuous Darshan of Goddess Radha and Lord Krishna.

Lord Vishnu said, "Oh Naradha! The Devi has many forms like *Savitri*, *Saraswathi*, *Parvathi*, *Nandaja*, *Shakambhari*, *Siva*, *Mahishasura Mardhini*, *Durga*,

*Bheema Devi, Bhramari Devi* and in other forms and is protecting mankind. She fills the Universe with different names, *Brahmi, Maheswari, Koumari, Vaishnavi, Narasimhi, Varahi, Indrani, Chamunda*. Worship these forms continuously and get the grace of the Devi”. All this was narrated by Lord Vishnu to Sage Naradha. (End of 9 chapter)

Sage Naradha greeted Lord Vishnu and said, “Oh God! You are the benefactor for this Earth. You are in the form of Lord Narayana in Vaikuntam and in the form of Lord Krishna in Golokam, and in the form of Nara and Lord Narayana on the Earth. In these two forms You are performing Tapas in Badri. To destroy the evil and to establish Dharma on the Earth, Nara took the form of Arjuna and Lord Narayana took the form of Lord Krishna. In between, You will also recite the stories of the Devi to people like me and remove the sins. I heard *Devi Bhagavatham* from You and by listening to You we are chanting Your name. Now You tell me the stories of the devotees of the Devi. The *Bhagavatham* also means the stories of the devotees. Who has established the Devi Idols and where? Tell me all these stories.”

Lord Vishnu said, “The first Idol was established by *Swayambhu Manu* (human) on Earth. Lord Brahma is also known as *Swayambhu* or *Atmabhu* (born on his own, not from the womb). To Create humans and to teach them Dharma, Lord Brahma created a Man from His right hand known as *Swayambhu Manu* and from the left hand a woman and she was known as *Satarupa*. Lord Brahma said, “You both get married and create this Mankind. Men are known as *MANAVULU* (human), and women are known as *MANAVI*. See that your children are *Dharmathmas*. This Earth should be filled with people who follow Dharma and truth and it is your responsibility”.

*Swayambhu Manu* replied, “We do not have such energy to give to the offspring and we do not know whether the offspring will follow Dharma or not. All these are not in our hands.”

Lord Brahma replied, “I will give you the *MAYA BEEJAM* of the Devi. Go near the Ocean of Milk and chant this *Beejam* with devotion”.

After chanting the *Beejam*, the Devi appeared and said, “Oh Son! Why are you chanting My *Beejam* near this Ocean of Milk”?



*Swayambhu Manu* replied, “Lord Brahma instructed me to give birth to pious children. For that purpose, I have done this chanting and Tapas”.

The Devi said, “You should have human as your offspring but you are doing Tapas near Ocean of Milk. The one who is born near this Ocean will be Gods; they will not be humans. So immediately go to the place where I tell you and continue your Tapas there”.

*Swayambhu Manu* replied, “For worship I need Your Idol”.



*Goddess Hingula Devi in Pakistan*

The Devi immediately made an Idol with soil. (From that time, it has become a ritual to worship the earthen Idol for those who wish to have children. Since then, making an idol or a Lingam with soil or sand on the River banks or Sea coast, worshipping them and submerging them in the water has become a ritual). The

Idol made by the Devi was with eight hands, sitting on a Lion. The Devi (Idol) was holding Conch, Chakram, Mace, Lotus, Arrow, Bow, Pot, Sword and Shield. The Devi gave this to Swayambhu Manu, and said, “Go to the banks of River Sindhu; there is a mountain called *HINGULA*. On the top of the mountain, establish this Idol and this will become the most sacred Idol. This Idol will bring you good fortune. You can continue your Tapas there”. (This Idol and temple are currently in Pakistan)

Swayambhu Manu went to this mountain and established the Idol there. He worshiped the Idol and did Tapas for 100 years. The Devi appeared and said, “You have done Tapas for 100 years and now immerse this Idol in the River Sindhu. I will be Self-proclaimed as an Idol here. I will be known as *HINGULA DEVI*. I will be in the hands of another religion in Kali Yuga. After a few years I will be worshipped again”. This is the most sacred and most beautiful temple and the first Idol of Devi on Earth.

*DEVI BHAGVATHAM XXVI CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*





## CHAPTER 27

### KEY POINTS

Story of Goddess Vindhya Vasini

Why Mountain Vindhya was angry with Meru Mountain?

Why did the cycle of day and night stop?

Order of temples to be visited in Kasi

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

The first Manu, Swayambhu and his wife Satarupa were born from the body of Lord Brahma. They both worshipped the Devi with this Sthotram and She appeared before them and blessed them.

*Jayadevi Visalakshi Jaya Sarvanthara Sthithe*  
*Manye Pujye Jagathdhatri Sarva Mangala Mangale*

When a good fortune or good thing or deeds happens, that is known as *MANGALAM* (like getting married, blessed with children, getting wealth and others). Devi gives *Mangalam* to all *Mangalams* in the World and is called as *SARVA MANGALA MANGALYE*. She gives happiness to happiness, such a Devi, Greetings to You. Oh Devi! You have the capacity to do anything and everything. You will see everyone without discrimination and love everyone and You can also punish anyone. You are above all the emotions of jealousy, envy and hatred. That is why You are also called as *VISALAKSHI* (man will be called as *Vaisalakshudu*). In Kasi, You are called

as Goddess Visalakshi as You feed everyone without bias. You have all qualities to be worshiped. (When we have good qualities, everyone will respect us). Oh Devi! Has all the good qualities, that is why we worship You.

(Once Sage Vyasa was hungry while in Kasi, a 50-year-old woman with black and white hair looked at him and said, “Come here I will give you food”. Her hair was looking like as if sesame seeds and rice were mixed together (Black and White). By looking at her Sage Vyasa greeted her with folded hands despite her being younger than him. He was a Guru and a great scholar but still he gave her respect. Sage Vyasa did not go near her and asked her who she was and what caste she belonged to. Yet he felt that she had all the qualities to be worshiped so he greeted her. The qualities to be worshiped are called as *MANYATHVAM*).

“Oh Devi! You have *Manyathvam* so greetings to You. You are *JAGATHDHATRI* (Mother to all the Worlds, *AABRAHMA KEETA JANANI* Mother to all the living beings from Lord Brahma to a tiny insect), Greetings to You. With Your grace the Trinity were able to Create, Nurture and Dissolve. The Indra is able to rule all the three Worlds. Everyone is doing their duties because You are giving them the Energy. You are the Energy in everyone that is why You are *MAHA SHAKTHI*, such a Devi, Greetings to You, please protect us”.

The Devi appeared before them with this prayer and said, “Oh *Swayambhu!* I have come for you and going to reside on Vindhya Mountain and will be called as *VINDHYA VASINI* or *VINDHYA CHALA NIVASINI*, or as a Sister of Lord Vishnu, to bless you. Every year come to this Mountain during the month of *Aswayuja* and on *Navratri* days and worship Me. You can come to My World whenever you wish”. Devi blessed him and made Vindhya Mountain Her abode. Goddess *Vindhya Vasini* is the embodiment of supreme compassion. The one who visits Her will become the best, get knowledge and become scholars. The devotee has to stand in front of Devi and greet Her with devotion. (This temple is 80 to 90 kilometers away from Kasi. The one who visits Kasi once in a life time will come out of all the great sins. The one, who has the thought of “I will go to Kasi and stay there” continuously, will get the benefit of actually doing that.)



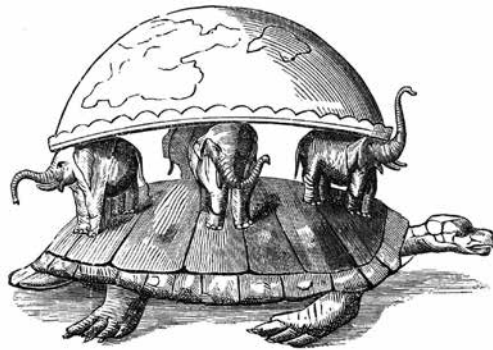
*Goddess Vindhya Vasini*



Vindhya Mountain had a huge body, filled with pride. Sage Agastya went there and suppressed the pride of Vindhya. The Mountain then worshipped Devi. To bless the mountain, Devi went there and made this mountain Her abode. She will be there till the end of Kali Yuga. “Oh Naradha! She will bless and gives boons easily. *SUNDARI* is the Goddess who makes us happy when we see Her. By looking at Goddess *Vindhya Vasini* the devotees will feel very happy. (The one who visits Kasi or any Devi temple along with the Guru will not have rebirth). This story was heard by Sunakadi Sages through Sukha Maharshi, Sage Naradha through Lord Vishnu, and Janamejeya through Sage Vyasa.

The Sunakadi Sages asked, “You have said that the Mountain Vindhya was having pride. Why did it have pride? How did Sage Agastya suppress this pride? Why Goddess *Vindhya Vasini* choose to reside on this mountain?. Please tell all this in detail”.

Sage Sukha replied, “There are many mountains in this world. Few of them are called as *KULA* Mountains and they maintain the balance of the Earth. Mountain is known as *BHUDHARAMU* (Enduring the Earth). God created the Mountains in such a way to maintain the balance. The Mountain will be of same size above and below the Earth. The Earth is carried by *ADISESHUDU*, *KURMAM* (incarnation of Lord Vishnu) and by eight elephants. They are known as *ASHTA DIGGAJAMULU*. They are *Airaavatham*, *Pundarikam*, *Vamanam*, *Kumudam*, *Anjanam*, *Pushpadantam*, *Sarva-bhaumam* and *Supratikam*. (The names of four elephants supporting the *Earth* from the four directions are given in Ramayana are Viroopaaksha (East), Mahaapadma (South), Saumansa (West), Bhadra (North)).



*The Earth carried by four elephants*

Vindhya and Meru are the Greatest of all the mountains. Mount Meru is in the Himalayan range (Kedareswar and Badri temples are here). Early morning sunlight on these snow-capped mountains makes them look Golden in color. That is why these mountains are also called as *KANAKACHALAM* or *SUVARNA PARVATHAM*. Mount Meru is a great Mountain but Vindhya is bigger than it. There are many other mountains like *Malyadri*, *Sumeru*, *Srisailam*, *Venkatadri*, etc. All these mountains are great mountains but they had jealousy and conflicts among them. Vindhya was the most beautiful of these mountains, replete with forests and had trees like white Grapefruit, Oleander, Hibiscus, Palm, Areca Nut palm and many fruits bearing trees like Mango, Orange, Grapes, Sweet lime and many more. Some trees were giving shade. They were all are so dense and huge that they act as a canopy shutting out sunlight on the ground. Therefore, everything was dark and dense and streams of clear water flowed continuously below it.

As fruits on the trees ripened the parrots pecked them with their sharp beaks. The juice from these fruits was flowing from the other side. So, there were streams of different fruit juices. After flowing for some distance these streams joined together and was flowing in different colors and looked like a Rainbow. The birds drinking this fruit juice were happy and chirping with energy which was melodious. After some distance the mixed fruit juice and the water in the streams joined together where swans, ducks and other water beings were seen swimming in it. On the banks of this stream there were different animals, like lions, eight legged *SARABHAM* (Lion Bird), elephants and others. There were different mineral ores in these mountains, like gold, silver, lead, copper, tin and many others. There were also many precious stone ores in these mountains. Such a great mountain is Vindhya. (This Mountain starts near Kasi and spreads till Maharashtra and most of it is in Madhya Pradesh).

This mountain split into two near Madhya Pradesh. River Narmada flows between these mountains. On one side of the River bank there is a temple called *OMKARESWAR* and on the other side *AMARESWAR*. Both joined together is called as *Omkara Amareswaram*. By taking bath in the River Ganga the devotee will get great virtue but by the mere sight of River Narmada bestows all virtues on the devotee. *Omkarashwar* temple is extremely sacred. It has been stated in the *Puranas*

that in this place a devotee should listen to the *Purana* of *DWADASA JYOTHIR LINGA MAHIMA* (the glory of *Jyotirlingas*. The one who hears this *Purana* in *Omkareshwar* will get the virtue of establishing the *Dwadasa Jyotirlingams*).

The mountains are there in two forms, one is the original form of rock, filled with trees and others, known as *STHAVARAM*. The other form is taking the form of humans and moving about is known as *JANGAMAM*. There are only very few of them that have these two attributes. Some mountains have Divine Powers so, destroying the hills should be avoided and if needed we should follow certain rituals. Rivers also can take two forms of *Sthavaram* and *Jangamam* (takes the form of River Goddess). Rivers Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswathi and Godavari have great power while smaller rivers like, Tandava, Chanmarvathi, Sarada and others have less power. Similarly, the trees also have the same attributes. Some trees have Divine Power and the tree Goddesses will fulfil small wishes of the devotees. That is why we should protect nature consisting of Mountains, Rivers, Ponds and Trees.

Mount Vindhya in the form of a King would take a holy bath in the River Narmada and worship Lord *Omkareshwar*. Mount Vindhya was jealous of Mount Meru. Vindhya thought, "Everyone is praising Meru but I am the greatest Mountain out of many Mountains. I am not getting the name which I deserve". Once Sage Naradha was on a pilgrimage and reached *Omkareshwar* during winter. As humans did, Sage Naradha also followed all the rituals on the Earth by taking a holy dip in waters of Rivers or lakes and visiting temples. Sage Naradha reached River Narmada in the morning when the air and the waters were very cold. Sage Naradha wished to take bath in the river. Meanwhile the wind blew, the water drops fell on Sage Naradha in the form of a shower. He relished the chillness of the water and took a holy dip by performing *Sankalpam* (without *Sankalpam* one should not take a holy bath in the river.)

(When a man does *Sankalpam* and worships God, the virtue will be shared by the wife, but if wife worships God the virtue completely goes to her only. This is because she leaves her parents, surname and Gothram to be with husband and improve his clan. For all her sacrifice Gods have given this Boon to women. That is



why it has been stated in *Puranas* that the women are blessed and we should always be grateful to them)

The worship without devotion and *Sankalpam* is a waste. So, Sage Naradha also took the *Sankalpam* and holy dip in the River Narmada. Mountain Vindhya saw Sage Naradha and thought, “Deva Rishi has come to my mountain I should respect and worship him as my guest”. We should not respect people depending on their status, wealth and fame. The *Puranas* states that no matter how trivial (poor, uneducated) or important the guest is, they should be treated with utmost respect, when they come to our house. We will not become great with the wealth or many other things, but only by respecting our guests will we become great. Mount Vindhya knew about this and the fact that the present guest is also not an ordinary person, but a Guru, scholar and a great devotee of Lord Vishnu. So, he decided to give respect to Sage Naradha. Mount Vindhya took the form of a man and went to Sage Naradha, washed his feet (the water is known as *PADYAM*, the water to wash hands is *ARGHYAM*, the water to drink is *ACHAMANAM*), gave him *MADHUPARKAM* (curd mixed with sugar, honey and ghee) and water to drink. He gave a comfortable seat to sit.

Mount Vindhya said, “Oh Sage! I think you came on a pilgrimage. From which place did you come here? Where are you going from here? Are you tired from your travel?”

Sage Naradha replied, “I always chant the name of Lord Hari, so I am not tired. (The one who remembers the name of Lord Hari will not have tiredness or fatigue). On the Earth I have to behave like a human, so I am doing my pilgrimage on foot and visiting temples. Now I am coming from the Mount Meru. How lucky is that Mountain, on one side Lord Siva resides with name of *KEDHARESWAR* and on the other side of the mountain Lord Vishnu is residing in *BADRI*. All the Worlds are praising his glory”.

Mount Vindhya then asked, “Oh Sage! Is there any mountain greater than me? Everyone keeps praising Mountain Meru. What is its greatness? Is it taller than me? Is it lengthier than me, or stronger than me? *Meru*, *Sonadri*, *Venkatadri*, *Srisailam*, *Garudadri* all these Mountains are great but not greater than me. No one speaks

of my glory. If I talk there will be purity and if I sing there will be melody. As a mountain I give fruits and flowers to many. There are many Deities, many rivers and streams flowing constantly here. Tell me, is there any mountain greater than me in this World? Tell me is Mount Meru great or am I great”?

Sage Naradha did not like his self-praising and felt disgusted with Mount Vindhya (Self-praise and blaming others is always dangerous). However, Sage Naradha was very good at handling these kinds of behaviors. So, he said, “Oh Vindhya! You praised yourself very nicely. I do not have the power to praise myself like you. I do not know why in this World everyone feels they are greater than others. You should know about your greatness and Meru should know about his greatness. Mount Meru feels he is great as all the planets are rotating around him. He also said that he is in Himalayas and he has Lord Siva and Lord Vishnu on him. He also thinks that he is Goddess Parvathi’s brother. (Goddess Parvathi was born to Himavanthudu after Mount Meru). How do we know who is greater? I am going for the Darshan of Lord Siva”. Sage Naradha went and did *Abhishekam* to Lord Siva, worshipped Him and disappeared.

Mount Vindhya was shocked with the answer given by Sage Naradha and started thinking, “I have honored him with everything but without revealing who is great he left. I do not understand whom he praised. I think he praised Mount Meru”. Thinking so he developed jealousy. Mount Vindhya thought, “Until I destroy this Mount Meru, I cannot become the greatest. But how can I destroy him? If I had wings, I could fly and suppress him to Patala Lokam. Indra did injustice to us. That is why we are without wings now”. In ancient times the mountains had wings and they could fly and land. The creatures were crushed by this landing. Indra was angry about it and said, “You are taking the lives of all the creatures. Because of these wings you are troubling mankind”. He took his *Vajrayudham* and chased the mountains and chopped off their wings.

As the wings were chopped, they crashed on the ground and got fixed there. Due to the mistake of a few mountains, he chopped the wings of all the mountains. “If I could have wings, I would fly in the air and crush that Mount Meru like a palm fruit to a sludge. But I am helpless now. So, what should I do now? How to avoid fame

to Meru? All the nine planets, *Ravi (the Sun)*, *Chandra (the Moon)*, *Kujba (Mars)*, *Budha (Mercury)*, *Guru (Jupiter)*, *Shukra (Venus)*, *Shani (Saturn)*, will circle along the right direction. But *Rahu* (Northern lunar node) and *Ketu* (Southern lunar node) will circle in the wrong direction. Meru is getting fame because all the planets are rotating around him. If they stop rotating, will Meru get much fame? So, I should stop these planets from rotating. I may not fly but I can grow towards the sky. So, I will grow to such a size that I will stop the Sun from moving. Once the Sun stops rotating Mount Meru's fame will be reduced. The Worlds will be in trouble".

With this idea Mount Vindhya grew his body to the extent where he was able to stop the Sun's rotation. The Sun God was travelling in a chariot driven by seven horses with high speed. He crossed Mount Meru and was about to reach Mount Vindhya when His chariot stopped by hitting the Mountain.

The Sun God will be on journey constantly. He stopped because of Mount Vindhya and the horses were standing still. The Sun was surprised and asked, "Aruna (charioteer) why has the chariot stopped"?

Aruna replied, "What should I say? Mount Vindhya got angry with Mount Meru so it has grown in size. Our chariot hit that mountain and stopped and the horses are also squatting and refusing to move. Unless the mountain reduces its size, we cannot move forward".

This resulted in utter chaos. Nature became static, with one side being bright and sunny and the other side in complete darkness in this World. The cycle of day and night had stopped as the Sun stopped rotating. All the rituals of *Sandhya Vandanam*, *Yagna* and others stopped. Everyone stopped their tasks and were confused. As the *Yagna* stopped, there was no food for the Gods. The Gods were starving and They went to Lord Siva and said, "Oh Deva! Deva! Uma Vallabha! Maheswara! Protect us. The Universe has become static like an unexpected *Pralayam*. Mount Vindhya increased his height due to some reason. The Sun's chariot hit the mountain and stopped there. The cycle of day and night and *Yagna* have stopped. We do not know what to do? In this chaotic situation You are the only one who can protect us. So, please protect us".

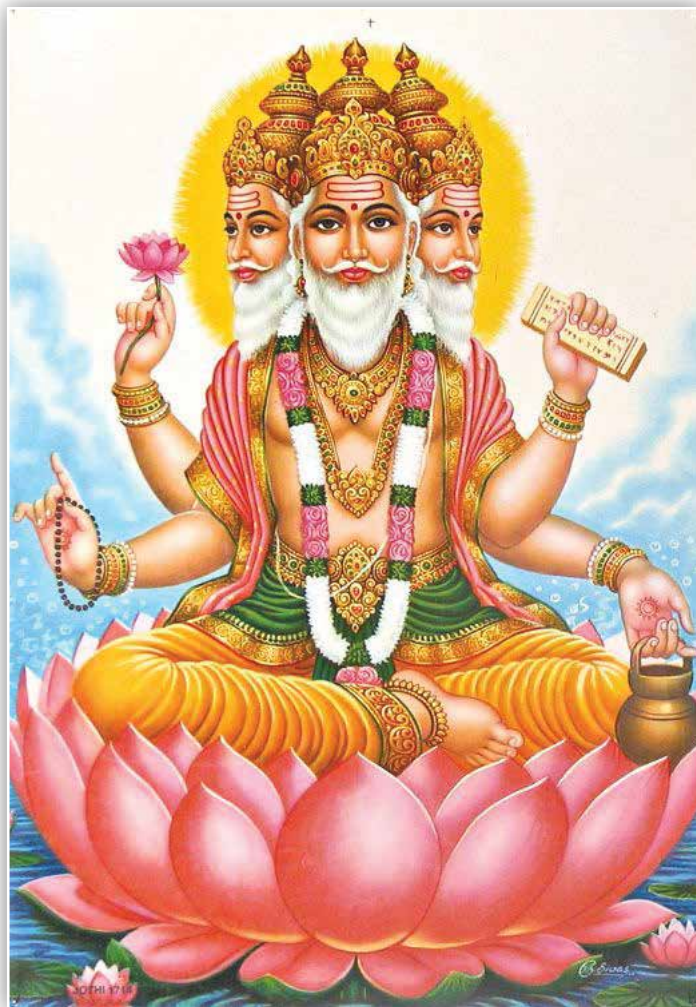


*Surya (Sun God) on Seven Horse Chariot*

Lord Siva smiled at them and said, “Vindhya is my devotee and so is Meru. I cannot give you any suggestion. I am caught between two devotees. I cannot help



you. Even Lord Vishnu cannot help you in this situation as both the mountains are Our devotees. Hence go and take the refuge in Lord Brahma as He will tell you what to do without any bias". Taking this suggestion from Lord Siva the Gods left.



*Lord Brahma on White Lotus*

The most sacred of all the Worlds is Lord Brahma's . Here He will be sitting on a white Lotus along with Goddess Saraswathi. The white Lotus known as *PUNDARIKAMU* had emanated from the navel of Lord Vishnu on which Lord Brahma was sitting. He writes everyone's destiny. All the situations are happening because of His writing. Lord Brahma has written that Vindhya would grow and the Sun would stop His rotation. All the Gods prayed to Him with devotion.

*Oh God With Four Heads! You always sit on the white lotus. You are the reason behind the creation.*

*Protect us. You protect the people who greet You. You write the destiny of every creature".*

The Sun asked ,“Why is Vindhya behaving this way”?

Then Aruna replied, “In order to tarnish the reputation of Meru, Vindhya is behaving this way.”

Lord Brahma opened his eyes, and asked them to sit. He said, “Do You see people sitting on both sides of Me? The ones who respect and remember the Guru all the time will sit beside Me on my right. Next to them are the ones who respect and worship Parents. Next to them are the ones who respect and worship the Cows. All of them are sitting on My right side. The ones who listen to *Puranas* and respect the Vedas, the ones who donate water and food, the ones who respect the elders will sit to My left side. All the people who reach My World will not have hunger, old age or death. I know why all of You came here. Vindhya has stopped the Sun from rotating and everyone is troubled by this. Vindhya has prayed to the Trinity and informed that this is his personal issue. He also asked Us not to interfere in this. Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva have cleverly sent You here. Even I cannot involve in this issue. If Vindhya is a Demon, we might have killed him, but he is a devotee and wise. Now he has become temporarily arrogant. I am giving the responsibility to Sage Agastya to correct him”.

Agastya was a great Sage and a great devotee of Lord Siva. On the banks of River Ganga, Sage Agastya built an ashram at Kasi. He wakes up early in the morning and takes a holy dip at *MANIKARNIKA* Ghat (there are 84 Ghats in Kasi but *Manikarnika* is the most sacred). Once Lord Siva shook His head while taking bath and His diamond ear ring fell down. As the diamond ear ring fell there, it is known as *Manikarnika* (Mani= Diamond, Karnika = ear ring). Sage Agastya likes this place very much so he came here every day. Whoever goes to Kasi, has to follow an order to visit temples there, and that is:

- Visit Lord *DUNDI VIGNESWARA* first. The devotee should hold his right ear with left hand (Index finger and middle finger) and then holding the left ear with right hand and tell their *Gothram*. Greet Him and if possible, worship Him with *GARIKA* (Bermuda Grass)
- Visit Goddess Annapurna temple after Ganapathi temple. Devotee has to do a pradakshina (circling) of the temple. In the same temple there will be *KUBERESWAR* and *SUN* God named *LOLARKUDU* (Sun God with 7 horses) and three forms of Lord Ganesha. There is also *YENTRESWARUDU* and a devotee has to greet all these Gods. Then we have to take the Darshan of Goddess





*Lord Dundi Vigneswara*



*Goddess Kasi Annapurna Devi*



*Lord Saniswarudu Temple*



*Lord Kasi Visveswara*



*Goddess Kasi Visalakshi*



*Lord Bramheswara Temple*



*Lord Venugopal Temple*



*Lord Sankata Mochana Hanuman*

Annapurna Devi. After visiting Devi while coming out there is the Satyanarayana Swamy Temple and the devotee should also greet Him. (Satyanarayana *Vratham* first started here). Then come out of the temple.

- On the way to Lord Siva's temple there is *SANISWARUDU* temple. Light a lamp here and greet Him. (Lord Siva likes God Shani).
- Thereafter the devotee has to go to Lord *VISWESWARA* temple. Once reaching there greet Nandi and have Darshan of Lord Siva. While coming out visit *Gnana Vapi* (well) and greet it.
- After Lord Visweswara temple visit Goddess Visalakshi temple.
- After Goddess Visalakshi temple visit Lord Bramheswara temple (next to Goddess Annapurna temple) and have Darshan.
- Then Lord Sankata Mochana Hanuman temple.
- Then Lord Venugopal temple.
- Finally visit Lord Kala Bhairava temple.



*God Kala Bhairava*



*Lord Kala Bhairava Temple, Kasi*



Sage Agastya and his wife Lopamudra followed this order daily. He had a garden of *BILVA* trees and Jasmine plants. He plucked these leaves, Jasmine flowers and worshiped Lord Siva. He was actually equal to Lord Siva and he was equal to Him in his weight. Once Sage Agastya went to the wedding of Lord Siva and Mount Himalaya tilted to one side. Few went to Lord Siva and asked why Mount Himalaya was tilting. Lord Siva said one person from Earth had come to attend the wedding, who is equal to His weight and asked them to send him away and he was Sage Agastya. “So, all of you go and ask him to help you without telling the task. If you tell him about the task, he may not agree, so take the assurance first and tell him about the task later”.

The Gods were all happy and said, “Good that You have given Us an idea and a hint. Otherwise, We might have spoken about the task first. He may not have helped Us in that scenario. Hence, We will tell him that We are in trouble and request him to protect Us. Once he accepts then we will reveal about Mount Vindhya”. All the Gods while traveling to Earth were thinking, “We are very lucky, unless Vindhya raised his height, We might have not have got an opportunity to visit Kasi. It is Our luck that Sage Agastya resides at Kasi. Because of Mount Vindhya, We are visiting the most sacred place on the Earth, Kasi. How lucky We are. We are going to get two tasks done at a time, one by visiting Kasi and the other is a solution for this trouble. In this sacred place every creature gets salvation (including the insects) and reaches Lord Siva”.

Kasi is the place where devotion kept its first foot. The one who enters this place will become a devotee. Varanasi is the sharp sword which will slash all our sins. Varanasi is the sacred place on the banks of the holy River Ganga. There are no other sacred temples as the ones here.

The Gods reached Earth, took the form of human beings and took a holy dip in the River Ganga and visited Dundi Ganapathi temple and worshiped Him with 16 names. The Gods followed the order and visited all the temples and finally did *Abhishekam* with water from River Ganga to Lord Visveswara. The Guardian of Kasi is Lord Kala Bhairava who is naked always, the Gods also worshipped Him. Without His permission no one can enter Kasi. To stay in Kasi a devotee has to

worship Him. The nurturer for the temple is Lord Vishnu. So, they worshipped Lord Vishnu and Lord Kala Bhairava with devotion. They started searching for Sage Agastya. They asked a few people who told them that he would be in the garden of Bilva most of the time. *Every home should grow a Bilva plant because in that plant two Gods reside, one is Goddess Lakshmi, the other God is Lord Siva. To have Goddess Lakshmi at home, this plant is a must.* The Gods were able to reach Sage Agastya easily as where ever he was they could hear the chanting ‘Om Namah Sivaya’.

Sage Agastya was plucking the leaves and fruits of the Bilva tree and chanting Lord Siva’s name. He would tie these leaves into a garland and offer it to Lord Siva in the evening. He applied Udhi on his entire body. With the grace of Lord Siva, the devotee will get health, happiness and wealth by applying a bit of Udhi. But Sage Agastya had applied such Udhi, on his entire body.

The face without Udhi is unholy. So Udhi should be applied all the time. Lord Siva should be worshipped with hands every day. While *VIDHYABYASAM* (starting of education for children) Lord Siva’s name has to be written on the slate or on raw rice. We should not eat food in the village where there is no temple for Lord Siva. A village without it is considered to be a graveyard.

As Sage Agastya knew about all these, so he applied Udhi to his body and chanted the name of Lord Siva. The Gods and Sages went him and prayed to him. Sage Agastya looked at the Gods and was shocked. “Without invitation, the *Ashta Dikpalakas, Lord Indra, Agni, Yama, Nirruthi, Varuna, Vayu, Kubera, Eesana, and different Gods like Sura, Sidha, Sadhya, Kinnara, Pannaga, Yaksha, Vidhyadhara, Gandharva* and other Sages came and are greeting me”. Sage Agastya had great powers. With his powers he could accommodate many people in his place and still there would be place left for one. Such power and glory he had. Therefore, he made all of them sit and asked, “Why have all the Mahatmas come to me at one time? What is the reason?”

The Gods responded, “Before telling why We have come, let Us pray to you first”

Sage Agastya said, “I should pray to You! Why is it the other way around”?

The Gods replied, “We came on a task so We have to pray to you”. They prayed to him in two slokas.

*“You are the best in Brahmanas, Greetings to You. You have been greeted by all the Priests and Brahmins, such a Sage you are, Greetings to You. You are the killer of VATAPI, Greetings to You. Oh Kumbha Sambhava! Greetings to You. Oh Husband of Lopamudra! Greetings to You. Oh Son of Sun and Varuna! Greetings to You. You know all the Vedas and also know the secrets of Vedas, Greetings to You. Oh Agastya! All the Puranas are born from you. Whatever you say will become rule, Greetings to You. We get all the good fortune because of You, Greetings to You. Please Protect us”*

*Once Sages Agastya and Vasishtha had to take rebirth due to a curse. They divided their life into two parts, one is kept with Sun God and the other is with Varuna (God of Rain). Sages Agastya and Vasishtha, said “Oh Sun and Varuna! Due to our curse we have shared our life with both of You. With Your help we have to take rebirth, so protect us”. Sun and Varuna went to Urvashi and said, “We are physically attracted to you and wish to have children with you”. Urvashi said “I cannot help you now as I am wife to Indra for some time”. Because of the lust on Urvashi, Sun and Varuna’s seminal fluid dropped, they kept this fluid in a pot. While they were watching, the fluid took the form of two individuals. They are, Sage Agastya and other is Sage Vasishtha. Hence Sage Agastya was born from the pot. That is why they are known as sons to Sun and Varuna and also KUMBHA SAMBHAVULU (born from pots)*

Sage Agastya said, “Ask what you want. I will give my life for you”

The Gods replied, “We will ask you one wish, please fulfill that. Currently Vindhya has increased his size and the Sun’s rotation has stopped. We are suffering without food as there are no Yagnas. If you can bend Vindhya and reduce his pride the Sun can start its rotation. Everything will be in its place. The day and night will resume. The Yagna and the chanting of Swaha and Swadha will start. We will get food. Humans will follow their daily routine and the Creation will continue. So please suppress Mount Vindhya”





*Sun and Mount Vindhya*

Sage Agastya said, “I will fulfil Your wish”. The Gods then left the place. He went inside his home and said, “Lopamudra, when someone comes home, without asking we should not give word to them in a hurry”. Sage Agastya was very sad. Seeing him sad Lopamudra asked, “Why are you feeling so sad?”

Sage Agastya replied, “Indra cut the wings of the mountains, and now he took my refuge and is asking for help. To fulfil the Gods’ wish, I have to go out of Kasi. When I give a word, I should stick to it. If I am not adhering to my word my power of tapas will be destroyed. Cursing Mount Vindhya is a great sin as he is a great devotee of Lord Siva. I cannot curse Lord Siva’s devotees. I have to leave Kasi and reach Mount Vindhya to reduce its height. Once he sees me, he will bend to greet me. I have to tell him I am going to the other side and till I come back you have to be in this posture. So he will continue to be bent until I return. Once I come back, he will raise his height. So, I have to permanently stay there and I cannot come back to Kasi. As long as he follows my instructions, I cannot curse him. When Mount Vindhya is not following my instructions, I can curse. That is why I am sad.

I think some people had created a conspiracy to send me out of Kasi. We have come all the way from Mount Meru to be in Kasi. We have built an ashram but now we have to leave this place. As per the word given to the Gods, I have to leave this place of salvation and live in some other place. But the *Puranas* stated that leave your life but do not leave Kasi. With my good fortune I got the place in Kasi. Everyone wishes to be in Kasi in their last days, but I am leaving it now. Now I remember when I reached Kasi Lord Siva called me and asked, “Are you going to Kasi? I replied, “With Your grace I am going and I will stay there”.

Lord Siva said, “Even if you want to stay you cannot, as there are some Gods who will try to create obstacles and try to send you away. There are two main Deities who will create the obstacles, one is *SAMBHRAMUDU*, and the other is *UTHBHRAMUDU*. Once you step into Kasi, *Sambhramudu* will create hatred in you for Kasi (like losing the wallet or other obstacles). And *Uthbhramudu* will relieve us from Obstacles. The devotee has to face the obstacles with devotion and belief on Lord Siva and get relief from them. There are two more people *DHATA* and *VIDHATA*. The *Dhata* will create greed in a devotee and *Vidhata* will bless the devotee who did not show greed. The one who falls into the trap of greed will be destroyed. (If the devotee finds some precious objects, they should not take them, they can surrender it in the temple). All these four will be watching all the devotees all the time”.

Sage Agastya said, “I never thought they will test me too”. He was very sad to leave Kasi. He went to *Manikarnika* Ghat and worshipped Lord Siva. Lord Siva entrusted the supervision of Kasi to one Yaksha by name *DANDAPANI*. His name is Stulakesudu. He will have a stick in his hand and supervise Kasi. Sage Agastya greeted Dhandapani. Unless the devotee has the grace of Lord Siva they cannot stay in Kasi.

## *DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XXVII CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*



## CHAPTER 28

### KEY POINTS

Who cannot stay in Kasi?

Mantras to be chanted while applying Udhi

How the Jyothir Lingams will reside in a devotee's body?

The story told by Lord Vigneswara to Sage Agastya

Story of Goddess Vindhyachala Vasini

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

Sage Agastya was not interested in materialistic things but he was nostalgic about Kasi. His normal routine was to worship the Gods in Kasi every day. He and Lopamudra dedicated time, flowers and leaves in the garden only for Lord Siva. The attribute of not having interest in materialistic things is known as *VAIRAGYAM* (developing repulsion for material objects like house, children, wealth, and others). At the end of the Kali Yuga only two places will survive the *Pralayam*, they are Kasi and Brundavanam. The one who does not have devotion towards these two places will be considered as fool. Sage Agastya had clearly stated this in *Bheemeswara Puranam*; that even a fool will not leave Kasi. The same was said in *Kasi Kandam*.

God takes away what the devotee is interested in and it is known as *BHAGAVATH PAREEKSHA* (Test of God). Before leaving, Sage Agastya, went around Kasi. He visited Lord Kala Bhairava's temple and prayed, "Oh Lord Kala Bhairava! You are

the residing God for Kasi. You are the ruler of Kasi temple. Why are You sending me away from Kasi. You remove the fears in the minds of the devotees who enter Kasi. I have believed in You and worshipped You daily. Still, You are sending me out of Kasi. I know You are the savior of devotees in Kasi and You will also remove the hurdles faced by them. If You really remove the hurdles then why did You create this hurdle for me? You are not keeping your promise. Am I not Your devotee? I worshipped You every day, what mistake I have done in my worship”?

*A devotee who visits Kasi should go to the temple of Lord Kala Bhairava and pray “I have come to Kasi to stay here. Some Gods will try to create hurdles. Please remove the hurdles and allow me to stay in Kasi”.*

### **Who will stay away from Kasi:**

- The one who blames others and the one who listens to it cannot stay in Kasi. As long as we are in Kasi, we should not blame others or listen to the people who are blaming others.
- The one who complains about others and the one who listens to these complaints. As long as we are in Kasi we should not complain about others. Both will be punished in Hell.
- Greed is the greatest sin. As long as we are in Kasi, we should not show greed for money.

Sage Agastya was praying to Lord Kala Bhairava, “I never complained or blamed or shown greed in Kasi or lied. Then what is the mistake I made that You are sending me away from Kasi”. Lord Ganesha is in 12 forms in Kasi. *Sakshi Vigneswara, Dundi Ganapathi, Chintamani Ganapathi* and other forms. From there he reached the temple of Lord *Sakshi Vigneswara* (Ganapathi) and prayed, “You will remove all the hurdles. When I entered Kasi, I came to You and prayed to You to let me stay here and avoid all the hurdles to stay here. But now I cannot stay here. Why do we have to leave Kasi?” Sage Agastya wept and pleaded Lord Ganapathi.

Lord Ganapathi said, “You are a Mahatma. There are no mistakes from your side. While you are in Kasi on Ashtami day Lord Kala Bhairava should be worshiped. The one who will not worship cannot stay in Kasi permanently”.

Ashtami is the most auspicious day for Lord Kala Bhairava. We should worship Him on that day. If going to Lord Kala Bhairava temple is not possible, we can worship Him at home. Lord Siva stated that, “You may not come for My Darshan for some reason, you can have Siva Lingam at home and worship Me. I do not mind not being worshipped, but remembering Lord Kala Bhairava is very important. Especially on the Ashtami day, Lord Kala Bhairava has to be worshipped with attention and devotion. Every devotee should remember Lord Kala Bhairava on Ashtami Day and worship or at least remember Him. If not, then you cannot stay in Kasi.”

Sage Agastya was so involved in Lord Siva at times that he forgot to worship Lord Kala Bhairava, and so now he had to leave Kasi. That minor mistake is sending him out of Kasi. Lord Ganapathi continued, “Why are you so worried because you are leaving Kasi? There are temples within the body of a wise person. Lord Siva wishes to give you salvation with wisdom. Your body is consisting of many Jyotirlinga temples. Lord Srisailam Mallikarjuna is on the crown of your head. In the morning after waking up, place your hand on the top of the head and pray to the Guru.

*Guru Brahma, Guru Vishnu, Guru Devo Maheswaraha, Guru Sakshat  
Para Brahma Tasmai Sri Guruve namaha.*

After praying so, Lord Srisailam Mallikarjuna will reside on the top of the head for the entire day”. (That is the power of the Guru and the *Puranas* stated that there is no greater God than the Guru). In *Devi Bhagavatham* in the previous chapters, it has been clearly stated that if Lord Siva is angry, Guru can rescue the devotees. But if Guru is angry even Lord Siva cannot rescue him from the Guru.

Lord Ganapathi has given suggestion that, “After waking up everyone should keep their hand on the head and pray to the Guru. Lord Srisailam Mallikarjuna will reside on the head. The left nostril is *VARUNA*, right is *ASI*. They both join between the eyebrows. The air will be exchanged between these nostrils. There will be a joining point with a hole known as *VARANASI*. Varanasi is a confluence of two Rivers. The River Ganga flows in Kasi, the River Varuna and River Asi joins it at

this sacred place. Due to the confluence of these rivers Kasi is named *VARANASI*. So, the place in between your eyebrows and the place where nose joins, is Varanasi in your body. Daily after taking bath take your middle finger and apply *KUMKUM* to it and place it in between your eyebrows and chant with devotion and remember your Guru.

*Vande Guru Pada Dwandwam Avangmansa Gocharam Rakta-Shukla  
Prabha Mishra Atarkyam Trai-Puram Maha ha*

Varanasi will be residing in between your eyebrows. All the Deities who are residing in Varanasi will join. The Rivers Varuna, Asi and Ganga will join on the nose. Along with the Rivers, Lords Sakshi Ganapathi, Dundi Ganapathi and other Ganapathi's also join. The nurturer of Kasi, Lord Vishnu, the ruler of Kasi, Lord Kala Bhairava will also join.

Devi is in two forms at Kasi. The first form is of Goddess Annapurna who will be in one place (house) serving food to the guests at noon. She will also take care of the things related to food and nurturance. She will look after and provide food for those who reach Kasi at noon. The food served will be very tasty, as She is serving the food with Her hand and by Her touch it becomes very tasty.

At night Goddess Annapurna will be in the form of Goddess Visalakshi and leaves the place (House) and goes to another place to sleep. Before going to sleep she takes care of every one, that is why She is known as *GRUHASTHU RALU* (the one who takes care of the house). The Devi will be checking whether we are being provided everything on time. She will see that the devotees will not have any difficulty in Kasi. *Dhandapani, Gubeshudu, Yakshudu* and others also will be there in Kasi.

Once Lord Siva did Tandavam (dance) in Kasi. He was thirsty after the Tandavam. He was searching for water. No one provided him water. So He struck the ground with his Trishul. The Trishul reached Patal and the water gushed out. Lord Brahma created a well with rings around it. This water is known as *GNANAVAPI* (Gnana = Trishul and Vapi = Well), the well which contains the water that gives wisdom. This well will also join between the eyebrows of the devotee.



All the nine planets such as *Ravi (the Sun)*, *Chandra (the Moon)*, *Kujiha (Mars)*, *Budha (Mercury)*, *Guru (Jupiter)*, *Shukra (Venus)*, *Shani (Saturn)*, *Rahu*, *Kethu* and the 27 stars that did Tapas at Kasi and became stars and married Chandra (Moon) will also join. Stars such as *Ashwini*, *Bharani*, *Kritika*, *Rohini*, *Mrighasira*, *Arudra*, *Punarvasu*, *Pushyami*, *Ashlesha*, *Magha*, *Purva Phalguni*, *Uttara Phalguni*, *Hasta*, *Chitta*, *Swati*, *Vishaka*, *Anuradha*, *Jyestha*, *Moola*, *Purvashada*, *Uttarashada*, *Shravana*, *Dhanishta*, *Shatabisha*, *Purvabhadra*, *Uttarabhadra* and *Revati* will also join between the eyebrows of the devotee. As Lord Kasi Viswanath cannot leave Kasi, He will also join them.

Ujjain is one of the most sacred temples for Lord Siva. The Lord Ujjain Mahakaleswar resides in the neck of a devotee. Daily after taking bath place the hand on the top of the head. Lord Srisailam Mallikarjuna will reside on the devotee's head. Place the middle finger in between the eyebrows Lord Kasi Viswanath will reside in between the eyebrows. Place the same hand on the neck, then Lord Ujjain Mahakaleswar will reside in the neck. The other remaining Jyothir Lingams will reside in the devotee's body by applying Udhi on the different parts after meditating on the Guru. The chanting of the *Dwadasa Jyotirlinga Nama Sthotram* will get the benefit of worshipping all the twelve Jyotirlingams.

*Saurashtre Somanatham Cha Shrishaille Mallikarjunam  
Ujjaiyinyam Mahakaalam Omkarama-Maheshwaram*

*Paralyam Vaidyanatham Cha Dakinyam Bheemashankaram  
Setubandhe Tu Ramesham Nagesham Darukavane*

*Varanasyam Tu Vishvesham Tryambakam Gautamitate  
Himalaye Tu Kedaram Gushmesham Cha Sivalaye*

*Atani Jyotirlingani Sayam Pratah Pathennarah  
Saptajanma Kritam Papam Smaranena Vinashyati*

*And after meditating on Guru chant this mantra*

*Om Tryambakam Yajamahe Sugandhim Pushti-Vardhanam  
Urvarukamiva Bandhanan Mrityormukshiya Mamritat*

*Or*

*Om Agniriti Bhasma, Vayuriti Bhasma, Jalamiti Bhasma,  
Sthalamiti Bhasma, Vyometi Bhasma, Sarva Goon Idam Bhasma*

*Yetani Chakshunkhi Bhasmaani*

*Or*

*By chanting Lord Siva's name*

By applying Udhi the remaining 9 Jyothir Lingams will reside in the devotee's body. The Body thus has become like a mobile *Dwadasa Jyothir Lingam Nilayam* (home). So why are you worried? Lord Siva did not leave you. So, understand that Kasi is residing in you (the same was stated in *Kasi Kandam*). Our body is a temple when we are able to control it properly. Only the Guru can help the disciple to conduct himself so. The disciple should be fortunate to have a good Guru, and vice versa. Getting a good disciple like Lord Krishna to Sandipani, like Padmapadhu to Jagathguru Adi Shankaracharya is very difficult. If the disciple is good, they will attain Moksha in this life itself. But attaining salvation is not an easy task. So, there was a wonderful story explaining about this.

A long time ago Dhruvudu was upset with his father and step mother. So, he went to do Tapas in Madhura Puram. This place was also called as *Madhu Vanam*. On his way he saw a Banyan tree. Under the tree a very old man was doing Tapas. The old man also saw Dhruva and said, "Oh Dhruva! By looking at you I understood one thing, is that you are very perseverant. You will perform Tapas to Lord Vishnu with devotion and He will definitely appear before you. I am performing Tapas for the past 80,000 years, but I have not been able to have Darshan of even the dust under His feet. However, I know that you will have the Darshan of Lord Vishnu. If He appears before you, please ask for one thing on my behalf".

Dhruva asked, “What is that?”

The old man said, “I am doing Tapas for 80,000 years under this Banyan tree. Will Lord Hari ever appear to me or not? Can I at least get salvation or not? Whatever the Lord answers, please convey it to me without hesitation”. Dhruva accepted his request.

Dhruva had the Darshan of Lord Vishnu and he asked Him, “My personal issues aside, on the way I saw an old man who was doing Tapas for the past 80,000 years. He wants to know about his salvation. He wanted me to ask you, so please tell me whether he will get salvation or not”?

Lord Vishnu replied, “It is difficult”.

Dhruva then said, “Please explain to me the difficulty and I will explain the same to him”.

Lord Vishnu replied, “Then listen. That old man is doing Tapas under a Banyan tree. In Autumn the leaves will shed, so ask him to count all the leaves which have fallen down from the tree. In Spring the new shoots will be formed in the tree, ask him to count the new leaves. He will be liberated after those many lives. (If the banyan tree shed 1,00,000 leaves and grows 1,00,000 new ones, so his deliverance will come only after 2,00,000 lives)”

Hearing this Dhruva was upset. He was most unhappy with the boons given by Lord Vishnu. Dhruva was hesitant to convey the message to the old man. He came back to the Banyan tree, saw the old man and said, “I do not know how to tell you”. Dhruva explained what Lord Vishnu told him. (About the count of Leaves). The old man was very excited to hear this and he started dancing. Dhruva was shocked by seeing him dancing and asked the old man, “By listening to this you are behaving in a crazy manner. Are you okay?”

The old man replied, “I am very happy with this message. I have not gone crazy”.

Dhruva said, “What is there to be so happy? It may take a few lakh lives to get salvation”.

The old man replied, “Whatever Lord Vishnu said is going to happen, isn’t it?”

Dhruva said, “Yes, when He said so, it will surely happen”

The old man then said, “I know I am going to get salvation after a few lakh lives at least by this. But others do not know even this. He has given me a boon of liberation. That is enough for me. Others have to be in the cycle of life and death indefinitely. Man is born again and again by his deeds. He will experience love, hatred, happiness and sorrow. No matter how many births they take their Karmas are not completed. As long as they have these Karmas, they have to take many births. To destroy these Karmas, we should have the Guru’s blessing and approval. Now you are my Guru and Lord Vishnu has given me a suggestion. I will bear all these lives with happiness. After that I will go to Lord Vishnu’s World and chant His name constantly. You have done a great service to me and conducted yourself with great benevolence”. Thus, the old man displayed his unwavering faith in Lord Vishnu’s words.

As the old man displayed his unwavering faith, Lord Vishnu appeared and said, “With the belief on My words, you wanted to take births for lakhs and lakhs of times happily. So, for your unwavering faith you will get salvation immediately”. The old man was a great devotee and his devotion was very strong, so he believed in Lord Vishnu undoubtedly. He did not even doubt or get upset with the Lords words. But the old man only thought, “Whatever happens and however long it may take, it does not matter, but all I want is to reach Lord Hari. I will take unlimited births but I want to reach Lord Vishnu.” That is what we call wisdom. Anyone who gets upset with the words of the Guru or the Gods will have to start their life cycle as an insect till they get to the human stage.

Lord Vinayaka also told Sage Agastya, “Understand that there are many temples in the body. With that wisdom, keep up the spirit with courage. God will always be with you when you do not leave Him. Even during times when you felt He left you. When you have to be away from the Guru or some temples and come across hurdles you have to understand and believe that God is testing you. It is important

to treat the body as a temple. So, from today, understand that all the Jyothir Lingams are in your body”.

“The second point is that, do you know why Lord Siva is sending you out of Kasi? Everyone thinks that there is no other Divine place like Kasi. (In Vaikuntam, no matter how many people are there, there will be place for one more, but that is not possible in Kasi. If everyone wants to stay in Kasi, the area will not be sufficient.) But to tell the World that Lord Siva is omnipresent, He wanted to talk about Draksharamam. The devotee who worships Lord Bheemeswara Swamy and Goddess Manikyamba in Draksharamam will get the privilege of dying in Kasi in any life. You should know that Draksharamam is also a glorious temple. To spread the word that there are other temples that gives us the same result as Kasi, Lord Siva is sending you out of Kasi. Many temples on Earth are home to Lord Kasi Vishwanath”.

If the devotee thinks with devotion and purity, the water in the Kamandalam ( an oblong water pot made of a dry gourd (pumpkin) or coconut shell, metal, wood of the Kamandalataru tree, or from clay, usually with a handle and sometimes with a spout), can become as holy as River waters of Ganga.



*Kamandalam*

Regular water after chanting this mantra with devotion will become as water from all the Sacred Rivers. All the River waters will manifest in the water of the Kamandalam.

*Gange Cha Yamune Chaiva Krishne Godavari Saraswathi  
Narmade Sindhu Kaveri Jale Asmin Sannidhim Kuru*

Now the water is no longer normal water but it is the water from all the Rivers.

So, wherever you go, think that Lord Siva is there in that place. The person with wisdom can see God everywhere”. Sage Agastya heard all these from Lord Vigneswara and started from Kasi, but he was not completely satisfied. He thought, “Kasi is the place for getting salvation. Where else can there be such a great place”? Thus thinking he left Kasi with great agony. Sage Agastya was not worried about his salvation as he could go to Kailasam with his body. Being aware that he is going to be born as the next Sage Vyasa, he was still not able to leave Kasi due to its glory. He saw his pet swans and asked them to come with him, but they nodded their heads showing disinterest. He said, “I raised you with love and taught you mantras but you do not want to come with me?”. The swans replied, “We respect our Guru but we cannot leave Kasi”.

Sage Agastya was upset and said, “You know about the glory of Kasi and you know that if you die here, you will get salvation. Lord Siva is more than your Guru, why will you come with me leaving Kasi”? Sage Agastya then saw the Bilva trees and said, “You are the Divine trees, I know you can move anywhere you want. Can you come with me”? The Bilva trees nodded their head showing their disinterest and said, “All our leaves are dedicated to Lord Siva”. Sage Agastya was upset and said, “After me someone else will come and water you. If not, they will cut the trees, but the leaves will be offered to Lord Siva. So after death also you will be with Lord Siva and get deliverance. Why will you come with me”?

Moving forward Sage Agastya saw the jasmine creepers and asked them to come with him. They also nodded their head showing their disinterest and said, “All our flowers are dedicated to Lord Siva”. Sage Agastya pleaded with Lord *Dundi Ganapathi*, and the twelve Suryas in Kasi (*Lolarka Aditya (Sun)*, *Yama Aditya*,



*Vriddha Aditya, Vimal Aditya, Uttarark Aditya, Saamba Aditya, Mayukha Aditya, Khakholkh Aditya, Keshava Aditya, Ganga Aditya, Draupad Aditya, and Arun Aditya* asking Them if They would accompany him. But none had shown any interest in going with him and said, “We are happy to be in Kasi”. After asking everyone and with a heavy heart, remembering Kasi every second, he left Kasi with his wife Lopamudra.

Lopamudra asked, “Why are you so worried, Lord Siva said He will give you salvation”.

Sage Agastya replied, “I am not worried much about salvation. I like to get Lord Visveswara Darshan every day and I want to touch His feet and worship Him. He is in the form of Lord Mallikarjuna in Srisailam, and other places. But I like the form of Lord Kasi Visveswara. I have attachment to His form. I like the Rudraksha on His neck, His attire and I am used to worshipping Him in this form”. He started walking and finally reached Mount Vindhya. He saw the gigantic form of Mount Vindhya touching the sky. He was so tall that he was able to stop the chariot of the Sun God. Sage Agastya was the shortest in height amongst all the Sages. The reason was to convey to the World that the one who has knowledge must bow humbly. Sage Agastya could enlarge his body but he wanted to be short. Lopamudra was a bit taller than Sage Agastya, but he always respected his wife. He was the one who drank the water of all the Seas in a moment. He is most venerable and with great wisdom. He had a younger brother known as Sudharsanudu. People rarely knew him by his name but they knew him as Agastya Bhraatha (brother of Agastya).

In ancient times the land on Earth was surrounded by large seas. There were Demons called Kalakeyulu, and Nivatha Kavachulu. Kalakeyulu were 3 crore in number and they fought with the Gods and defeated them in a war. When the Gods wanted to kill them, they hid in the seas. The Gods thought that the Demons will not come out of the sea, so they left for Heaven. The Demons would suddenly come out of the sea, eat a few humans and harm the Gods. But when the Gods wanted to kill them, they would again hide in the seas. It had become a routine for them. So, the humans and Gods felt that, “Unless we kill these Kalakeyulu we will not be able to live in peace. To kill them they should be on firm land. The Gods and

humans could not remain in water for too long, so what were they supposed to do? So, they went to Lord Brahma and pleaded with Him saying, “As long as there is water in the seas, we cannot kill the Demons, Kalakeyulu. They are dangerous, so if there is no water in the seas the Demons cannot hide and we can then destroy them. We can protect ourselves and the World”.

Lord Brahma replied, “I cannot empty the sea. But there is one person who can empty all the seas. He is Sage Agastya. He is a great devotee of Lord Siva. By worshipping Lord Siva, he obtained great power to empty the seas by drinking the water. So, you can take his help”.

All the Gods went to Sage Agastya and said, “Please drink the water in the seas and protect the World from the Demons”.



*Sage Agastya drinking the water in the Sea*

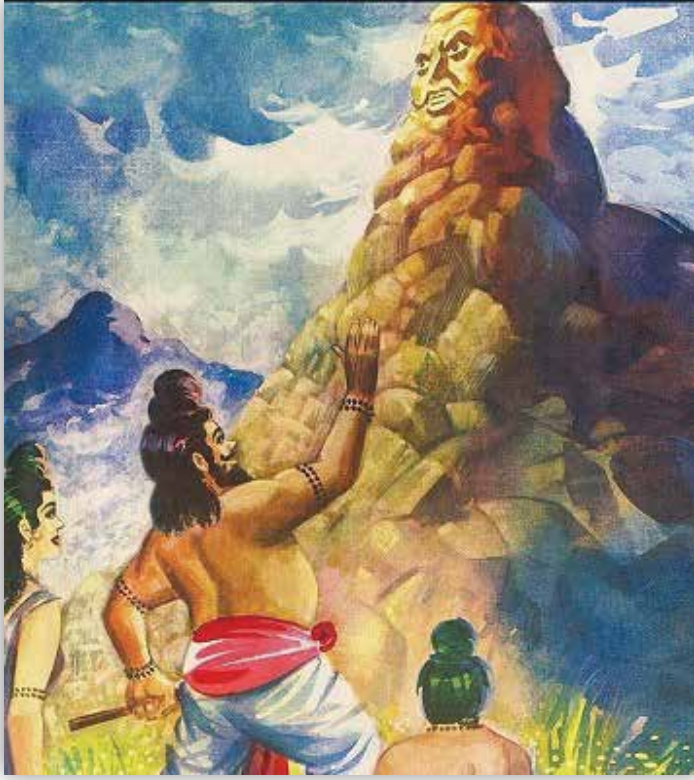
Sage Agastya agreed to do that and took all of them to the Seas. He stretched his hand and said, “Oh Sea Water! Come to my hand”. With his great power the water

in the sea became a drop of water and fell in his hand. He drank that drop and emptied the sea. The sea was dry. Such a great and powerful Sage was he. Where ever he went, people bowed to him. He would punish the person who has Ego and would bless the person who strives for prosperity of the World. Mount Vindhya saw Sage Agastya coming and thought, “Sage Agastya drank the waters of the sea and he killed two Demons, Vathapi and Ilvaludu and saved the World. Such a great person is coming, I have to bow and do *Sashtanga Namaskaram*” (all the parts of the body touch the ground).

Mount Vindhya thinking so fell at the feet of Sage Agastya like a stick falling on the ground and with folded hands said, “Oh Sage! I am greeting you with folded hands. Protect me”. Sage Agastya and Lopamudra came towards Mount Vindhya who was humbly bowing and greeting them. Sage Agastya looked at him with affection and said, “Oh Son! Please be like this. If you are bent like this it will be easy for Lopamudra to climb you. Even I am not able to climb you. My wife and myself need to go to the other side of you. We will visit Malaya Mountain, Draksharamam and many other places. So, till we come back please be like this. Can you do this for us?”

Mount Vindhya replied, “Oh Guru! I know about you. The five elements of nature can be destroyed if they disrespected your words. Lord Siva has spread the news about your power to the World. You are equal in weight to Lord Siva and such a person is commanding me. How can I deny your words? When the Guru is giving an order, the disciple has to follow it, even if it is against the *Puranas*. You are the Guru of the Worlds, so I will be like this until you come back. Please go and finish your tasks and come at your leisure”.

When Mount Vindhya bowed, the chariot of the Sun God started moving. All the people started greeting the rising Sun and prayed. “Greetings to you Surya Deva, you mounted the chariot of seven horses. You are intense with warm and hot rays. You are the son of Sage Kasyapa and You hold a white Lotus in Your hand. We are greeting You humbly”. The crisis was over. Again, the day and night cycle resumed. The rituals like Swaha and Swadha started. All the Worlds followed the usual routine.



*Mount Vindhya and Sage Agastya*

Sage Agastya left that place and reached Kolhapur and worshiped Goddess Maha Lakshmi. Goddess blessed him saying, “Do not worry. In future you will be born as Sage Vyasa, and will become a great author. You worship Srisaila Mallikarjuna and Draksharam Bheemeswara. You and your wife will reach the galaxy and reside on the south side of the sky by the name of star Agastya. You will be seen in the galaxy during the rainy season.

Once you are visible in the galaxy, the water in the Rivers will be purified and flow without mud or pollution”. This the reason why the water in the Rivers becomes clean and pure.

From there Sage Agastya reached Srisailam. A few temples were covered by the forest in Srisailam. He was the one who found the *Goddess Ista Kameshwari*, *Gods Sakshi Ganapathi*, *Kumara Swamy*, *Hatakeswarudu* and others. When a devotee reaches *Sakshi Ganapathi* temple he has to hold his ears with opposite hands and say his name and *Gothram*. Lord Ganapathi will make a note of it and will tell Lord Yama Dharma Raja. Whoever dies will be taken to Hell first. The sinners will be punished. If the person is a saint, they will be treated well. Lord Yama will find out the virtues of the person from Lord *Sakshi Ganapathi*. He will talk about the visits to Srisailam and about the behavior of the devotee during the pilgrimage. After

knowing the information Lord Yama will send the person to the designated Worlds. The glory of Lord *Sakshi Ganapathi* was stated in *Siva Puranam*, *Devi Bhagavatham* and *Kasi Kandam*. Our visit to Srisailam will not be considered complete unless Lord *Sakshi Ganapathi* notes our names.

From there Sage Agastya reached Malaya Mountain (currently in Malaysia. There is a wonderful Lord Kumara Swamy temple here). He is residing in this mountain. Once in a while he comes out and has the Darshan of Draksharamam, Srisailam, Pandya Desam, Eekshana Muktheswara (in Sampara village, Kakinada). Sage Agastya always told himself every day that Lord Kasi Visveswara was within him and that he must never go away from him.

Mount Vindhya was raising his head and watching whether Sage Agastya is there among those who were coming near him. Once Sage Agastya comes, he can greet him and stand up again and that is why he was waiting. As he was bent, he was not having a clear vision so he shaded his eyes with his hand and was watching everyone. Mount Vindhya waited for years but Sage Agastya and Lopamudra did not come. Mount Vindhya fell into despair and thought, “I lost my previous shape as I am now bending. How much damage was caused by not being able to tolerate the height of others? The old glory has also gone with jealousy over others”. (If someone is getting a name or prospering, we should not be jealous of them. Whatever comes depends on the deeds we have done. So, the glory of the one who does not tolerate the fame of others will also perish). At this troubled time Mount Vindhya remembered his Guru Sage Vasishtha.

Immediately he prayed, “Oh Guru Vasishtha! Protect me”. It is been stated in the *Puranas* that the Guru has to forgive the mistakes of the disciples. So, the Sage immediately appeared and asked what he wanted.

Mount Vindhya said, “I thought I will become great by enlarging my body, but I lost my form, lost my reputation. How can I get all these back again? People should respect me and I should attain salvation. Tell me a method for achieving it”.

Sage Vasishtha replied, “I will give you Devi’s *Navarna Mantram*. Chant this mantra with devotion and meditate on “*AMBA*”. Devi will appear and you pray to



Her to stay on your mountain and protect the World. If Devi is on your Mountain, you will become World famous”. So, Mount Vindhya took the mantra and chanted it with utmost devotion. When we are in problems and troubles, we remember God and the Guru. This is a common behavior of humans. The one who chants or meditates on God when they are in happiness will not get into any trouble. Thus, Mount Vindhya prayed to Devi and pleased Her. She appeared before him.

Devi was with 18 hands holding different weapons and was sitting on a Lion. She had converted five flowers into arrows and they were *Aravindham*, *Asoka Pushpam*, *Chutha Pushpam* (Mango flowers), *Nava Mallika* (fresh bloomed Jasmine) and *Nilothpalam* (Black Lotus). In the other hand, She has a rope, and in one hand Bow known as *IKSHU KODHANDAM* (Bow made with sugarcane). The rope tied to this bow was made with several fireflies in a row. This delicate sugarcane bow with fire-flies rope tied to it was used to shoot the arrows made with flowers to kill the Demons. This is a clear indication that the one who loves can also punish severely. the Devi was bright red in color and Her attire was also red in color with golden border. She was illuminated by millions of Suns and with the coolness of a million Moons. She was wearing earrings which were bright and resembling *SRI CHAKRA*. Her nose was like Champaka Bud and Her teeth resembling Pomegranate seeds. She had bright and wide eyes with a narrow waist.

Mount Vindhya looking at Devi prayed to Her. (There is no difference between the devotee and the Devi. The Devi is a devotee and devotee is the Devi. It is very difficult to get this emotion). The Devi was looking at Mount Vindhya with affection. The Devi then asked, “What do you want?”

Mount Vindhya replied, “Oh Devi! Fame comes to wherever You are and those places become *Shakti Peethams*. People will come from different places to worship You. You have to be here in two forms. At the foot of the mountain, You reside as *VINDHYACHALA NIVASINI*. With eight hands and as *ASHTABHUJA DEVI* You reside on my stomach (Top of the hill) till the end of Kali Yuga. The people who come for Your Darshan should call You *Vindhyachala Nivasini*. When they reach *Ashtabhuja Devi* people should think that She is blessing Mount Vindhya. This way



whoever comes to worship You will remember my name. With that my disrepute will leave me and I will get back my honor and name. I will get salvation as the dust from the feet of the devotees will be constantly on my back. *(The devotees will get good fortune by visiting the temples. At the same time the temples also will get power with the dust of devotees' feet. The Puranas have stated that when glorious people enter the temple the dust particles from their feet will make the temple more powerful and energetic. God has given the opportunity to the devotees to improve the power of the temple. These devotees will have the Darshan of God and they become powerful and energetic. This is the reciprocity between God and the devotee.)*



*Goddess Vindhyachala Nivasini*

Once Sage Naradha asked Lord Krishna, “Where do you stay? People say that you stay in Vaikuntam.”

Lord Krishna replied, “Vaikuntam is my World but I will not stay there”.

Sage Naradha then asked, “Will you be in temples?”

For that Lord Krishna replied, “I will not permanently stay there”.

Then Sage Naradha again asked, “Then where do you stay?”

To that Lord Krishna said, “I will be there where my devotees are constantly singing and chanting My

name. My home is the body of My devotees and I live there. God loves devotees very much and He sacrifices everything for them”

The Devi then replied to Mount Vindhya, “At the foot of the mountain I will reside as *Vindhyachala Nivasini* and on the top of the mountain I will be in the form of *Ashta Bhuja Devi*. The devotees will come continuously for My Darshan. They will remember your name as well. I will fulfil the wishes of the devotees, whoever come for My Darshan, until the end of the Kali Yuga. The devotee who visits Kasi should visit Me in this Mountain at least once, otherwise they will not get the full benefits of visiting Kasi”. From that time, She was residing there with the name of *Vindhyachala Nivasini*. The devotee who visits Kasi should at least visit once and have the Darshan of Goddess *Vindhyachala Nivasini*. The devotee should also visit *Astabhuja Devi* temple which is located 4 kilometers away.

The *Astabhuja Devi* temple is very sacred. Lord Rama stayed here while He was in *Aranyavasam* (Exile in forest for 14 years). Once during the rainy season, Goddess Sita, Lord Rama and Lakshmana were staying near the *Astabhuja Devi* temple. There was heavy rainfall for 7 days. Due to the continuous rains the water in River Ganga had become muddy and dirty. Lord Rama was thirsty, so He asked Goddess Sita to get fresh water to drink. Goddess Sita started searching for fresh water. The water everywhere was dirty. Goddess Sita tried to filter the water but She was not successful. She prayed to Goddess *Vindhyachala Nivasini*. Devi then created a small stream near the place where They stayed. The water was crystal clear and tasty. Devi said, “Oh Sita! You have prayed to Me with devotion, so this thin stream will be named as *Sita Madi*. This water will keep flowing till the end of Kali Yuga. Give this water to Rama”. (Sita Madi still exists on the Vindhya Mountains).

Goddess Sita filled the water in an earthen pot and gave it to Lord Rama. After drinking the water Lord Rama felt very relaxed and said, “In this rainy season how did you get this wonderful and pure water?”

Goddess Sita replied, “This was possible with the grace of the Devi’.

Then Lord Rama said, “I do not feel like eating vegetables. I want a sweet (*PAYASAM* made with milk and other ingredients) to eat. Can you please get Me

some tasty food?”. Goddess Sita came to Goddess *Ashtabhuj*a Devi and prayed to Her. Immediately Goddess *Ashtabhuj*a Devi gave Her varieties of dishes, seven types of rice, pickles, and curries. Goddess Sita served the delicious food to Lord Rama. This temple is located in a cave and it has a very small entrance, but anyone can enter inside the temple. Goddess *Ashtabhuj*a Devi is *BHUKTHI MUKTHI PRADAYINI* (Bhukthi= Food, Mukthi = Salvation, Pradayini = Giver). Thus, the name of Vindhya Mountains became famous from that time. Mount Vindhya’s name will be referred to in almost all the *Puranas*. His name is also chanted in *Lalitha Sahasranamam*. This is how intelligently Mount Vindhya got famous. Because of this the World started praising *Vindhya is a great Mountain, and Devi is residing on his mountain*. The fame which he was not able to get with jealousy, he got with devotion. With the grace of the Guru and with devotion, one can attain lost glory a hundred times more than before.



*Goddess Ashtabhuj Devi*

This is one of the most sacred stories. Those who reads or listens to this story with devotion and attention, all their enemies will be eliminated. When a person is achieving Reputation, Position and Wealth, they will have enemies due to jealousy. Everyone will have enemies, from internal and external people (Related and Non-Related). The Negative Characteristics which prevent human from attaining salvation are *Kama* (Lust), *Krodha* (Anger), *Lobha* (Greed), *Madha* (Pride), *Moha* (Delusion), and *Matsarya* (Jealousy). These are the first enemies for a human. Everyone will have some wish (Kama). When the wish is not fulfilled it turns to become anger (Krodha). When a human experiences

anger the body becomes chaotic and ultimately becomes unhealthy. When a person is not satisfied with what he has and wants more then it becomes greed (Lobha). When the person has everything, they become filled with pride (Madha), thinking *I have wealth, position, besides others*. The extreme love for all these brings about feelings of *mine; my home, my wife, my son etc.*, that are called delusion (Moha). When the person is in delusion, they cannot see others as better persons, so it turns to jealousy (Matsarya). All these six enemies are within every human. The one who listens to this story will eliminate the internal and external enemies. The sins committed by them till then will also be removed.

Positions come when devotees listen carefully with an intention to acquire it. By listening to this story, knowledge will be improved and business will prosper with each passing day. Dharma increases for the one who wants it and so does money for those with the need for it. All the wishes of the devotees will be fulfilled by hearing this story. This story brings happiness to people from all walks of life.

Goddess *Vindhyachala Nivasini* was worshipped by *Swayambhu Manu*. Later by *Savarni Manu*. Goddess *Vindhyachala Nivasini* was worshipped by 14 Manus. She is very sacred and most glorious. When there is sorrow in human life happiness comes by listening to this story. This story will give mental peace. No matter how many things there are in a human's life, there should be happiness, well-being and peace of mind.

If there is the wealth of happiness, then the rest are equal to dust particles. When the person is not having the wealth of happiness, then everything the person has will again be equal to dust particles. Anyone who hears the story will be delighted.

## *DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XXVIII CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*



## CHAPTER 29

### KEY POINTS

Why should we read or listen to *Devi Bhagavatham*?

Story of Arunasura

Story of a disciple who betrayed the Guru

Why Guru Bruhaspathi stopped Arunasura from chanting the Gayatri Mantram?

How Goddess Bhramaramba Devi killed Arunasura?

The Glory of Srisailam

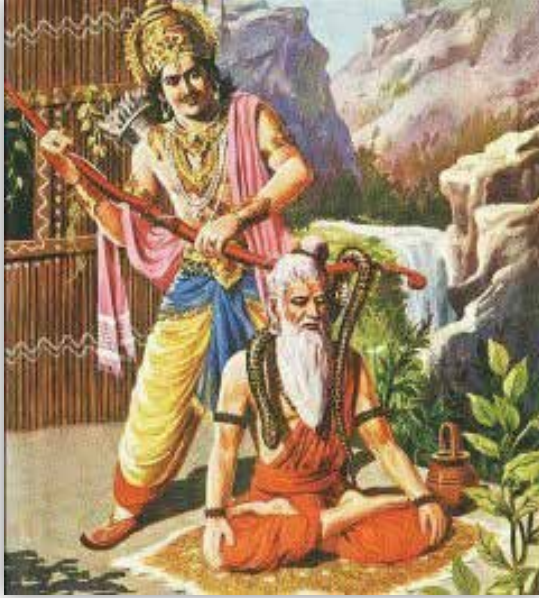
*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

We are right now in the Kali Yuga. It started after Lord Krishna ended his Incarnation. Human beings have a shorter lifespan in this Yuga with most of them dying of various illnesses. Most of them will also be ill natured and ungrateful for most part of their lives. Those who are always helpful or benevolent will be subjected to cheating and deception and if there are those who want to do some good there will be many others who will not allow them to do that and in fact create hurdles along their way. This will then lead to them not doing the good deed. Everyone will come under the influence of Kali. The only way to come out of this is by resorting to the *Devi Bhagavatam*. Unless we take refuge in the Devi, one cannot come out of the deluge of sins.



After Dharma Raja, Parikshit was the King who ruled the Kingdom. Due to the effect of Kali, he put a dead snake on Sage Samika's neck. So Parikshit was cursed by Sage Samika's son. After Parikshit, Janamejeya became the King. In the beginning of this Yuga Janamejeya listened to *Devi Bhagavatham* recited by Sage Vyasa. Yet he came under the influence of Kali.

One day Janamejeya asked Sage Vyasa, "Oh Guru! You have explained about the qualities of humans in this Kali Yuga. How to attain salvation in this Yuga"?



*King Parikshit putting a dead Snake  
on the Sage's Neck*

Sage Vyasa replied, "Kali Yuga is the time of great sins. The humans in this Yuga will get tempted to do sins or sometimes forced to do them. But God has given these humans a great boon. The one, who is reading or listening to the stories of the devotees, will come out of the ill effects of Kali Yuga. The sins committed till that time will be absolved immediately. The stories of devotees are like *Bhagavatham*. By listening to the *Bhagavatham* great sins will be eradicated. Now I will tell a few stories about the Devi's devotees".

*Vaivaswatha Manu* had six sons named *Karushudu*, *Prishadhrudu*, *Nabhagudu*, *Dhrishtudu*, *Sharyati* and *Trisankudu*. Once all of them visited Sage Naradha and asked him, "Oh Naradha! We do not have lust or greed in our family life. We have a desire to have Darshan of the Devi as soon as possible. What is the procedure to have an easy and a quick way to get Her Darshan"?

Sage Naradha replied, "Why have you all come this far to know about the Devi's Darshan? You can go to your clan Guru, Sage Vasishta and pray to him. Sage Vasishta will tell you how to do this and show you the right path". They all came back to Sage



Vasishta and he gave them the Devi's *MAYA BEEJAM*. Sage Vasishta said, "Chant this Beejam on a river bank. This beejam will give you *IHAMU* and *PARAMU* (Ihamu-Paramu: life on this Earth or life in Heaven.) They reached the banks of River Yamuna (*KALINDHI*) near Madhura. Even though River Yamuna flows for a long distance, the temple at Madhura is the most sacred and powerful of all places. In ancient days it was called as *MADHU VANAM*. Many people performed Tapas in this *Madhu Vanam*. It is said that there is no other sacred Vanam than this and the city here is named as Madhura. Dhruva also did Tapas in *Madhu Vanam* for Lord Vishnu and He appeared. Lavanasura was ruling *Madhu Vanam* at that time.

The six brothers reached there and sat under a Bur flower tree and chanted the *Beejam*. The Devi and Lord Krishna like this tree very much. The brothers restricted their food intake and controlled their breath. While they were performing the Tapas there were no humans around. So, they were not able to get food, hence they ate the leaves which were shed from that tree. (But they never plucked the leaves). When these leaves were not available, they lived on only air. Sometimes they absorbed the sunrays and lived. During this period, they faced many hurdles and tests. They were troubled by the six inner enemies of *Kama* (*Lust*) *Krodha* (*Anger*), *Lobha* (*Greed*), *Madha* (*Pride*), *Moha* (*Delusion*), and *Matsarya* (*Jealousy*), in the form of Demons. These Demons told them to stop the Tapas and also tempted them with cravings for food, drinks, women and other comforts. But these brothers did not surrender to these desires. They always maintained devotion towards their Guru and the Devi.

*(There are still a few Sages living in the forests of Srisailam and Kedarnath who live only on air. Sometimes they will control their breath also. A few Sages live naked in the coldest weathers of Kedarnath and perform Tapas sitting on the snow. To have Darshan of such Sages we have to follow strict rules of controlling certain foods, friends, and language. Then we can have the Darshan of these Sages. More details have been given in the book MANAVAKATHALU written by Guru Sri Vaddiparthi Padmakar Garu).*

They worshipped the Devi and did Tapas for 12 years. At the beginning of the 13th year Devi appeared to them on the banks of River Yamuna. The Devi was in black Lotus color. The Devi gives Darshan in blackish blue color only while giving salvation to Her devotee. She was with long black hair, Her teeth red in color. She

was wearing earrings resembling *SRI CHAKRA*. When they saw the Devi, they greeted Her. They were amazed by Her appearance. They thought, “People said that to have the Darshan of Devi we have to perform Tapas for thousands of years but for us She gave appearance within 12 years. That is why She is known as *AVYAJA KARUNA MURTHI* (Mother with unconditional love or loving without logic)”. They prayed to Her with great devotion.

*Oh Maheswari! Eswari! Greetings to You. You are the home for compassion. You have unconditional love on Your devotees. You are pleased with our 12 years of Tapas and showed us grace and appeared. We heard from Sage Naradha that it is very difficult to please You and have Darshan of Your feet. The one who does intense Tapas with utmost loyalty, also cannot have Darshan of the dust under Your feet. But for us You appeared and gave Darshan after just 12 years of Tapas. We are very lucky. Now we understand that this is not our energy and power but that of our Guru. We believed in our Guru and chanted the Beejam given by him. You are pleased with that single letter. You will be happy with the chanting of the AIM beejam. You will reside in the KLEEM beejam and You like the Kleem beejam the most. We can get Your grace by chanting any Beejam, but we should have ultimate devotion. We are very lucky, Greetings to You.*

The Devi said, “You all have immaculate devotion towards Me and on your Guru. You believed in your Guru and surrendered at his feet and did Tapas. I will be always present in the palms of people who have *GURU BHAKTHI* (devotion on Guru). I will not show grace to the one who does not have devotion towards Guru even though he does Tapas for thousands of years. I am pleased with your devotion and wish to grant you a boon. What do you all want?”

They replied, “Remove our desires and give us the things which will make us very happy. Bestow the blessing of not being reborn. Bless us with salvation”.

The Devi said, “You are in the path of wisdom and you do not want anything, so I will bless you with all the comforts. All of you will rule the Earth for a 1000 years and you will enjoy all the luxuries. Your Clan will develop and prosper. You will leave the body at an old age and reach Me. I have given you all this boon but do you really know who I am?”

They replied, “You are the Devi”.

The Devi said, “Yes I am Devi. I am the ruler of the world ‘*BHRAMARI DEVI*’.” Devi after blessing them disappeared. They were very happy and they also left the place. They enjoyed all luxuries on the Earth. This story was narrated by Lord Vishnu to Sage Naradha, Sage Sukha to Sage Sounaka and other Sages, and Sage Vyasa to Janamejeya.

Sage Naradha asked, “Who is this Bhramari Devi? How did Devi get this name? Why did She incarnate? Please tell me the detailed story about Brahmani Devi. How much ever I hear about Devi, I am not satisfied and still feel like hearing more. The Devi’s stories are like Elixir, I feel like drinking it more and more.” Drinking elixir will be monotonous after sometime, but stories about Devi are not like that. We will never be satisfied. The one who drinks the elixir will live till the end of Kali Yuga without old age. But the Elixir of Devi’s stories will offer deliverance to the past seven generations and future seven generations in addition to the current generation. The one who is in Hell or who has to go to Hell will also get salvation. Fourteen generations will reach the World of Devi including the person who heard the *Devi Bhagavatham*. Sage Vyasa stated that the one who listens to or reads *Devi Bhagavatham*, their entire clan will become sacred.

Lord Vishnu responded to the question of Sage Naradha, “After killing most of the Demons Lord Vishnu said to the remaining Demons, if you want to save your life you have to leave the Earth and live in Patala Lokam.” Hence the remaining Demons left for Patala Lokam. In the clan of Danuvu (Demons) one Demon named *ARUNASURA* was born. From childhood Arunasura was provoked by the words Earth, Heaven and Patala Lokam, since he felt that they all belonged to his own clan, but the vicious Gods have occupied all these Worlds. He believed that the main enemy was Indra, and the Trinity will always be supporting and protecting him and they will be killing the Demons all the time. The Lord further said, “With my support the Gods are killing the Demons and they are finally relegated to stay in Patala Lokam after they had lost the Earth and Heaven.” Demon Arunasura was made to believe that once he grew up, he had to fight with the Gods and kill them and should be a source of support to their clan”.

This young Arunasura came to the conclusion that all the Worlds belonged to them. He thought “I should become the ruler of these Worlds. Only our race should be there in this Universe”. Slowly Arunasura became a savage and a hater of the Gods. Sukracharya was Arunasura’s Guru. Once Arunasura went to his Guru and asked, “What should I do to become the ruler of all the Worlds and to be immortal”?

Sukracharya replied, “I will give the Mantra of Lord Brahma. Go to Earth and chant this Mantra and please Lord Brahma. Once Lord Brahma appears, ask for the boon of immortality. If Lord Brahma denies it then ask for something that will help you escape from all kinds of possibilities of death. Ensure that you escape death,” he instructed. Arunasura took the Mantra and reached Earth. He went to the Himalayas and did Tapas on the banks of River Mandakini (near Kedarnath). Arunasura used to wake up in the morning, take a holy dip in the freezing waters and start chanting the Mantra. Lord Brahma did not appear despite his best efforts.

One day Sukracharya came there and asked him, “Is Lord Brahma yet to appear? If you have chanted this mantra with devotion, Lord Brahma should have appeared by now?”.

Arunasura replied, “I am chanting the Mantra with devotion on the Guru and on Lord Brahma.”

Then Sukracharya said, “To fulfil our desires quickly Lord Brahma should appear. For the quick result we should do *GAYATRI MANTRA ANUSHTANAM* (assigned to do some duties/rituals), I forgot that”. Sukracharya did *UPANAYANA* (wearing the Yagnopaveetham) to Arunasura. Sukracharya said, “Now follow whatever I say. Lord Brahma will appear to you and your wishes will be fulfilled. During sunrise take bath in this River. Take water in your hands and chant the *Gayatri Mantra* and offer *ARGHYAM* (offering water to Sun God). There is no Mantra which is more sacred and powerful than *Gayatri Mantra*. After all this you can chant the Brahma Mantra. Lord Brahma will appear and bless you with boons”.

Following the instructions of the Guru, Arunasura woke up early in the morning and took a holy dip in the River Mandakini, gave *Arghyam* and chanted *Gayatri Mantra* and continued with the meditation on Lord Brahma. Arunasura was very

focused and did austere Tapas. After doing Tapas for some time, flames of fire emanated from his body. This fire reached the World of Lord Brahma and touched his feet. Lord Brahma was amazed with the Tapas and thought, “Even Gods cannot do such intense Tapas”. To give him a boon Lord Brahma started on His *HAMSA VAHANA* (Swan vehicle).



*Lord Brahma on a White Swan*

Lord Brahma reached Kedarnath and called, “Arunasura, where are you?” Arunasura was on the banks of River Ganga sitting under a tree. Arunasura’s body was gaunt with hardly any flesh on it, weak and only life was there in the body. In spite of the weak body there was radiant energy coming out from him due to the Tapas. Lord Brahma said, “Oh Arunasura! You have pleased Me with your great Tapas. What sacred devotion you have? What a loyal devotee you are? You followed strict rules and did the Tapas. You stopped having food, water, sometimes even air. Your body has become fleshless and I am amazed to see that you are still alive”. Lord Brahma sprinkled water from His *Kamandalam* and as the water touched his body it became normal, red in color and strong again.

Arunasura was very happy and opened his eyes to see how Lord Brahma looked. As he opened his eyes, he saw Lord Brahma sitting on the *Hamsa Vahanam*. Lord Brahma was red in color and He had four heads and hands. Lord Brahma was holding *Japamala* in one hand and (Lord Brahma will be doing *BRAHMA GAYATRI JAPAM* continuously), *Kamandalam* in the other hand. There is no other God worthy of all worship in the World, since ‘He’ writes the destiny of all creatures. Looking at such a God, Arunasura greeted and said, “Oh God! The form of the Trinity. There is no one better than You in giving the desired boons. Such a God, You are pleased with my Tapas. You have given me life and strength to my body, Greetings to You”.

Lord Brahma said, “I am pleased with your Tapas, what do you want”?

Arunasura asked, “Can You give me the boon of immortality? If so, I will ask for that”.

Lord Brahma replied, “Other than that you can ask for anything”.

Arunasura replied, “Anyway You are not going to give the boon of immortality, so I will ask for another boon. I should not die in a war where weapons are used. I should not die with any weapon like sword, axe or any other weapon. I should not die in the hands of men. I should not die in the hands of women. I should not die in the hands of transgender. I should not die in the hands of one who has two legs or four legs. Give me the great strength. The one who comes to fight with me in war should die at my hands. Weapons should not harm me but it should kill the person who used it”.

Lord Brahma was shocked with his request and said, “What a boon you have asked. That the weapon should go and kill the person who used it? What is this boon? What happens to the people and the Trinity? But as promised I am giving you this boon. Oh Arunasura! If you are polite and humble these boons will help you, otherwise there will be a great power born to kill you”. The Gods will always have a trick to kill evil even though they are My devotees. There is a wonderful story regarding the same.

There was a wrestler. In his time no one was able to defeat him in wrestling. People tried to defeat him for 30 years, but they were not successful. The wrestler reached 50 years of age and at that time a young wrestler came to him. The young boy was very polite and served the Guru. The old wrestler was pleased and asked, “What do you want”? The boy replied, “I want to be your disciple, please teach me the tricks of wrestling and make me a good wrestler. I will be grateful to you forever. I will make you famous worldwide”. The Guru was already pleased with the service done by the young boy, so he accepted. The Guru taught him wrestling for three years.

One day the Guru said, “I have taught you all the tricks that I know in wrestling, nothing is left to teach you now. You are now greater than me”.



The Disciple greeted and replied, “Oh Guru! Did you teach me all the tricks in wrestling?”

The Guru replied, “Yes I have taught you every trick, now you are greater than me in wrestling”.

The Disciple asked, “If needed can I vanquish you?”

The Guru replied, “I have been teaching you for the past three years, I am 55 years old and you are just 22 years. You are young and I am in my old age. You have learned all the tricks, so if you wish you can win over me. But I know you will not do so, as you want to make me famous in the world. So, go on and become the world’s most famous wrestler”.

The disciple replied, “Dear Guru, my father was defeated in your hands. So, my father asked me to become your disciple, learn all the tricks from you and finally defeat you. I have actually come to take revenge on you and hence I became your student and learned every trick. I did service to you to please you, not with respect for the Guru. I have pretended to be a good student and learned the wrestling skills from you. I have promised my father that I will defeat you. Therefore, tomorrow we will have a wrestling match in front of all the people and I will defeat you in front of everyone. After defeating you every one will praise me”.

The Guru replied, “Do not defame me at this age. I am in my old age and I have already taught you all my skills. It will be a shame for me to be defeated at this age and it will spoil my health as well. You should not betray the Guru. The *Puranas* state that we should not betray the Guru or the one who gave us food and the Priests. The person who betrays the Guru will suffer in their life. So stop your thought of defeating me”.

The student did not listen to what the Guru said and he replied, “I was your student, learned skills only to defeat you. The day after tomorrow, we will have the match. Meanwhile I will announce this so that everyone will come and see how I defeat my Guru. This is also the best opportunity for the people who were defeated by you to watch you being defeated”. Saying this he made the announcement about the match. People were curious about the match and there were 10,000 people who came to watch the match.

The Guru was worried about the match and thought, “I have taught him everything thinking that he is my best student, but now he has shown his real intent. I do not know how to come out of this problem”. Finally, the day of the match came. The disciple and the Guru reached the wrestling ring. For the last time, the Guru again asked, “Oh Disciple! You are young and I am in my old age. It is not good to compete with your Guru”. But the student was very stubborn and wished to defeat him. The match started and in the first three rounds of the match the student had the upper hand. The people thought, “In the fourth round the Guru is going to be defeated. This Guru had defeated so many people in the past but now we will get to see him being defeated”. As the fourth round began the Guru used a trick and broke the spine of the disciple. The student fell down and was not able to stand up again.

The student said, “Oh Guru! You did not teach me this trick”

The Guru replied, “Now learn this trick. I have seen disciples like you. Hence, I will not teach three tricks to my students knowing that if they want to harm me, I can use them.” The Gurus therefore will not teach all the tips or tricks to their disciples. They will keep a few to safeguard themselves. This story reveals that the Guru will safeguard his safety. In the same way God also knows how to safeguard the World and the creatures in it. God is the Supreme Creator. One example of His creation is the human body. Therefore, showing intelligence in front of God is ignorance.

The power, positions, wealth and fame will not help us from escaping death. Only taking refuge in God is the best practice, He only can protect us. The one who gets boons from the Gods will develop ego. In the same way Arunasura, after getting the boons called the people of Patala Lokam and said, “Lord Brahma has given me boons. No one can kill me now. I am the protector of all of you”. All of them invaded Heaven. Indra understood that he cannot win against Arunasura, so without a war he left Heaven along with his Dikpalakas. All of them reached Kailasam and held the feet of Lord Siva.

They prayed to Lord Siva, “Oh Sankara! Protect us. You are the one who destroys the Demons. You dwell in our hearts and give us the strength and courage. Arunasura

did Tapas for Lord Brahma and acquired boons. With those boons he cannot be killed so easily. How will Arunasura die now?”

Lord Siva replied, “I know about this. You came to Kailasam and beside Me is Goddess Parvathi. Goddess Parvathi or Myself cannot go to war with him as he is not going to die in the hands of a man or a woman. He will not die with weapons. In this situation I cannot do anything, so pray to the Devi. In troublesome situations, women’s minds work better than men’s. The Devi is the ruler of the World. Sage Vyasa clearly stated that male power cannot match female power. Without Goddess Parvathi I cannot do anything. Knowing all this we have to worship Goddess *Jagadamba* all the time”. (*That is why we should respect women*). As Lord Siva said, all of them started praying to the Devi.

Goddess Parvathi was sitting beside Lord Siva. They all heard a Voice from the sky. The Devi did not speak but it was the power in Her that started talking. As Arunasura is not going to die in the hands of a woman, so Goddess Parvathi’s Energy has become *AAKASHAVANI* (celestial announcement, voice is heard but without form). “Arunasura who is troubling you will not die so easily. To kill him I have an idea. You also need to implement that idea. Other than the boons given by Lord Brahma, Arunasura has one more power and that is the power of chanting *Gayatri Mantra*. Sukracharya told Arunasura that, “To get the boons you have to chant *Gayatri Mantra*”. From that time, he is chanting the *Gayatri Mantra* three times a day (morning, afternoon and evening). I am *Jagadamba* and I am *Adi Shakthi*, the Source of all the Worlds. As long as he chants the *Gayatri mantra* even I cannot kill him. We have to stop him from chanting it, only then can We kill him. Those tricks and tips you can acquire from your Guru. There is no greater power than the Guru. Hence you take the help of your Guru and plan to stop Arunasura from chanting *Gayatri Mantra*”.

All the Gods called on Guru Bruhaspathi, offered him a seat and greeted him. Indra said, “Oh Guru! You also heard the Devi’s voice. To kill Arunasura, he should stop chanting *Gayatri Mantra*. If we ask him to stop, he will do it even more. So, it is your responsibility to stop him from chanting it. No one can withstand the power of the Guru and his intelligence. So please help us in this situation”.

Guru Bruhaspathi remembered the Devi with devotion and said, “Oh *Jagadamba!* Without Your support I cannot do anything. The Gods are saying that I am very powerful, but with Your grace I have become the Guru to all of them. Please help me in this mission”. He left for Patala Lokam but Arunasura was not there. From there Guru Bruhaspathi reached Heaven, but he was not there too. Since Arunasura likes Earth the most he was there.

Guru Bruhaspathi reached the place where Arunasura was staying at sunrise. On the banks of River Yamuna, Arunasura sat on *DARBHASANA* and was chanting the *Gayatri Mantra*. (*Arunasura chants the Gayatri mantra for 10 malas (108 X 10 = 1008 times), if we have to discontinue or talk in between, the Mala should be rolled to the right ear and then do Achamanam and then only talk. When the Guru comes, we have to stop chanting of the Mantra for some time. This rule is applicable to all Gurus.*) Sage Bruhaspathi was the Guru for Gods, not for Demons, but Arunasura respected him as Sage Bruhaspathi and as a Guru.

Arunasura asked, “Oh Guru! I respect you a lot. You are the Guru for my enemies. I am not the well-wisher of the Gods and in turn, I desire to destroy the Gods. That is why I got a boon from Lord Brahma to be able to do that. Tell me, why have you come here to me?”

Guru Bruhaspathi smiled and said, “You are our well-wisher”.

Arunasura was irritated and replied, “How can I be your well-wisher?. I have hatred towards the Gods”.

Guru Bruhaspathi said, “Just think about it; you are our well-wisher”. As Arunasura was about to reply, the Devi took over his mind.

Arunasura replied, “No I am not your well-wisher. How can I be your well-wisher?”

Guru Bruhaspathi said, “If two persons are sitting in two different rooms of a house then can we not say they are sitting in one house”? Arunasura said, “Yes you can”.

Guru Bruhaspathi replied, “Then listen to me. We Gods do *Sandhya Vandanam* and chant the *Gayatri Mantra* every day. You are also doing the same. When you are chanting the same *Gayatri Mantra*, then you belong to our clan. This mantra will give prosperity to the Gods”.

Arunasura was shocked and asked, “How can *Gayatri Mantra* help the Gods?”

Guru Bruhaspathi replied, “Look at the Mantra, it clearly says about Rudra, so you are chanting for Rudra”.

Arunasura said, “Oh! So, the Gods are chanting the *Gayatri Mantra*? Lord Siva will benefit from it? I am not going to chant this Mantra which has been chanted by the Gods”. Arunasura threw the *Japamala* on the ground. We should not stop chanting the Mantra which has been given by a Guru. People need to see God in all the creatures and there is a wonderful story about it (In the Book *Siva Vijayamu*).

Once, the Kingdom of Kasi was ruled by King Brahma Mitrudu and God was born in the home of a potter. The potter lived near the borders of the Kingdom and he had a small garden near his home. In that there was only one Neem tree. One day a scholar who belonged to a sacred family came there and fainted due to hunger. The potter sprinkled some water on the young scholar’s face. As the scholar got up, he asked, “Oh Scholar! Why have you fainted”?

The scholar replied, “I am dying of hunger, unless I eat something I cannot even talk”. The potter went near the neem tree and chanted a Mantra. The neem tree gave him a big mango fruit. The scholar became alert by seeing the neem tree giving a mango fruit. The potter brought one fruit and gave it to the scholar. After eating that fruit, the scholar became energetic and healthy. The scholar was amazed by this and asked, “Oh Mahatma! How have you got this power? You went near a neem tree and chanted a Mantra and the tree gave you a mango fruit. By having only one fruit I became so energetic and healthy. How were you able to create Mangoes, that too from a Neem tree”?

The potter replied, “I have a Mantra and by chanting it near any tree I can get whatever fruit I want.”

The scholar held the feet of the potter and said, “Consider me your disciple and please teach me that Mantra”.

The potter replied, “There are a few difficulties if I give this Mantra to you, so do not ask for the Mantra.”

The scholar said, “You have to give me this Mantra, otherwise I will die”. The scholar started banging his head at the potter’s feet.

The potter replied, “Okay I will give you the Mantra, but you should not reveal it to anyone as to who gave you the Mantra. If you tell anyone that I am your Guru then this Mantra will become powerless and you will be destroyed.”

The scholar agreed and said, “I will remember it in my heart but will not reveal your name”. The potter gave the Mantra to the scholar. The scholar paid his respects to the potter considering him as his Guru. The scholar left the place. He was very happy and getting whatever fruit he wanted when he wanted. People were amazed seeing all kinds of fruits being borne by different trees and started praising him to the skies. The Prince of the Kingdom of Kasi came to know about this. He sent for the scholar. The scholar came to the palace. The Prince said, “I heard a lot about your magical tricks so show me also what you can do.”

The scholar then asked for a tree. An unknown tree branch was planted in the pot and was brought there. Looking at the branch the Prince said, “I want to eat blue berries so now get them from this plant”.

The scholar remembered the Guru and chanted the Mantra and blueberries appeared on the plant. The Prince asked for different varieties of fruits and the scholar got them from the plant. The Prince was shocked with that and said, “You have great skill on the Mantra. Very rarely can we see people like you. Who gave you this Mantra? Who is your Guru?”

The scholar said, “I am not supposed to reveal the name of my Guru”.

The Prince said, “I am the Prince of this Kingdom and I am ordering you. If you tell me the name, I will give you half the Kingdom”. The scholar succumbed to greed and told the name of the potter who was living at the borders of the Kingdom.



The Prince laughed at him and said, “You are a scholar but took the Mantra from a potter? Now create oranges from the plant”

The scholar asked, “What Mantra, what fruit?” The scholar lost his mind and left the place. When the disciple does not follow the instructions of the Guru, he will be destroyed. This story was stated in *Siva Puranam*. That is why we have to pray to the Devi, “You are in the form of the Guru. Save us from all delusions”. By praying thus, we will not get into delusion and destroy ourselves.

Coming back to our story, Arunasura the Demon fell into the trap set by Sage Bruhaspathi. He was overcome by delusion and thought, “Why should I chant the Mantra which is being chanted by the Gods”? Thinking so, he immediately threw away the *Japamala*. The radiance too had gone from his face by his actions. There is no greater Mantra than Gayatri, no greater Goddess than Gayatri, no greater Tapas than chanting the *Gayatri Mantra*. In the Kali Yuga people are not able to understand the importance of the *Gayatri Mantra* and are suffering from delusions. Any Mantra will be effective if the *Gayatri Mantra* is chanted first. Goddess Gayatri will protect the person who chants the *Gayatri Mantra*. The one who has completed the *UPANAYANA* will not die with hunger as he has chanted the *Gayatri Mantra* at least once. The *Gayatri Mantra* is very sacred and will protect people by providing food. The *Gayatri Mantra* also gives wisdom, knowledge and detaches the humans from terrible addictions and great sins immediately.

Sage Bruhaspathi was very happy about his success and he came to Indra immediately and told him about it. The Celestial Voice also said, “When you stop him from chanting the Gayatri Mantra, I will take the responsibility of killing him”. Then the Devi appeared. She was as bright as 100 Suns. She was very beautiful and delicate. She applied sandal wood to Her body and was wearing novel garlands and many ornaments. She folded Her palm and made it as a fist. From that folded fist millions of black bees (*BHRAMARAM*) emanated and the Devi also converted Herself into a Bee.



*The Devi with the Bees*

As per Arunasura's boon he will not die in the hands of 2 or 4 legged creatures. The bee is neither a bird nor an animal and has 6 legs. The Whole world started praying to the Devi as *BHRAMARAMBA*. She was very beautiful in the form of a Bee. Devi will be beautiful in any form. All the Gods greeted Her and prayed to Her.

*"Oh Devi! You are the form of Sri Vidhya and form of Maha Vidhya, You are the creator of all education. You are the Creator, Nurturer and Destroyer, Greetings to You. Your eyes are like Lotus petals. With the wings and with six legs You are making a buzzing sound. But it is like chanting OM, KLEEM. You are in the form of Durga, Saraswathi,*

*Kalika, Ugratara, Peetambari, Tripura Sundari, Bhairavi, Mathangi and many other forms, Greetings to You. Now You are in the form of Bhramari, Greetings to You. You are the Swaha and Swadha, Greetings to You. Shower Your grace on us”.*

Goddess Bhramari Devi did not respond to them, but blessed them and started from there. Arunasura was ruling Viswa Puram (Mysore). As soon as he heard the buzzing sound, he sent his guards to check. Guards came out of the palace and saw several black bees flying. They returned back and said, “There are many big creatures with six legs and wings and are flying about in the sky, which we never saw before. We are afraid of the buzzing sound of these creatures”. The bees were newly created for this purpose. (Before that there were no black bees in the Creation.) Arunasura came out, took his bow and arrow and started attacking the black bees. When a person hits a bee hive with a stone the bees will attack that person. In the same way all the black bees attacked Arunasura. People were not able to understand what was happening. No weapons, no war, no talk but only the buzzing sound of the black bees near the nose, ears and everywhere. The Devi came in the form of a Black Bee and buzzed in the ears of Arunasura. His eardrum broke and started bleeding. His nose started bleeding. The bees hovered around his stomach and started harming him.

Goddess Bhramaramba Devi in the form of a Bee caught hold of Arunasura’s neck with Its legs and crushed it. Arunasura died immediately. It was a strange form of war and a strange form of the Devi. All the Gods reached there and prayed to Goddess Bhramaramba Devi saying, “*Oh Jaganmatha! We need your support till the end of Kali Yuga. Lord Siva is in Srisailam with the name of Mallikarjuna. You stay there at a height above Him, as Lord Siva had said, “You are the Goddess above My head. I have value when You are above my head”. With prayer and the request the Devi has become one of the Shakthi Peetam in Srisailam with the name BHRAMARAMBA (In Srisailam Bhramaramba Devi will be on the top of a hill above the height of Lord Siva’s temple).*

There are a few Shakthi Peethams where the Devi had already originated. Then the body parts of Goddess Sathi Devi also merged with the Devi later. So, these places have the power of the Devi and of Goddess Sathi Devi’s body parts also. This Shakthi Peetham originated before the 108 Peethams and one of Goddess Sathi

Devi's body parts got merged here later. This place is the combination of Goddess Bhramaramba and Goddess Sathi Devi. Goddess Ujjain Mahakali had already originated, then the body part of Goddess Sathi Devi fell and merged there. These Shakthi Peethams are most sacred. From that time, Goddess Bhramaramba was present on the hill. The form of the Devi as a Black Bee originated as Bhramaramba in the same size. That is why the idol of Goddess Bhramaramba is also small in size. Goddess Bhramaramba promised that She will be there till the end of Kali Yuga.

The Siva Lingam is smaller than Goddess Bhramaramba. Lord Siva said that, "Lesser the size the more powerful I am". Srisailam is the most sacred place in Andhra Pradesh. This temple has both Jyothir Lingam and *Shakti Peetham*. This way within minutes Devi killed Arunasura. All the Gods were amazed. Meanwhile Lord Siva and Lord Vishnu appeared and said, "The five elements of nature, the Trinity, the millions of different powers in the Worlds are created from the Devi's Body. If She so desires, She can take any form. This Arunasura was created by the Devi and was killed by Her". The whole World showered flowers. The Devi took the form of Goddess Bhramaramba Devi on the hill at Srisailam.

This is the most sacred story of Goddess Bhramaramba Devi. The one who listens to or reads this story, their sins will be removed immediately. The family is like an Ocean, it is not easy to come out of this. But the one who listens to this story will come out of the Ocean of family. This story is filled with the glory of the Devi. Read this story with devotion or at least listen to it daily. The person will be absolved from all the sins and reach the World of the Devi.

## *DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XXIX CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*



## CHAPTER 30

### KEY POINTS

The Customs to be followed in daily life  
The birth of Rudraksha  
The glory of Rudraksha  
The glory of Udhi

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

The *Devi Bhagavatham* is a great treatise provided by Sage Vyasa. Lord Vishnu narrated it to Lord Brahma, Lord Brahma narrated it to Sage Naradha, Sage Naradha narrated it to Sage Vyasa and it came into this World through Sage Vyasa.

The whole World is a form of Energy. The Devi is in this form. This Energy is embodied in Dharma. But what is Dharma? The Devi took the form of *Vedas*, *Upanishads* and *Puranas*. *Vedas* are Her right eye, *Upanishads* are Her left eye and *Puranas* are Her heart. The most ancient compiled stories about Gods are *Puranas*. The *Puranas* are very old but they are always new to the listeners. (Pura=Old, Nam=New). God may take any form but the *Puranas* will always be Their heart and *Vedas* and *Upanishads* Their eyes. The *Upanishads* and *Puranas* will always be together and for the welfare of the world. Since we have not understood them properly, they seem to be different for us. *Ramayana* and *Bharatham* are the most sacred source of all the *Puranas*. Sage Veda Vyasa wrote 18 *Puranas*. The *Vedas*, *Upanishads*

and *Puranas* together form as Dharma. The one who leaves the Veda Dharma will definitely reach Hell. The story of young Sukanya who married an old Sage, by the name of Sage Chyavana, is proof of the power of the *Vedas*. She knew that the *Vedas* were with him. She understood the importance of the *Vedas* and got married to him and finally got salvation.

Every word has a gross, subtle and hidden meaning. People should understand the inner meaning of the *Vedas*. The path of Dharma is the path of the Devi, as the *Vedas*, *Upanishads* and *Puranas* are within Her. When we follow the path of Dharma, we are following the path as defined by the Devi. By doing so She will be pleased and give us salvation.

So, what are the best practices to walk on the path of Dharma?

- Waking up during Brahma Muhurtham (*Brahma Muhurtham* time is 3:40 AM to 4:30AM which lies in the last quarter of the night before sunrise). After waking up, place the right hand on *BRAHMARANDHRA*, on top of the head (the crown of the skull will have a small hole known as *BRAHMARANDHRA*. This hole will be open till the child is in the womb. After birth it closes on its own.) The Guru who gave us mantra will exist in the *Brahmarandhra* and also known as *SAHASRARA KAMALAM* (Lotus with 1000 petals). After placing the hand remember the Guru as the embodiment of God and chant this Mantra:

*Thadho Nija Brahma Randre, Dhyayethe Tham Gurum Eswaram*

- The Guru is greater than the Trinity (who can guide and teach us about the Trinity). The power of Guru is greater than that of the Trinity (Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva) and will flow from the *Brahmarandhra*. The Guru is the form of Para Brahma and is transcendent to the three qualities of *Sattva*, *Rajas* and *Tamas*. As we chant and remember the Guru, the vital Energy and Power of the Guru will flow from the *Brahmarandhra* to our heart. When we remember our Guru with devotion in the heart, he will receive *SHODASHOPACHARA PUJA* (16 Vedic Puja Ritual steps). By this way we are worshipping him in the heart according to the rituals. So, waking up in the morning, placing the right hand on the top of the head and remembering the Guru should be a daily ritual for a good practitioner. Next the following mantra has to be chanted:



*Gurur Brahma Gurur Vishnu Gurur Devo Maheswaraha  
Gurusakshat Param Brahma Tasmai Sri Gurave Namaha*

- Parents are the ones who give us the physical body that is filled with delusions. People are foolish enough to be involved in many unwanted tasks immersed in these delusions. The Guru is in the place of Lord Brahma and he said, “*Do not wander on these paths, I will take your responsibility, I will give you a new life*”. Guru will give new life to the disciple and that is why he is considered as Lord Brahma. To improve the wisdom and knowledge the Guru will teach *Vedas, Upanishads* and take him on pilgrimage. That is why he is considered as Lord Vishnu. So, once we reach the Guru, we are taking on a new and better life with new knowledge and wisdom. As immense devotion towards the Guru grows, the state of being unable to exist without the Guru comes about. Finally, the disciple will be merged in the Guru, that is why he is considered as Lord Siva. (When Jagath Guru Adi Shankaracharya left his body his disciple Padmapadhu was weeping for him). Even though the Guru is physically not present, by giving us his omnipresent Divine Powers, he will be considered as the form of Para Brahma. Guru is the transcendent, omnipresent and infinite power.
- By remembering the *Guru* in the morning with attention, devotion, he will take on the responsibility for the disciple. We have to regularly remove unclean thoughts. When we do not have the power to know which is good or bad thought or behavior, we can give that responsibility to our Guru. “Oh Guru! I do not know what is good or bad, you are everything to me”, Saying so take refuge at the Guru’s feet. As the Guru has the energy of the Devi in him, he will decide what is good for the disciple. Once Jagathguru Adi Shankaracharya wanted to test his disciples so he consumed alcohol while his disciples were watching and they thought the Guru consumed alcohol, so we also can. Thinking so they all consumed alcohol. The next day the Guru along with his disciples reached a gold smith’s shop and he drank the molten lead. When he looked at the disciples, they did not respond. So the disciple should not compare themselves with the Guru or what the Guru can do.

- Reading or listening to the *Puranas* or *Vedas* cannot protect the one who is not following the rituals and customs. Our ancestors gave us a few guide lines to follow for good health and happiness in our life. The path shown by the ancestors is called as Customs. Humans have to follow these rituals and customs. There is an example for this: a pot is filled with arrack and closed with a lid. The pot cannot be purified even if it has been washed with waters from River Ganga or any other sacred River, because it is filled with arrack. So unless cleaned from inside, the pot cannot be purified. The body of the one who is not following the customs is like a pot filled with arrack. The inner self can be cleansed by following certain customs and they are:

- Sleeping early in the night (By 9.30 or 10.00 PM)
- Waking up early in the morning (At least before 5 AM)
- Remembering the Guru by placing the right hand on the head
- Washing and cleaning the teeth and mouth
- Walking for a few minutes
- Taking bath by chanting *Guru Padha Dwandwam Namaskarothu*
- Continue the rituals of worship
- *Japam* should be done only after applying *Udhi* on the forehead.
- Wearing *Rudraksha* is a must while doing *Japam*. By wearing *Tulasi* beads and *Rudraksha* greater results can be obtained.
- The one who follows the Sandhya Vandanam has to do them without fail. Women can chant the slokam and can offer *Arghyam* (Offering water).

*Yo Devah Savithasmakam Dhiyo Dharmadi Gocharah  
Prerayet Tasya Yat Bhargah Tat Varennyam Upasamahe*

- While worshipping grinding the teeth should be avoided.
- While worshipping, scratching the head, nose is to be avoided. This is the reason why one has to take a bath to be clean before we start to worship.

- After defecation and urination *Japam* can be performed by following certain rules. After urination washing the hands and legs and take bath after defecation. If the person is sick and cannot wash the hands and legs, he can apply Udhi on body (*BHASMA SNANAM*).
- While performing the *Japam* some problems may arise like sneezing, drooling (excess salivation) or food particle falling from the mouth. In these situations, after *ACHAMANAM* (*Achamanam* is sipping of water with Mantras, one sip for each mantra will remove all the ills of the body and mind. It is to be performed at the beginning of all Vedic rituals and pujas. This can induce energy and provide us with internal as well as external purification) the disciple can continue with the *Japam*.
- A few people will have continuous sneezing and yawning while doing *Japam*. Then they have to discontinue the *Japam* or hold the right ear and continue the *Japam*.
- While performing *Japam* if the person has to tell a lie or talk to a sinner, in such scenarios hold the right ear and continue the *Japam*. Lord Vishnu had given this easy solution for problems, otherwise it will be difficult for the humans to follow the customs. Sometimes we have to talk to a great sinner.
- In an unavoidable situation if we have to lie then holding the right ear will reduce the sin of telling lies. But constantly telling lies should be avoided.
- Due to the sweating or other excretions our body will become impure from time to time. It can be purified immediately by chanting *Vande Guru Padha Dwandwam*.
- Adding the leaf of *Tulasi*, *Bilva* or *Udhi*, to the water and by taking bath with this water while chanting the *Siva Panchakshari*, will remove sins like association with unchaste women and taking money earned illegally or immorally etc.

- Humans are capable of doing secret deeds. Others may not know but God will know about these sinful deeds. The sin acquired by doing these acts will be removed by adding Udhi to the bath water and taking bath.
- The only one Supreme Energy in this World is the *Gayatri Mantram*. There is no other Mantram greater than this in any World. The one who chants this Mantra, his sins will be removed from time to time. Morning sin will be removed after chanting the Mantram in the Morning. Gayatri means protecting the reciter ("*Gayantam Trayate iti Gayatri*" means that the person, who chants (Gayantam) *Gayatri Mantram*, is protected (Trayate) by Gayatri.) Gayatri instantly protects and purifies those who chant this mantra. So the rituals should be started with *Gayatri Mantram*.
- Not only Gayatri *Japam* but other Mantras given by the Guru should be chanted only after applying Udhi on the forehead. Without Udhi on the forehead we should not do *Japam* or other worship.
- Wearing a *Rudraksha* is also a must. Wearing it is like acquiring the knowledge of Lord Brahma. It can be worn on the head, around the neck, hands or on the waist. The person who wears it will get all the knowledge. Now the question is who can wear it? Anyone can wear *Rudraksha*, there is no discrimination of caste or the various stages in life like Brahmacharyam, Gruhasthu and Vanaprastham. Lord Vishnu stated that any living being can wear *Rudraksha*. By wearing it anyone can become Lord Siva. It can be worn any time while eating, sleeping, talking and at all times. Once a person wears the *Rudraksha* it should be on the body forever. Wearing it all the time will remove all the sins immediately.
- By wearing *Rudraksha* we get the Traits of Lord Siva. *Rudraksha* will remove the sins like Brahma Hatya (killing a Brahmin). We should give charity to the person who is wearing it and can reap great benefits. The food offered during the death rituals to persons who wears it will make the *Pithru devathas* happy. They will bless future generations and also enable the donor to be able to reach better Worlds. Otherwise, it will not give the desired results as it had to.

- Wearing a *Rudraksha* with Mantra or without mantra will give the same benefits and remove terrible sins. Lord Vishnu said, “Even I cannot fully tell you the Glory of *Rudraksha*”.
- The sin of consuming alcohol will be removed by wearing *Rudraksha*.

Now Sage Naradha got a doubt and he asked Lord Vishnu, “You said *Rudraksha* is very sacred and glorious. So, where did this come from?”.

Lord Vishnu replied, “Oh Naradha! Shanmukha (Kumaraswamy) also got the same doubt. He took Sage Agastya, Lopamudra and other Sages and went to Kailasam to clarify His doubt. By the time they reached there, Lord Siva and Goddess Parvathi were sitting together and were having a conversation. Lord Siva was eating *TAMBULAM* (beetle leaves with nuts and other ingredients). Goddess Parvathi asked, “People talk about *Rudraksha* a lot. They are sacred, and anyone can wear it. I want to know the *Glory of Rudraksha* and how it came into being (its emergence)”.

Lord Siva replied, “Few others also got the same doubt and They are coming to ask the same question. One among them is Your younger son Shanmukha (Kumaraswamy). He is bringing along with Him other Sages for the same. I will answer You and all of Them. So we will wait till They reach Kailasam”.

Meanwhile Lord Kumaraswamy and other Sages reached Kailasam. Lord Siva said, “Oh Son! I know why You have come with these Sages. Please wait for some time”. Lord Siva came out and spat the Tambulam and washed His mouth. This He did as he was demonstrating to the World as to the manners one has to follow while talking to others including His Son, which is different from that of talking to His Wife. Lord Siva came inside and sat on His throne. Lord Kumaraswamy asked the same question asked by Sage Naradha to Lord Vishnu.

Lord Siva replied, “Oh Son! Hear the story of emergence of Rudraksha. Once, Tripurasuras made many attempts to destroy the Worlds. The whole Universe pleaded with Me to kill these Demons. To kill these Demons, I needed some powers. Lord Vishnu became the weapon, but to use it I had to get Divine Powers. To acquire

these powers and energies I performed Tapas for 1000 years. I performed intense Tapas by closing My eyes. After a 1000 years I opened My eyes. As I opened My eyes after a long time, the outside light fell on My eye ball and a few drops of water came out from My eyes. These water drops fell on the Himalayan Mountain region and other places. They then became plants. Those then came to be known as the *Rudraksha* plants.

*Rudraksha* (Rudra = Lord Siva, Askha = Eyes) is the eyes of Lord Siva (*RUDRA*). *Rudraksha* have originated because of My will for the welfare of the World. The water from My eyes had formed as 32 drops which then produced 32 types of *Rudrakshas*. Lord Siva has three eyes: right eye is Surya (Sun), left is Chandra (Moon) and the third eye is Agni (Fire). From the right eye (Lord Sun) 12 drops were produced as 12 types of *Rudrakshas*. These *Rudrakshas* are in *KAPILA VARNAM* (brown in color). From the left eye (Moon) 16 drops were produced as 16 types of *Rudrakshas*. These *Rudrakshas* are in *SWETHA VARNAM* (white in color). From the third eye (Fire) 4 drops were produced as 4 types of *Rudraksha*. In total there were 32 types of *Rudrakshas*.

These types also have *MUKHAS* (faces) and the benefits of wearing them are:

The *Mukha* is the form of Brahma. The dot on the top of *Rudraksha* is Rudra (Lord Siva). The dot at the bottom is Lord Vishnu. As the Trinity are residing in the *Rudraksha*, wearing this is very beneficial in terms of bringing good fortune.

- *EKA* (One) *Mukha Rudraksha* will remove the sin of Brahma Hatya (killing Brahmins)
- Two *Mukha Rudraksha* is the form and symbol of Lord Siva and Goddess Parvathi and removes all sins.
- Three *Mukha Rudraksha* is the form and symbol of Agni and removes the sin of killing women.
- Four *Mukha Rudraksha* is the form and symbol of Lord Brahma and will remove the sin of killing a human being.



- *PANCHA* (Five) *Mukha Rudraksha*, is the form and symbol of Lord Siva and it is also known as *KALAGNI*. It will remove the sin of eating inedible things and many other sins.
- Six *Mukha Rudraksha* is the form and symbol of Lord Shanmukha (Kumaraswamy) and will remove the sin of *Brahma Hatya* and many other terrible sins.
- Seven *Mukha Rudraksha* is the form and symbol of *MANMADHA* and it will remove the sin of stealing gold and others.
- Eight *Mukha Rudraksha* is the form and symbol of Lords Vinayaka and Mahasena (Lord Kumaraswamy). It will remove the sin of stealing food and spoiling it. It will also remove the sin of having lust on the Guru's wife. It will also remove the hurdles in any task.
- Nine *Mukha Rudraksha* is the form and symbol of Lord *KALABHAIRAVA* and the one who wears it will get food and salvation. It will remove us from the sins of killing infants or abortions.
- Ten *Mukha Rudraksha* is the form and symbol of Lord Vishnu and will remove all the Graha doshas (planetary imperfections) and other doshas. No Planet can trouble that person. It will give the greatest of results.
- Eleven *Mukha Rudraksha* is the form and symbol of Lord Siva and will give the benefit of performing 1000 *ASWAMEDHA YAGAS* and 100 *VAJAPEYA YAGAMS*. It will also give the benefits of donating millions of cows.
- Twelve *Mukha Rudraksha* is the form and symbol of 12 Suns (12 suns are in Kasi) and will give the benefit of performing millions of Yagnas. By wearing this *Rudraksha* the person will not die from the injury by animal with horns or by weapons or animals. The person will not suffer from physical or mental illness. They will be fearless. All the sins committed from birth will be removed with this *Rudraksha*.
- Thirteen *Mukha Rudraksha* is equal to the Gods Creation. This allows all the virtues done by all in this Universe to the one who wears it. The person will enjoy all the luxuries and will gain the respect by all including the parents and will be removed from all sins.



- Fourteen *Mukha Rudraksha* is rarely available and there are very few people who get to wear it. It is very difficult to obtain it. Lord Siva said, “Oh Son! If You get it immediately place it on Your head and respect it. After that wear it in on Your neck. The one who wears it will become equal to Me. The one who wears it continuously will obtain all the powers equal to Mine”. People will worship him like Lord Siva. Humans can wear any *Rudraksha*.

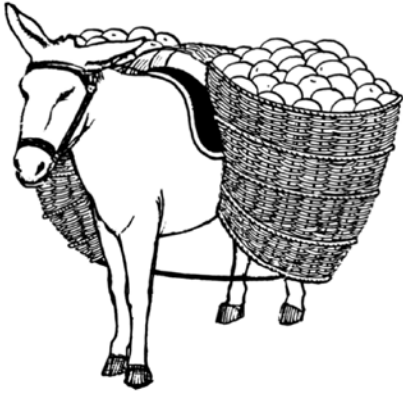
- Numbers of *Rudrakshas* to be worn are 108 or 50 or 27 or at least 1. By wearing *Rudraksha*, Lord Siva will provide deliverance to 21 generations. *Rudraksha* can be worn at all the times. Once worn it should not be removed. The one who wears *Rudraksha*, their body will become the form of the Trinity.

The one who wears *Rudraksha* is always protected. There is no better way for a human to be freed from all sins than by doing this. The one who does not wear even a single *Rudraksha* and is without *Udhi* on the forehead, will be considered as a big groundling. People come out of addictions if they have the *Rudraksha* on their body. The virtue obtained from reading the *Puranas*, *Vedas* and pilgrimage can be acquired by wearing it. The person may be a fool or a scholar but by wearing *Rudraksha* they will reach my World.

Lord Kumaraswamy who was listening to the history of *Rudraksha* got a doubt “I heard that there are a few restrictions; few people should not wear it, and it should not be on the body during certain times. Animals should not touch them. But You said that one donkey was wearing *Rudraksha* during the time of death and reached the World of Lord Siva. Who is that donkey and tell Me its story from *KITAKAM* village”?

Lord Siva replied to all present there. “Oh Son! I am going to tell you a wonderful story; listen to it. In ancient times, a merchant was living near Vindhya Mountains. His duty was to sell *Rudrakshas* for the welfare of the World. He got different varieties from Kitakam village and sold them in his village. He used to bring them to his village on a donkey. Once he took 10 to 12 donkeys and reached the village of Kitakam. The merchant got good *Rudrakshas* that time. He bought bags of *Rudraksha* and tied them all into sacks tied individually and joining them with each other. This joining of these two or more bags was called as *PERIKE*.

One donkey had injured its leg and it was not able to walk and started limping. The merchant was worried and started thinking, “I have promised few people to give *Rudraksha* by *SIVA RATTRI*. Now this donkey is injured and is not able to walk. Can I reach my village on time”? Thinking so he took the bags from the injured donkey and dumped them on a young donkey. This donkey was not able to carry this heavy



*Donkey carrying load on both  
the sides tied in the center*

load but still the merchant forced it to move by scolding and beating it. They had to cross the River Ganga to reach the Vindhya Mountain where the river flowed as a thin stream making it easy to cross. But as the donkey tried to walk through the River, it trembled, fell down and died.

The Merchant took the bags from the dead donkey and arranged them on the other donkeys and left. The body of the dead donkey remained there. Because of the past life sins, it took the birth of a donkey (the disciple who points their legs towards the Guru will be born as a donkey). The guards of Lord Yama reached there to take the donkey to their World. At the same time Lord Siva also appeared there. The guards looked at Him and with trepidation said, "My Lord, usually Your guards come but this time You have come personally". Lord Siva replied, "This donkey is ready to merge in Me". Lord Siva took the soul of the donkey and gave a form which had 5 heads, three eyes, 10 hands, with *Udhi* applied on the body and also holding Trishul in one hand.

This form looked just like Lord Siva and is known as *SARUPYAMU*. With the grace of Lord Siva, the donkey took the form of Lord Siva. He was beside the Lord. The donkey got this virtue because while he was leaving his body *Rudrakshas* were on his body. That is the advantage of having *Rudraksha* on the body, especially during death. They will reach the World of Lord Siva or they take the form of Lord Siva. No one knows when life leaves the body and in the last moment one cannot search for it (*Rudraksha*). That is why Lord Siva advised us to wear *Rudraksha* all the time. Once we wear it, that should be considered as a part or organ of our body. This story should not be revealed or told to the people who are not disciples. Do not tell this story to fools and those who do not have belief on God. There is nothing which can be compared to wearing of *Rudraksha*. It can be worn by fools, scholars, idiots, sinners and every living being".

Lord Siva was telling this to Lord Kumaraswamy and the other Sages. (Lord Vishnu told this to Sage Naradha, Sage Sukha told this to Sage Sounaka and other Sages). Lord Siva continued, “Oh Son! Now I will tell you a story. In the Kingdom of Kosala there was great scholar named Girinathudu. He was a Mahatma and person practicing Dharma. He had a good-natured wife. A long time after their marriage they were blessed with a son. The son was named as *GUNANIDHI* (Treasure of qualities). He was very handsome but he had all the bad habits. Girinatha once told his son Gunanidhi, “Son I have taught you almost everything, but a few more skills and grammar is left which you can learn from the Guru Dishanudu. He is a great scholar and takes care of his disciples as his own children. He will provide food and stay in the Gurukulam. As we stay nearby you do not need to stay there, you can go and come back every day.

Guru Dishanudu was 50 years old and his wife Mukthavali was of 25 years. The Guru was busy with teaching and giving discourse on the Vedas. Gunanidhi joined there. All the time that the Guru Dishanudu was teaching, Gunanidhi was observing his Guru’s wife Mukthavali. And she too kept looking at him and at some point, both were attracted to each other. The Guru did not observe this. When he was not around both were close and had an intimate relationship. Even though the Guru was not aware, the remaining students observed this and started talking amongst themselves. The Guru was ignoring what the students were talking about. A few classmates of Gunanidhi went to his father Girinathudu and said, “Your son is committing a great sin. He has had an intimate relationship with the Guru’s wife. This is a great sin, please control your son”.

Gunanidhi’s parents also initially did not believe it, but once they saw, they called Gunanidhi home and said, “What you are doing is wrong. One of the most terrible sins is having intimate relationship with the Guru’s wife. She is equal to a Mother”. Gunanidhi replied, “Oh! Having relationship with the Guru’s wife is Sin? I did not know that. I will not repeat it. Come let us all sit and have dinner together”. The parents felt happy thinking that their son understood the situation and he also promised that it will not continue. Gunanidhi was very cruel. He had a potent poison with him. He mixed it in the parents’ food. The parents died immediately

after eating the food. Gunanidhi killed his parents because they asked him to stop his relationship with the Guru's wife.

After the parents death, he went to the Guru's house and said, "I am not feeling good at home so I came back and I want to serve you for some time". The Guru accepted for this. Gunanidhi started pressing his feet. Suddenly he asked him, "I think you are having discomfort in your stomach. Can I get you Tambulam"? The Guru agreed to this. Gunanidhi then applied poison on the betel leaves and gave it to the Guru. The Guru died after eating it. Gunanidhi without fear killed the Guru also. He then took Mukthavali and reached his home. The villagers were very angry with him. So, whenever they saw him, they use to spit on him or they took bath (individuals take bath when they touch the dead body, or people who go to graveyard will take bath, same way they were taking bath whenever they saw Gunanidhi).

By seeing all this Gunanidhi decided to leave the place. He sold all his property and took Mukthavali and went to live in a forest. They enjoyed life with the money they had. Slowly the money got exhausted and they decided to get money by robbery. Mukthavali gave a strong stick to him and asked him to hit people who are wealthy and rob their wealth from them. Once few scholars with their wives were coming that way. They were wearing precious jewelry. Gunanidhi attacked and killed them with the stick and robbed their jewelry. They lived happily with that stolen wealth.

After some time Mukthavali died and Gunanidhi started to suffer with many diseases. He was in the hut on the cot for six years and then left his body. It is a fact that both virtues and the sins have to be experienced on Earth itself. At one point of time everyone should experience results of their good and bad deeds. Gunanidhi's soul took the form of a Ghoul. (*The one who disobeys the Guru or talks low about him, that disciple will be born in a waterless forest as a Demon. The Ghoul will experience severe pain. They will be thirsty but water will not be available. They will be hungry but food will not be available, these situations are more terrible than Hell. This being is neither a human nor a soul and is suffering in between*). As long as the body of Gunanidhi was not cremated, he has to be in the form of a Ghoul. As he was in a remote forest, no one knew about his death. Unless the body is burnt or buried, the guards of Lord



Yama will not come to take his soul to Hell and punish him there. Eight days passed this way. Gunanidhi's Ghoul was looking at the dead body and was weeping and asking for it to be burned or buried. But no one could hear the sound of the Ghoul.

One day some wood cutters came there and saw the dead body. The dead body had started to decompose. The wood cutters heard that performing final rites to an orphan corpse is equal to performing millions of Yagnas. So, they decided to do the final rites. One among them said, "We will bury this corpse, as we have wood but do not have fire, hence we cannot burn this corpse". So they buried Gunanidhi's body. As they finished the task, hundreds of guards from Yama Lokam reached there to take his soul to Hell in *YATHANA SARIRA* (the body which is going to experience punishments in Yama Lokam). These guards were about to put the soul in the *Yathana Sarira* when hundreds of guards of Lord Siva reached there.

Looking at the guards of Lord Siva the guards of Lord Yama said, "When we want to punish any sinner in Hell, either the guards of Lord Siva or Lord Vishnu come to their rescue. Hence we were not able to punish the sinners. We want to place Gunanidhi's soul in this *Yathana Sarira* and take him to Hell and punish him for the sins he has committed. We will punish him for thousands of years in different Hells. Then we will send him to Earth in the form of any insect like ant, mosquito and others. After that he will take the life as blind, deaf and be born with many other disabilities. Finally, he will get a better life and get deliverance. So we will take him with us".

The guards of Lord Siva said, "You know the Siva Dharma but you do not know the subtlety of Dharma. If a trivial part of any object related to Lord Siva touches the sinner's body, he will become a great person with virtue. See this is the body in which we are going to place his soul. This body was sent by Lord Siva. We came to place him in this Siva form and take him to Kailasam".

The guards of Lord Yama again asked, "What good virtue has he? He was a great sinner. He had relationship with his Guru's wife. He killed his parents, Guru, scholars and many others. He consumed meat and alcohol. For such a sinner you want to give him a place in Kailasam? If such a person can reach Kailasam the

rest of the human beings will not be afraid of committing sins and they will act according to their impulses. So tell us why he has to reach Kailasam? What good virtue has he done”?

The guards of Lord Siva laughed and said, “Did you check the place where Gunanidhi was buried? Just check and talk to us”. There was one *Rudraksha* under the body of Gunanidhi. The wood cutters unknowingly buried Gunanidhi on it. Gunanidhi got this virtue because he heard the story of *Glory of the Rudraksha* with attention and devotion, while his Guru was reciting. With that virtue his body was buried on it. The one whosoever listens to or reads the *Glory of Rudraksha*, will get the full benefits of wearing it. The guards of Lord Siva again said, “As he was buried on the *Rudraksha*, his sins were removed, so we have to take him to Kailasam”. The virtue of listening to the *Glory of Rudraksha* with attention has saved Gunanidhi from terrible Hell.

“How did that *Rudraksha* reach there? One Yogi was doing Tapas in that place and he was wearing many *Rudrakshas* on his neck. The Yogi went into *SAMADHI* (In yoga this is regarded as the final stage of meditation and leaving the body in this state). The *Rudrakshas* on his neck were also buried with him. Most of the *Rudraksha* were decomposed in the soil but this *Rudraksha* was covered with gold so it remained intact. Gunanidhi was buried exactly above it. Therefore, all his sins were removed and now he is going to reach the World of Lord Siva. This is the glory of Lord Siva and *Rudraksha*. Don’t you know? By touching or by wearing the *Rudraksha* a person will become equal to Lord Siva! So, we are taking him to Kailasam”.

A Divine aircraft had come for them and all of them including Gunanidhi boarded it in the form of Lord Siva and left for Kailasam. Gunanidhi is still in Kailasam. So Son, this is the *Glory of Rudraksha*”. Lord Siva recited this story to His son Lord Shanmukha. The one who listens to or reads this story with attention will get rid of all the sins committed till now. It also gives great virtue to the reader or the listener.

Lord Vishnu said, “Oh Naradha! This story was narrated by Lord Siva to Goddess Parvathi, Lord Kumaraswamy, Sage Agastya and other Sages. Now I have narrated the *Glory of Rudraksha* to you. If an individual listens to it to pass time or overhears

it when others are talking or listening to it, the listener also benefits. The one who wears *Rudraksha* will get the virtue of chanting *Siva Panchakshari* thousands of times for millions of years. With the *Rudraksha* the devotee should also apply *Udhi* and that will give better results. The big size beads are called as *Rudraksha* and the smaller size is called as *Badraksha*.

Now I will explain to you the benefits of *Rudraksha* depending on the size. The size of an *USIRIKAI* (Indian Goose berry) will give better results and they are considered to be pure. The larger the size better the virtues obtained. The size of a *BADARI* fruit (Jujube fruit) will give secondary results. The size of a Pea will give very less results but they will also give some result. The *Rudraksha* chain can be made with gold, silver, bronze and they can also be tied on a thread. Consuming alcohol, meat and eating garlic or onion on auspicious days should be avoided. The sin committed by eating all these will be removed by wearing *Rudraksha*. By having the Darshan of it will also give great results, just as wearing it earns great virtues". This was told by Lord Vishnu to Sage Naradha.

Lord Siva is fond of *Udhi* and it will also give the same benefit as *Rudraksha*. So how to make the most sacred *Udhi*? When the cow excretes its dung, catch it in your hand and dry it in the Sun. After it dries burn it to ashes. This is the best *Udhi*. The one who applies this *Udhi* will become Lord Siva. The dung which is on the ground, collected and burnt with ghee is the second category. From sunrise to sunset the *Udhi* should be mixed in water and applied on the forehead. After the sunset the dry *Udhi* can be applied. *Udhi* has several names like *Udhi*, *Vibhudhi*, *Mahima* (glory), *Aiswaryam* (wealth), *Siva Swarupam* (form of Lord Siva). Lord Siva likes *Udhi* which is why it has also been called as *Aiswaryam*. By applying *Udhi* great sins will be removed immediately. Lord Siva will be fond of those people who apply *Udhi*. The sin by troubling cows also will be removed by applying *Udhi*.

*Udhi* blesses everyone irrespective of class or person. *The benefit which comes from holding Lord Siva's feet, virtue of which comes by constantly being in the presence of Lord Siva, virtue which comes from going to Kailasam, the same virtue comes from applying Udhi.*

Donating a Rupee to a person who applied *Udhi* on his entire body will give the results of donating millions of rupees. One gold coin donated will be equal to millions of gold coins. The great sins will be removed immediately after donating or greeting a person who has applied *Udhi*. The *Vedas*, *Upanishads* and *Puranas* have stated the importance and glory of applying it. The one who applies it before taking bath, will be considered as a saint. The one who has bathed in it will also be considered as blessed and the benefits of doing all the pilgrimages will accrue to them. God will reside in the place where *Udhi* is there.

Consuming alcohol, meat or committing different sins by different people will be removed by applying *Udhi* to the entire body and taking bath after that. Once Lord Siva said, “I will give Darshan to devotees only after applying *Udhi*. So, you also apply it as I did. I love *Udhi* and to become My devotee, to reach Me and to get rid of the evil forces you have to apply it or take bath with it by chanting the *Panchakshari Mantra*. This will remove all physical and mental hurdles especially in children. There is no greater Power and Energy than this. Now I will explain to you the *Glory of Udhi*. Listen to Me attentively.”

Once, Sage Durvasudu wished to visit the Devi in *Manidweepam*. He woke up early in the morning and went to Kasi and took holy bath in River Ganga. He applied *Udhi* to his entire body. To reach *Manidweepam* first one has to cross Yama Lokam. After Yama Lokam then Heaven comes, after Heaven there will be a few more Worlds. Only after crossing all these Worlds, can we reach *Manidweepam*. Sage Durvasa thought he could go there without crossing Yama Lokam. But while he was crossing, he saw Lord Yama Dharma Raja giving judgements to the sinners. Sage Durvasa landed in Yama Lokam and went up to Lord Yama Dharma Raja. Sage Durvasa was wearing *Rudraksha* on his neck and had applied *Udhi* to his entire body. He was continuously chanting “*Siva, Shankara, Sarwathma, Sri Matha Jagadamba*”. He was remembering Lord Siva and the Devi.

Lord Yama Dharma Raja saw Sage Durvasa, stood up from His throne and greeted him with folded hands. Sage Durvasa was well known for his anger and grace. He can go to *Manidweepam* with his body. Lord Yama offered him a seat and after sitting, they both started talking. Sage Durvasa asked, “I think after I came here, You forgot about these people.”

Lord Yama replied, “To prosecute and give judgment is a big task. Hence they can wait for some time”. To the northwest side of Lord Yama there was a big compound wall. A terrible noise was heard from there. It was the big Hell “Kumbhipakam” next to the compound wall. They heard voices saying, “I am dying, I am being fried, I have been burnt and I am being cut into pieces. Please protect us”. These voices reached Sage Durvasa and he asked, “This is terrible in Your World”.

Lord Yama replied, “What can I do, this is My duty. The Trinity had given good positions to Indra and others, but they gave this job to Me”. Actually, punishing without emotion is a difficult job. Sometimes punishing according to the sin is also a big task.

Sage Durvasa said, “I want to see this Hell by name of Kumbhipakam”.

Lord Yama replied, “If you wish to see please go ahead”. He took Sage Durvasa to Kumbhipakam with him. The wall was 81 square feet in height. There was a ladder near the compound wall. Sage Durvasa stood on the ladder and peeped inside Kumbhipakam with curiosity. Kumbhipakam was very spacious. Lord Yama started explaining about Kumbhipakam. “Oh Sage! This is called as Kumbhipakam. There will be a huge stove with burning firewood. On that fire an iron pot will be placed. We pour oil in the pot and bring it to a boil. We put the body of the sinner in that boiling oil. He will boil and burn in the oil. We will remove him and his body will become normal again. We will ask him how he felt while being burnt like that. After he responds and asks our protection then we again put him in the oil. There is no death in Yama Lokam”.

“Some of them are Lord Siva’s traitors, some criticized the *Devi Puranam*, some are Lord Vishnu’s traitors, and some disrespected the *Vedas*; that is why they are here”. Sage Durvasa asked, “Oh! They committed so many sins?” Saying so he peeped a bit more. Amazingly the stove, the pot and Kumbhipakam disappeared. A beautiful garden with various flowers appeared there. The sinners changed their forms and became healthy. All the sinners were happy and talking with fellow sinners. Some were dancing, few were singing and others were playing musical instruments.

Sage Durvasa was shocked with this situation and asked, “What happened? Why has everything changed suddenly”?

Lord Yama replied, “I do not know why it has changed. Did you use any Mantra?”

Sage Durvasa replied, “No I did not”. With this response Lord Yama became anxious and worried and called upon Lord Indra. “Even I cannot understand what changed this situation,” Indra replied. All of them called on Lord Brahma. He said, “All this happened because of Sage Durvasa”. Sage Durvasa replied, “I did not do anything and I did not even chant *Siva Panchakshari*. I just saw with curiosity. I did not interfere in Lord Yama’s duties and I did not ask him to save the sinners also”. Meanwhile Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva reached there. Lord Vishnu asked Lord Brahma to explain what had happened.

Lord Brahma said, “This is Kumbhipakam. By looking at it Sage Durvasa with anxiety shook his head. The *Udhi* from his forehead fell down. As the few particles fell there, Kumbhipakam transformed into a garden like in Heaven. This *Udhi* can turn a terrible Hell into a Heaven. While wearing *Udhi* if the person leaves the body, he will reach Kailasam. Then Lord Siva said, “The old Kumbhipakam will be known as *PITRU THEERTHAM*” and asked the Gods to establish a Lingam there. Lord Siva further said, “I am giving the same Energy of this Lingam to another Lingam on Earth. In Orissa there is a river called Vaitharini. I will establish this Lingam on the banks of the River Vaitharini. Both these Lingams, one in Hell and the other on the banks of Vaitharini are the representation for the *Glory of Udhi*. The one who is performing any rituals should wear *Udhi* on their fore head. They will get all the good fortunes”.

This is the story of *Glory of Udhi* and was heard by Sage Naradha as told by Lord Narayana.

### *DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XXX CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*





## CHAPTER 31

### KEY POINTS

The glory of Gayatri Mantram and Gayatri Kavacham  
The importance of Sandhya Vandanam  
Why Gods became egoistic?  
Why Agni was ashamed?  
The story of Sage Gouthamudu

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

Sage Veda Vyasa had narrated the *Glory of Udhi* and as a part of it he had told them the story of Sage Durvasa from the *Purana*. Sage Durvasa peeped into the Kumbhipakam Hell out of curiosity and a few particles of *Udhi* from his forehead fell in that Hell and the whole place had transformed into Heaven. When everyone was worried about this change Lord Siva came there. Lord Siva said, “Durvasa had applied *Udhi* by chanting the *Panchakshari mantram* and also spoke about the *Glory of Udhi*. That is the reason behind the Hell changing into Heaven. From now a Lingam will be established here with the name of *Pitru Lingam*. The replica of the same also will also be established on Earth (in Orissa on the banks of the River Vaitharini)”. With that the whole Kumbhipakam Hell had been changed into *Pitru Lingam* area.

The individuals who were already there were taken to Heaven. Lord Yama Dharma Raja was worried. “Sage Durvasa peeped and the Hell changed into Heaven. I am happy for the *Pitru Lingam* but the punishments were stopped half way and the sinners left for Heaven. In future if this continues it will become a hurdle for the punishments”. So, He took a decision of prohibiting the people with *Udhi* entering Hell. Hence the one who applies *Udhi* and devotees of Lord Siva will not be allowed into Hell. Whoever wishes to avoid Hell has to apply *Udhi*. Especially applying it in the evening is very important as guards from Yama Lokam will be roaming with rage mostly in the evenings (sunset till sunrise). During the daytime they are mostly calm. When a person dies with *Udhi* on the face they will not be allowed to visit Hells where the punishments are implemented, but they can visit Lord Yama Dharma Raja.

By wearing *Rudraksha*, *Udhi*, performing *Sandhya Vandanam*, or chanting *Siva Panchakshari* or *Gayatri Mantram*, a person will not be punished by Lord Yama even by mistake. With the grace of Lord Siva, he will have good fortune and comforts.

In the olden days there was King by name Bruhadrathudu. He was the King of the Kingdom of Aryavarttha. He was strong, wise and righteous. The King started talking from the second day of his birth. His parents took him to a temple at the age of 3 months and he chanted *Govinda Namam* (Name). He was able to remember whatever the Guru taught him. He was a musician, literary scholar, scholar in astrology, trained in martial arts, various skills for war and could use any weapon. In general, it was known that the one with good physical strength will have less intellectual mind. But King Bruhadrathudu was strong physically and mentally. He had mastery of *CHATUSHASHTI KALALU* (64 kinds of skills). When the King saw someone, he was able to talk about antecedents of their births.

The citizens were amazed by this skill of the King. So, everyone who came to visit the King was chanting only the Gods name and remembering the God. It is good to remember Lord Hari's name with devotion or even with fear. Once, the Sages close to the Ikshvaku Clan, Vashishtudu, Vamadevudu, Jabali, Kasyapudu and other Sages came to his Assembly. Sages Naradha and Thumbura and other

Divine Sages from Heaven also joined them. The Sages in Heaven are known as *DEVARUSHULU* or *DEVA RUSHULU*. The Sages on the Earth are known as *RUSHULU*, *MAHARUSHULU*, *RAJARSUHULU*, *BRAHMARUSHULU* etc.

Jagath Guru Adi Shankaracharya stated that, “Be on fasting during pilgrimage. All the sins cling to the hair so better to shave the head. As long as we have hair, we have attachment towards our body. When we have attachments, we commit sins. Shaving of the Head is only for men, while there are more rules if a woman wants to do it. When the husband is in a critical condition, they can offer their hair to the God or during their infant stage or after their husband’s death. Other than these situations a woman should not shave her head. The women who are not following it will stay unmarried in their next life”.

All the Sages from Earth and Heaven visited King Bruhadrathudu and blessed him. The King greeted them and made them sit comfortably. Sage Vamadeva got up and said, “Oh King! The world should know about you. That is why we are here. We heard that you are able to tell people about their past, present and future just by looking at their face. You were able to tell their thoughts and what they can do. How are you able to do this? How did you get this skill of giving prophecies by just looking at a person? You are a master in all the skills. Your mind is filled with knowledge and intelligence. You have a very good memory. How did you get the physical and mental strength, strength of the Vedas, Mantras, Spirituality and other Energies?”

King Bruhadrathudu greeted everyone in the assembly and started telling, “The Sages asked me these questions to know about my past life. The Sages present here want to know how I got all these skills and what is the reason. They have asked this question in this assembly”. He then greeted the Devi with devotion (he is a great devotee of Her)

*“Oh Devi! You have Created this Universe, You are Nurturing this World, You are Destroying the World, You are taking care of the devotees and taking them to Your World, you are giving them salvation without rebirth, You are the source of the words like PARA, PASYANTHI, MADHYAMA, VAIKHARI such a Devi, Greetings to You. Vidhi, Hari*

*Girisa, Aradhitha Lankarothu, You are being worshipped by the Trinity (Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Siva). I salute the Devi who is worshiped by the Trinity.*

Now I will talk about my past life. I was a small bird by the name *CHAKRAVAAKAM*. (Generally, this bird will take the sunrays as food and some grains and cry most of the time.) I had many problems. I was a male bird and married to a female bird. We had our nest in the Vindhya Mountains. My wife laid eggs in that nest. But then a snake came and ate all the eggs. I was very sad and looked at my wife. She said, "This time we are not allowing the snake to eat the eggs that I lay. If we have a strong will, we can do anything". Next time the eggs were laid and a snake came near the nest. The female bird poked the eyes of the snake and injured it with its legs and killed the snake. But before dying the snake spat venom and that poison killed the female bird.

The male bird was sad and started wandering. The male bird thought, "I should not have another birth, for that I need to get into spirituality". Wandering, along the way the bird reached Kasi from Vindhya Mountain. The bird reached on the Ashtami day. Kasi was crowded on that day. The bird saw people saying *Sankalpam* and taking holy bath in the River Ganga. The bird also took bath in River Ganga at Manikarnika ghat. After taking bath the bird felt hungry. In the Annapurna temple on every Ashtami day, once the food is offered to the Goddess, some cooked rice is placed on all the four sides of the temple. The bird saw this rice and reached there. It took only four grains of cooked rice. As soon as the bird ate this rice it got a desire to chant *OM NAMAH SIVAYA*.

In the temple in Kasi by eating just four grains of *Prasadam* the bird became aware of the God. From that day onwards the bird was doing *Pradakshanam* and ate food if available, otherwise just greeted Goddess Annapurna Devi. The bird heard that Lord Siva was able to do His tasks because the Shakthi was with Him. Hence the bird realized that the Devi is the Ultimate Power and Energy. From then it started chanting *SRI MATHRE NAMAH*. The bird left the body after sometime. "In my past life I believed in the Devi and had Her Darshan with devotion, ate the Prasadam and chanted Her name continuously, so in this life I was born as King Bruhadrathudu. This is my story". This is one of the best stories in *Devi Bhagavatham*.

A bird was born as a King simply by knowing the power of the Devi and eating Her Prasadam. King Bruhadrathudu, had the skills of knowing the past, present and future. He was strong physically and a master at all skills. He was a very wise and knowledgeable person, all thanks to the power of the Devi. “From then on, I only had devotion towards the Devi. From childhood I chanted Her name inside my heart. I was speaking of Her glory often. All this happened only because of Her. If you also worship the Devi constantly with devotional zeal, you will become greater than me. I am just a King, but you can become the Emperor of Salvation. Salvation is not that easy to get but with the grace of the Devi it will become easy”. Everyone may not have a Guru or may not get mantras to chant, yet they can chant Her name, greet Her and visit Her temples. Seeing the devotion of the devotee the Devi will send a Guru. The Guru will remove the burden of birth and eliminates sorrow and then the Devi blesses them.

The devotees of Devi should respect the guests. The one who worships Devi and listens to Devi’s stories should help the guest. If anyone comes in the afternoon, we have to serve them food, if not, at least give them water. If the host is not able to serve food, he can tell the place where he can get food. The Devi will be pleased if the guest is taken care of and honored. When the guests leave the house of the host without honor and food, She will be disheartened. While leaving the host’s house, the guest will take the virtue of the host and gives all his sins in exchange if disrespected. Hence helping the guest or the person who comes for help gives good virtue to the host. When the host does not have anything to give, he has to talk to them with respect. The guest should not be ill-treated anytime. That is why in the ancient days the guest was treated as God (*ATHIDHI DEVO BHAVA* = Guests are equivalent to God). We get what we give. Give what you can to a hungry person, and that is the greatest worship. The Devi will bestow Her grace on such people.

The *GAYATRI KAVACHAM* (Gayatri Armor) helps provide deliverance to devotees very easily. Listening to or reading this Kavacham will liberate us from all the sins and Devi will bless us. This Armor will protect the body from weapons and it will protect their wisdom from harm. By reading the Gayatri Kavacham, both body and mind will become sacred and sins will be removed. Before reciting Gayatri Kavacham we have to recite *Dhyana Slokam* which describes Goddess Gayatri Devi.





Goddess Gayatri Devi with Five heads and ten hands



Goddess Gayatri Devi has five heads. They are in different colors- Pearl (Whitish), Coral (Pinkish Orange), Gold, Indigo blue and Diamond (pure white). Each head has three eyes. The right eye is the Sun, the left eye is the Moon and the third eye is Agni (fire). Five heads have five crowns. The crowns are made with gold and studded with precious stones. She is in the center, adorned with a half-moon on Her crown.

The *Gaytri Mantram* has 24 letters, these letters are the body of Gayatri. She is in the form of 24 letters. She has ten hands; one hand is the *ABHAYA HASTHA* (hand which gives the salvation or protection); in one hand She is giving boons; in one hand She is holding bull hook; in one hand She is holding a whip; in one hand She is holding a vessel of honey; in one hand She is holding a mace; in one hand She is holding an axe; in one hand She is holding a conch; in one hand She is holding Chakram; and in one hand She is holding a Lotus flower. I am praying to such a Devi. Goddess Gayatri Devi protects us from East side, Goddess Savitri protects us from South side, Goddess Saraswathi protects us from West side, Goddess Brahma Sandhya Devi protects us from North side, Goddess Parvathi Devi protects us from Southeast side, Goddess Yathudhani protects us from Southwest side, Goddess Pavamani Devi protects us from Northwest side, Goddess Roudri Devi protects us from Northeast side, Goddess Vaishnavi Devi protects us from top and Goddess Brahmani Devi protects us from below. The Devi will protect us from all the ten sides.

*The Devi will protect my foot, my calf muscles, Bhargava will protect my back, Heart will be protected by Mahadev (Siva). Dheemahi Mantra will protect my head. Gayatri Kavacham will protect all parts of my body. The one who listens to or reads this Kavacham, their life will be purified similar to the sunrays. The devotee will be pure like the Sun, because Sun is the ruling God for Gayatri Mantram. Devi is protecting in the form of Sun, Lord Siva and many other forms. The other meaning for Gayatri is BRAHMANANDAM (Ultimate happiness). Everyone will be happy when they listen to the Devi's stories or miracles or by having Her Darshan. Gayatri mantra will fill the heart with unlimited wisdom. When we have wisdom, our mind behaves in a proper manner. When the behavior and thoughts are good the devotee will be purified. That is why by listening to or chanting Gayatri Mantram the person will be pure like the sunrays.*

*Through the Gayatri Mantram the devotee will get the virtue of donating hundreds of cows.*

Gayatri Kavacham was narrated to Sage Naradha by Lord Narayana. No one had written this Kavacham. The Vedas have selected a few Slokas and formed the Kavacham. There is a sacred place in Kasi where Gayatri mantram chanting will give immense virtue and salvation (the place can be visited or known only through the Guru). This place is located on the banks of River Ganga and is known as *AVIMUKTHA GAYATRI KSHETRAM* (temple). The one who chants *Gayatri Mantram* will not have rebirth. In this place the rays of Sun will be there all the time. Cows will be roaming there. Vedas chanted the Gayatri Kavacham at this place. Lord Vishnu will be residing there with the name Bindu Madhavudu. It is auspicious to have the Darshan of Lord Bindu Madhava in the afternoon. But the temple will be closed by 12 in the noon. A devotee can sit opposite the Deity and chant the *Gayatri Mantram*. They may not get salvation but the devotee will get immense devotion towards the Devi. With that devotion we can attain salvation.

Sage Veda Vyasa had written that, “Humans will think that they will live for a long time. But thinking so is foolish. Every human should listen to one sound and that is the sound of the bell. The bell which is tied to the buffalo’s neck that has Lord Yama riding on it. This sound is ever present but the human is reluctant to hear it. So, when they have the energy, they should visit Kasi and other pilgrimage places. The body will get destroyed. So, before death every person should visit Kasi at least once and there are a few things which the devotee has to do there. By doing the rituals the devotee will not visit Lord Yama. Unless the human does those tasks, he will not get deliverance”. (*The poet Srinathudu stated that, “On the Earth which is surrounded by Seven Seas there is only one sacred place which can give salvation and that is Kasi. The one who visits Kasi will not hear the sound of bell even during their death*).

By keeping this in mind everyone should chant *Gayatri Mantram*. Its continuous chanting will give an opportunity to visit Kasi and in turn the devotee has the potential to get salvation. While chanting, the devotee should have strong devotion and great attention. Sometimes we will hold the feet of the Devi and sometimes we

will leave it, this is called as delusion (*MAYA*). Sage Veda Vyasa explained about the same in a story to Janamejeya and Lord Narayana to Sage Naradha.

Once the Demons invaded Heaven. The Gods were defeated and all of them ran to Lord Brahma for help. Lord Brahma gave them *Gayatri Mantram* and *SANDHYA VANDANAM* (salutation to (Goddess) Sandhya or salutation during the time of Sandhya is a mandatory religious ritual supposed to be performed daily). Lord Brahma asked Them to do *Sandhya Vandanam* for three times a day and chant *Gayatri Mantram* 1000 times each, in the morning, in the afternoon and in the evening. By doing this the Gods will get the Energy and Power. With that They can win against the Demons.

It is a fact that God creates hurdles for the devotees to check their willpower and devotion and their interest to read or listen to *Puranas*. Devotees and practitioners should be very careful. They should not get carried away by precious objects, relationships or timely benefits. The delusions of Objects, Lust, Greed will arise in the person who is chanting or performing *Japam* just to check their willpower. The sinner will always be in delusion and therefore does not perceive these tests.

The Gods performed *Sandhya Vandanam* and chanted *Gayatri Mantram* with utmost attention and devotion. The Devi appeared and blessed Them with weapons. The Gods fought with those weapons and defeated the Demons. The Gods succeeded in the war. Everyone started praising Them. Sages, Gods and the family members praised them. 'Because Indra and other Gods are valorous, and Mahatmas, they were able to defeat Kalakeya, Nivasa Kavacha and others. Otherwise, it is very difficult to win against these Demons.' Listening to praise and exaltation from all, Their self-confidence got converted into Ego and Pride.

The Gods forgot about the previous war, in which They had been defeated by the same Demons. The Gods also forgot about the *Gayatri Mantram* and grace of the Devi showered on Them by providing Them with weapons. With that pride they thought, "We can do the Creation, Nurturance and Destruction. We all have the glory. There is no one greater than Us".

Indra said “I am Indra, all the Dikpalakas are under my control. He is Agni (Fire) he is the source of food in Worlds. Vayu, Yama, Nirruthi, Varuna, Ishana, Kubera, all of Them are highly talented. Who is greater than us”?



*Indra*

Agni said “It’s true We can burn the World to ashes. No one is greater than Us”.

Vayu said “I can shake the Worlds”

Nirruthi said “If I send My soldiers everyone will die”

Lord Yama said “If I send My guards humans will die with fear”

Kubera said “Human does not need soldiers or guards. If I throw some wealth they will die for that wealth.” This way everyone started praising themselves.

The Devi observed this and thought, “The Gods have developed pride”. The Devi felt pity on Them and intended to bless Them. “They are Gods and Dikpalakas; with My grace they are in this position. Due to pride They are indulging in these thoughts and acts. Correcting Them is my responsibility”. Thinking so, the Devi appeared in front of Gods in the form of a Yaksha.

The Yaksha was bright like millions of suns and cool as millions of moons. The Gods never saw such a form, so they were amazed and started talking among Themselves, “Who is this ?”

Then the Yaksha placed His hand on His waist and said, “Oh Indra and other Gods! What are the things that You can do”?

Indra replied, “We can do anything. There is nothing that We cannot do”

Then the Yaksha said, “Any one of You can come near Me praise Yourself and show Me Your greatness”

Indra called Agni and said, “One Yaksha has appeared in front of Our assembly. He is radiant with a bright light, and is asking Us to show Our greatness. You are the greatest among all of Us. If You wish, You can burn the whole Universe into ashes. You are the face of the Gods. Whatever is offered in the fire, that will become Our food. Hence You are the one who gives food to Us and to mankind. You are the one who can burn the Worlds. You have energy and power to burn anything. So go and destroy this Yaksha”.

Agni said, “Absolutely, what You said is correct. If I wish I can burn this Yaksha into ashes”. He started on His vehicle which is a deer to reach Him.

The Yaksha looked at Agni and asked, “Who are You?”



*Agni*

Agni said, “Don’t you know Me? People call me *JATHA VEDA* or Agni. I have the power to destroy the whole Worlds. I will burn You also to ashes.”

The Yaksha replied, “Oh! You are Agni? You said will burn Me into ash? Instead, I will give You an object; will You burn it?”

Agni replied, “I can burn anything”.

The Yaksha gave him a blade of dried grass and asked, “Can You burn this blade of grass Agni?”

Agni replied, “I can burn it in no time”. Agni came burning and held the blade of

grass. Agni tried all His powers and energy to burn it but He could not. Actually, Agni can burn anything within minutes. But He was not able to burn the blade of grass given by the Yaksha. Agni felt very embarrassed.

The Yaksha said, “Try a bit harder”.

Agni replied, “I tried My best but I am not able to burn this dry blade of grass. What did You apply on it?”

The Yaksha said, “Now You know Your power”. Agni left the place and went back to Indra.

Indra asked him, “What happened?”

Agni replied, “Indra, that Yaksha is not a normal person. He gave me a blade of dried grass but I was not able to burn it. My energy was exhausted”.

Indra was shocked and thought, “Agni was not able to burn the dried blade of grass? He called Vayu deva (Air) and said, “Oh Vayu! You are greater than Agni. Agni may not have been able to burn it but You are air and You can do anything. Once the air blows even hills will move, trees will be uprooted. The water in the sea will be blown into the sky. Go and blow that blade of grass”. Vayu then went towards the Yaksha.

The Yaksha asked, “Now who are You”?

Vayu said, “I am Vayu; don’t You know Me. People also call Me *MAHA BALI*” (great strength)

The Yaksha said “I do not want to see Your great strength, but if You can move this blade of grass that is enough for Me. I will become Your slave”. Vayu moved with great force and noise. The tornado blew, with great sound. But it was of no use, the grass did not move an inch. The Yaksha’s attire was also still and did not move. Vayu was ashamed and went back to Indra.

The Gods said, “Indra, if Agni and Vayu are not able to move the grass then others cannot do anything. As a King You are the most powerful and You protect us, so go and destroy this Yaksha”.



Indra said, “Yes I am more powerful than Agni and Vayu”, and He left. By the time He reached that place the Yaksha had disappeared. Indra asked, “Where are You Yaksha?”

The Yaksha replied, “Agni and Vayu have some respect for Me, so I was visible to Them. But You do not have that, so I will not be visible to You. Do whatever You want to that blade of grass”.

Indra took His weapon (*VAJRAYUDHAM*) and tried to cut the grass. But the weapon broke into two pieces. Indra was ashamed and started thinking, “What should I do now? If I go back the Others will ask about My *Vajrayudham*. If I show them the broken pieces, They will laugh at Me. I cannot tell Them that I was not even able to see the Yaksha. The Others who came before Me have seen Him. This blade of grass seems to be very strong. It is better to die than live with humiliation. Self-respect is greater than anything for an individual. Once the dignity is lost it is better to die. How should I die? Where should I die?”

Indra heard a Celestial Announcement from the sky, “Now, death is not Your duty, if You wish also You cannot die. You all are in this trouble because You forgot the Devi. You forgot that with Her grace only You are all happy and won against the Demons. Now all of You are thinking that You are the ultimate power in the universe. So, to come out of these troubles You have to chant the *MAYA BEEJAM* of the Devi. By chanting the *Maya beejam* You will get good fortune”.

Indra did not even go back to His assembly. He simply put down the pieces of the *Vajrayudham* in front of Him and with utmost attention and devotion He started chanting Devi’s *Maya Beejam*. The weapon joined automatically. In front of Him a Woman appeared. She was young, was red in color like the rising sun, was bright like million sun rays. She had a crown on Her head. Half-moon was there on the crown. She was with thousands of eyes, thousands of heads, thousands of hands. She was having a smile on Her face. Even if thousands of beauties joined together, they could not be equivalent to Her beauty. She was wearing a red sari. She had applied the red sandalwood paste on Herself and was known as Uma. She had unconditional love towards Her devotees.

Looking at the Goddess Uma, Indra was thrilled and did *Sashtanga Namaskar* (fell on Her feet like a stick onto the floor). He worshipped Her with utmost devotion. Indra said, “Oh *Jaganmatha*! Now I have understood, that you came in the form of a Yaksha and tested Us. You are the giver of salvation and in front of You we have displayed our ego. We felt pride in Our positions, wealth and success. With that pride We forgot You. To remove our ego, You have come in the form of a Yaksha. Please protect Us, Oh Devi!”.

The Devi said, “This Universe is filled with My Energy and Power. I will be residing in the word *OM*. That is the form of *Jaganmatha*. There is no starting, middle and end point for Me. I will give Darshan in the form of a Guru. I will be called as *GURUMURTHY*. You have neglected that Guru power and that is why You are in trouble. Ego can destroy anyone. Hence from now perform the *Sandhya Vandanam* for three times a day and chant the *Gayatri Mantram*”.

Indra called all the Dikpalakas and Others and They began doing the *Sandhya Vandanam* and chanting the *Gayatri Mantram*. The one who does the chanting of Gayatri mantram should not have Ego. One should not think that they are great and should think that only with the grace of the Devi they were able to chant the *Gayatri Mantram*. If an individual does not think so it is very dangerous. There is another story Lord Narayana told Sage Naradha and Sage Vyasa told to Janamejeya.

In ancient times, some of the scholars were feeling proud about their knowledge about the Vedas. When people become arrogant about their knowledge God will test them. God will always give the proper place for everyone and it is foolishness to think that someone is more competent than others. The prosperity depends on the talent. This will create jealousy and they will get into wrong practices of manipulations. That will make the person destroy their morality and virtue. Hence, we should not be jealous of others.

The reason for draught is the sins done by mankind. Due to the sins Indra stopped rains for 15 years. People started dying because of hunger. Slowly people started eating the flesh of dead bodies. Hunger will make a person to do any type of sin. In this situation the scholars thought, “What can we do now”? One of the scholars

replied, “In this severe drought one *Ashram* is flourishing with greenery and that is the ashram of Sage *GOUTHAMUDU*. In his *Ashram* every day they were getting the crop which is useful for feeding unlimited number of people. Those who are there will not face the drought or hunger. In this situation only Sage Gouthamudu can protect us. We can get food and water there. He does great Tapas, so with the virtue of his Tapas he will feed all of us. So, let us all go there”.

The scholars from all the directions (East, West, South and North) came (current Goshpadha Kshetram was the Sage Gouthama’s Ashram) together and went to his Ashram. Sage Gouthamudu respectfully greeted them with joined hands and said, “All of you have come together; with your Darshan I have become sacred and my home and *Ashram* became sacred with dust from your feet.” Even though they went there for food, he respected them by saying those words.

He then asked them, “Please tell me what do you want?”

The scholars replied, “We came here without food so please provide us food”.

Sage Gouthamudu said, “Okay I will build a few huts for you and please stay there comfortably. I will provide food three times a day”. Each morning Sage Gouthamudu took bath, performed *Sandhya Vandanam* and prayed to Goddess *Gayatri Devi* “Oh Devi! Namoh Devi! Maha Vidhya! Veda Mata! Greetings to You”. He acquired great powers by performing *Sandhya Vandanam* and chanting *Gayatri Mantram*. With that power he dug a small pit in front of his *Ashram*. Water started oozing out of the pit continuously. After chanting the *Gayatri Mantram*, he took a fist full of paddy and sprinkled it in the fields nearby. By noon different crops would be ready to harvest (paddy, wheat, and different pulses). Before he finished his afternoon *Sandhya Vandanam* and *Gayatri Mantram*, the harvested grains would be ready and reach the *Ashram* on its own. Different dishes were cooked automatically and the food was served on time.

The scholars were comfortably eating whatever they wanted three times a day. One day Sage Gouthamudu thought of avoiding cooking so he prayed to the Devi. She blessed him with an *AKSHAYA PATRA* (inexhaustible vessel, a never-depleting supply of food) and said, “After chanting *Gayatri Mantram* place this bowl in front

of your guests. It will serve food of their choice”. Sage Gouthamudu placed this vessel in front of the scholars and it served the food on its own. At the time of drought, he served different kinds of food with *SHAD RUCHULU* (six basic tastes of sweet, salt, sour, bitter, spice and astringent). Sage Gouthamudu then gave costly clothes to the people who are in need, and jewelry, from this *Akshaya Patra*. Even the cows and buffalos were created from this *Akshaya Patra*.

One day, Indra called on Sage Naradha and said, “Is mankind on the Earth suffering without rains?”

Sage Naradha replied, “The ones who died have died, but the remaining went to Sage Gouthama’s *Ashram* and are living peacefully. He is providing them with food and other facilities. Before the drought people were struggling hard to do agriculture and other works. But now they are getting everything without any hardships and work. People are sitting near him and spending time by listening to the *Puranas*. There are no diseases and illnesses in the *Ashram*. They do not have the fear of the Demons. The *Ashram* is healthy, sacred and pleasant with happiness. It seems the Devi’s *Manidweepam* has originated on Earth. All are happy and comfortable in his *Ashram*”.

Indra was amazed to hear this and said, “Oh Gouthama! You are great. You are feeding so many people by worshipping the Devi with devotion”. This news had spread all over. Indra told this to Agni (Fire) Vayu, Yama, Nirruthi, Varuna, Ishana, Kubera and others. This information was told to some more people. Everyone started praising Sage Gouthama “Gouthama is a Mahatma. He does *Sandhya Vandanam* three times a day by chanting *Gayatri Mantram*. He was fulfilling everyone’s wish. There will be no other person greater than him and a donor like him in this Universe”. This continued for 12 years on the Earth. As the needs of the *Ashram* increased, Sage Gouthama also increased his chanting of *Gayatri Mantram*. Because he was worshipping Goddess *Gayatri Devi* regularly with devotion, that place became like a temple for Her.

In the morning an 8-9 years old girl came to the *Ashram* and at noon a 25-30 years old woman came and a 50 year old woman came at night. Every one saw them coming but they never saw them going out of the *Ashram*. If the devotee has faith,

the Devi will appear in these three forms in the Goshpadha Kshetram. The Devi will give Darshan to one who has utmost belief, devotion and patience. To attain the maximum potential of devotion one should leave the delusion of this body.

One day Goddess Gayatri was in the form of young woman in the *Ashram*. Sage Naradha reached there playing the musical instrument called Mahathi to visit Sage Gouthamudu and the Devi. All the Sages including Sage Gouthamudu stood up and greeted Sage Naradha. Sage Gouthamudu took him to the *Ashram*. Sage Naradha bowed humbly to the Goddess in the *Ashram* and said, “Oh Devi! How lucky Sage Gouthama is? You are giving him Darshan in three forms, three times a day”. He turned to Sage Gouthama and said, “How lucky you are. You constantly perform *Sandhya Vandanam* and chant the *Gayatri Mantram*. Daily you are having the Darshan of Devi. You are feeding so many people every day. You have great name and fame. Fame is equal to salvation. Generally, people will not praise others. But your fame has spread all over the Worlds. I told Indra about you. Indra was happy and also praised you. He said you are a great donor and nurturing so many. He asked me to visit you and greet you on his behalf. That is why I have come here”.

Human beings usually cannot resist praise and become very egotistic if praised a lot. But Sage Gouthamudu folded his hands and said, “Indra’s affection and your blessings are great”. Sage Gouthamudu looked at the Devi (was a young woman) with affection, folded his hands and said, “Oh Devi! This Energy and Power is Yours. I got this *Akshaya Patra* because of You. I am able to feed so many only because of you. Oh Devi! You are feeding them, I do not know why people are praising me? Sage Naradha and others are praising me because of affection on me but this Energy is Yours”

Listening to this Sage Naradha was very happy, and said, “I thought you will get at least a bit of ego when I praised you. But you gave all the credit to the Devi and you are a complete Yogi now. You have realized that everything belongs to Her”. Sage Naradha blessed him and left the place. The people who were in the *Ashram* from the past 12 years heard this conversation. After having lunch, they met in a place and started talking, “Sage Gouthamudu is nurturing us? He is a great donor? If he is not nurturing then can we not live? Sage Naradha was praising him, and Indra

by listening to the fame of Sage Gouthamudu had sent his greetings. If the drought had not extended beyond 12 years, whom would Sage Gouthamudu nurture? The donor will get fame when the receivers are there. Because we need food, he fed us. If we do not eat then whom is Sage Gouthamudu going to feed? Will he continue to get a good name and fame, if we do not eat his food”?

Now they started thinking, “We should do something to spoil his fame. If we make him a sinner then people will call him so”.

One day at noon Sage Gouthamudu was performing his *Sandhya Vandanam*. The scholars with their power created a cow which was about to die and left it inside the *Ashram*. Sage Gouthamudu saw the cow and was worried about the Devi inside the *Ashram* and it was time for lunch, so he made a sound with his throat (Hum hum). By listening to this sound, the cow died (In *Siva Puranam* it has been stated that Sage Gouthamudu threw a blade of grass and that hit the cow and the cow died). With the incident of the cow’s death Sage Gouthamudu was shocked and stopped his chanting. The people who plotted to defame him came inside the *Ashram* and said, “Sage Gouthamudu killed a cow. We should not eat the food served by such a sinner.”

The people in the *Ashram* were not bad, but they were not able to endure the fame of Sage Gouthamudu. With jealousy they made him responsible for the death of a cow.

Sage Gouthamudu was shocked and said, “I did not kill the Cow”.

People said, “You said something, then the cow died. When you are chanting the Mantra, we are getting food. Same way you might have chanted some Mantra to kill the cow. So, you got the sin of killing a cow. It is a sin to see your face and eat the food served by you.”

Sage Gouthamudu asked, “How can I remove this sin?” All of them thought for a while and said, “We do not have water here. Due to lack of water, we are depending on you for food. So, if we have a river, we may not depend on the rain for agriculture. We can live on our own”.



They said, “If the River Ganga is brought to the place where the cow died, you will be absolved of the sin.”

Sage Gouthamudu did Tapas for Lord Siva and pleased Him. Lord Siva appeared and asked him to wish for a boon. Sage Gouthamudu asked for River Ganga. River Ganga appeared and said, “I will walk behind you and come wherever you take Me”. Sage Gouthama walked from Nashik to Goshpadha Kshetram. He stood on the place where the cow died. The river flowed over it. People said he was absolved of his sin. The river was named after him as *GOUTHAMI*. As the river flowed over the place where the cow died it is known as *GODAVARI*. (The place is called as Govu + Vuru = Kovvuru). This is how a few people’s jealousy helped in getting the River Godavari on Earth.

The Devi stayed there in all the three forms till Sage Gouthamudu returned. The Devi was looking odd with a strange face when he entered the ashram. She said, “Oh Gouthama! I was with this strange face since you left the ashram”.

Sage Gouthamudu said, “In the afternoons I always saw you with a smiling face. Now you are having a strange face. What is the reason?”

The Devi replied, “I will not tell you the reason, with your power of *Gayatri Mantram* try to find out on your own”.

Sage Gouthamudu closed his eyes and chanted *Gayatri Mantram* and thought, “I brought the River, instead of congratulating me the Devi is with a strange face. What is the reason?”. He came to know about conspiracy done to him. Sage Gouthamudu became very angry, and said to Her “Oh Devi! You did not tell the truth but were feeling upset for the blame and trouble faced by me.” Sage Gouthamudu greeted Her and came out of the hut.

“Oh Evil People! The World is suffering with severe drought and people were dying with hunger and at that time I have fed you all for 12 years. You all developed a grudge against me and to spoil my fame, and to subject me to the sin of killing a cow you created an artificial cow. All of you are such ingrates. Neither God nor Earth can bear you”. He scolded them terribly and cursed them, “From today you

will forget all implementations”. He cursed them in several ways. The scholars were shocked by looking at his anger. All of them fell at his feet pleading forgiveness. Sage Gouthamudu asked them to leave his *Ashram*. He went inside and touched the water and prayed to the Devi with devotion. Till this day in the afternoons Devi is visible with that strange expression to mark that event in the Goshpadha Kshetram.

Sage Gouthamudu held the feet of the Devi and said, “Oh Devi! They have done a mistake but why should I be so angry with them. In that anger I have cursed them.”

The Devi said, “Please be calm. These are all the consequences of Karma. No matter how great you are others Karmic influence takes over. With their Karma they were jealous and by looking at them you became angry. Cursing is a sin and by that you will lose your Divine Powers. To get back the Powers you have to take a holy dip in the River Godavari and start doing *Sandhya Vandanam* and chanting of *Gayatri Mantram*”. Saying so the Devi disappeared. All the people outside came in and said, “We have committed a severe sin; due to the effect of time, suddenly we felt jealous about your fame. We have made a great mistake and in turn you have also cursed us. But you are more compassionate. You have fed us and now you have cursed us. Please forgive and protect us.”

Sage Gouthamudu felt pity for them (that is the attribute of Mahatmas) and said, “At this moment all of you go to Kumbhipakam Hell. Be there till Lord Krishna’s incarnation. You will have Darshan of Lord Krishna and you be purified by worshipping Him. If you are not able to have Darshan of Him you will be born in Kali Yuga. In this Yuga you will be troubled without *Sandhya Vandanam* and the *Gayatri Japam*. But I will give you a boon. My curse is very dangerous and will affect you. If you constantly perform *Sandhya Vandanam* and chant *Gayatri Mantram* from today without missing a day my curse will not affect you. To come out of the curse you have to follow the *Sandhya Vandanam* and chant the *Gayatri Mantram*”. The one who followed his instructions were out of the curse and lived happily.

Sage Gouthama’s curse’s effect will be more in Kali Yuga. So, **chanting the *Gayatri Mantram* is a must.** We all should utilize this Mantram to come out of the

effect of any curse. We have to give *ARGHYAM* (offering water) three times a day. We may not be able to chant it for a 1000 times but can do it at least for 11 times. (People can get a doubt how anyone can give Arghyam when they are at a work place. Leave water in a washbasin. The one who is traveling in the flights can pour water in the hand and leave it in the glass.)

In Kali Yuga the behavior of the humans will change rapidly as they turn more and more ungrateful and disrespect the Vedas, have very little devotion, will desist visiting temples and will have many addictive behaviors which are really sinful. To get deliverance from the effect of Kali and such sinful behaviors, do *Sandhya Vandanam* and chanting of *Gayatri Mantram*. The devotee may not worship Lord Vishnu or Lord Siva or the Devi, but by performing *Sandhya Vandanam* and chanting *Gayatri Mantram*, they will get the result of worshipping all these Gods. Without doing the *Sandhya Vandanam* and the *Gayatri Mantram* all other forms of worship will not bring desired result. Sage Naradha heard about the glory of *Gayatri Mantram* and *Sandhya Vandanam* and greeted Lord Vishnu and left.

Now Sage Sukha began telling the *Puranas* to Sage Sounaka and others. Sage Vyasa told all this to Janamejeya. Listening to the stories Janamejeya asked, “You have narrated the most glorious stories and how much ever I have heard about the description of the Devi I still feel unsatisfied. I feel like listening to these stories more and more. Long ago you had told me that the Devi lives in *Manidweepam*. Can you describe about *Manidweepam* to me?”

Sage Vyasa replied, “Your mind is driven in the right direction. After hearing all the *Puranas* you had a desire to hear about *Manidweepam*. I will describe the World of the Devi.

“The place where the Devi lives is known as *Manidweepam*. It is the most beautiful and sacred place. There is no other island greater than it. This place is the best in this Universe. I will tell you about it”.

The description of *Manidweepam* consists of five chapters. The one who listen to or reads these five chapters is equal to performing the five Pujas (worships) to the Devi and having Darshan of the five faces of the Devi. Creation, Nurturance,

Destruction, Grace and Disappearance are the five tasks of the Devi. The devotee who listens to or reads these five chapters is equal to doing all these tasks. It also helps in the removal of all *VASTHU* (science of architecture) defects.

There is a World above all the Worlds. This World is known as *MANIDWEEPAM* (The Eternal Supreme Abode of the Goddess *Bhuvaneshvari Devi*) Mani means the best, there is no World better than this World so it is known as *Manidweepam*. This is where the Devi will be constantly residing and is the Greatest World in this Universe, that is why it is also known as *SARVA LOKAM*. There will be only truth in this World so it is also called as *SATYA LOKAM*.

The Devi does not have any attributes, form and She is spread all over the Universe. She created this World with a desire to bless, show grace, and give salvation to the devotees and also with love and affection towards Her devotees. This is the most sacred World and it is more sacred than Kailasam, Vaikuntam, Golokam, and no other World is equal to *Manidweepam*. It is like an umbrella to all the Worlds so it is also known as *CHAYA LOKAM*. This World is very vast with millions of miles in area. There is a Sea around *Manidweepam* and it is known as *SUDHA SAMUDRAM*. Instead of water this Ocean is filled with Elixir. This Elixir is a million times tastier than the Elixir in Heaven.

The waves from the Sea will be moving with the wind. As the waves move small drops of Elixir will be spilling all over. The one who reaches this World can taste these drops. Unless the drops of Elixir fall in the devotee's mouth, they cannot enter the Devi's World. There are big fish and big conches in this Ocean. There is a beautiful seashore there and the sand there is a combination of gold and precious stones and there are trees with precious stones (trees which give precious stones as harvest). There are beautiful pillars all over, which are moving with the wind.

### *DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XXXI CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*



## CHAPTER 32

### KEY POINTS

Description of Manidweepam

Benefits of listening to *Devi Bhagavatham*

*Om Sarva Chaithanya Rupaam, Thaam Aadyam Vidyancha Deemahi*  
*Bhudhim Yaanah Prachothayath*

The Devi has a sacred name, *GURUMURTHY*. The word Guru has different meanings. Guru means unlimited and as the Devi is omnipresent across the Universe, She is called as *Gurumurthy*. The other meaning is, the One who will constantly guide the devotees on the path of knowledge in the form of the Guru (teacher) so she is *Gurumurthy*. The Devi is omnipresent in all the Worlds where the devotee can have Her Darshan. *Brahmanda Puranam* and *Devi Bhagavatham* has stated that the Devi is in the form of Guru, which is why greeting the Guru with folded hands and with devotion is equal to having Darshan of the Devi. The Guru has one more meaning that is indescribable joy. There are many pleasures such as eating food, watching movies etc., but all these joys are temporary and we experience boredom with time. But by looking at the Devi and listening to or reading Her stories, an individual will never experience boredom. Instead the devotee feels like listening to it more and more. It induces in us unlimited joy and passion to know about the Devi who is also a Guru.

The Devi is an embodiment of bliss and such a Devi resides in the World, *MANIDWEEPAM*. There is no better island than this and since it is the place that gives salvation to humans this name has been given. Sage Vyasa has given a few instructions before describing the *Manidweepam*.

- It should not be told to people who do not believe in the Devi or who is not Her devotee.
- It should not be told to people who do not have respect for the Guru describing it.
- It should not be told to people who are ignorant (drunkard and others)
- It should not be told to people who have little knowledge, but too much pride.

*Brathruhari who was a part of Emperor Vikramaditya's court said that it is easy to explain to an ignorant, it is easy to explain to a scholar, but it is very difficult to explain to a person who has a bit of knowledge. This person will neither have the patience nor humility. They will read a little and have the pride of knowing everything. Even Lord Brahma cannot rectify these kinds of people.*

*Manidweepam* is an island in the middle of the Ocean of Elixir. The seashore of this Sea is filled with precious stones and gold dust. Devi as per Her wish has built a home with 18 compound walls. To reach the Devi's court a devotee has to cross these 18 compound walls.

### **I<sup>st</sup> Compound wall**

This enclosure is built with iron. It is spread around 7 Yojanas on all sides i.e., 3,136 square miles (one Yojana is 8 miles so  $7 \times 8 = 56 \times 56 = 3,136$  square-miles). It is in the shape of a square. The compound has entrances on all the four sides. (Sage Bruhaspathi stated that the homes on the Earth should not have four doors. In ancient days the castles were built with doors on three sides. The house without a door facing south will prosper in wealth.) Devi does not have all these rules (Vaastu), She is the Creator and the Destroyer. So the enclosure has entrances on all the four sides. Within this enclosure, military guards skilled in war and equipped with various weapons stand guard. They can defeat anyone within no time. These guards will be chanting continuously the name of the Devi, '*SRI MATRE NAMAHA*'.



The one who wants to have Her Darshan should alight near this compound. There will be hundreds and thousands of aircrafts coming daily. The Sea shore will be usually filled with these. Everyone should stop their aircrafts there and walk up till the house. Many people come to see Her, Gods, the Trinity and many others. They will then have to identify Themselves to the guards and tell them where they have come from. After taking all the details, the guards honor Them. Those who have read or listened to *Devi Bhagavatam*, only, can come here. The grand place is filled with Her name and all those who manage to get here are always chanting Her mantra.

People will not talk about unwanted or unimportant topics. All the visitors will remember only the Devi's name, chant Her name, sing Her songs and listen to Her stories. The first compound wall is filled with these visitors. After this is the second enclosure

## **II<sup>nd</sup> Compound Wall**

This enclosure is large and wide. This wall is built with bronze. The top of this wall is infinitely high as it reaches up to the sky. This wall is thousand times brighter than the first wall. This enclosure has domes on all the four sides. There are many trees in this compound like, Jack fruit, Smoke tree, Asoka, Pine, Clove, Cardamom, Sandalwood, Incense etc. (*AGARUDRAMALU* a black gum (resin) of incense is acquired from the trees and made as sticks which are lit for worship.) Milk Trees (which produce milk) and many others and many flower creepers bloom here. The flowers in these creepers are having the combined fragrance of sandalwood and parijatham flower. Even grass here smells Divine and also because everything here is symbolic of the Devi as the Embodiment of Aromatics.

There are many wells in this enclosure and birds like cuckoos are singing. Black bees are buzzing about, with the sound like the *OM*. This *Omkaaram* is like a melodious song. The peacocks are dancing and the peahens join them making it all sound very pleasant. (The peahens will drink the water from the eyes of the dancing peacocks and they reproduce).

### III<sup>rd</sup> Compound Wall

This enclosure is made with Copper. There is a beautiful garden with golden trees and the blooms of these trees are gold flowers. This garden is being protected by *VASANTHUDU* (God of Spring). He is the gardener for this garden. He has two wives, one is Madhu Sri and the other is Madhava Sri. Madhu Sri will distribute honey to everyone. Madhava Sri will distribute happiness. *Vansanthudu* with His wives will tend to the garden. There will be many flowers and fruits in this garden. After offering them to the Devi it is distributed to others. Goddess Vasantha Lakshmi will be here continuously. All the goodness of spring exists here. There will be no sorrow except happiness here.

### IV<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall

This enclosure is made with lead. The garden here is being protected by *Greeshmam* (God of Summer). He has two wives one is Sukra Sri and other is Suchi Sri. *Greeshmam* with His wives will take care of this garden. Beautiful girls will be dancing in this enclosure. They will be dancing to the glories of the Devi like Mahishasura Mardhini, Simbu Nisimbu Vadha and other conquests. There are many trees that grant children and remove sorrows. There are also different kinds of birds that sing songs and people who are here are representative of pure happiness.

### V<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall

This enclosure is made with brass. The one who reaches here will have mental peace and have pleasant feelings. The garden here is protected by the Varsha (God of Rain). He has red eyes and Cloud is His vehicle. He has two wives one is Nabha Sri and other is Nabhasya Sri. The God of Rain along with His wives will take care of this garden.

Beside Him there are cloud Gods like Rasya Malini, Sourasya, Ambadula, Abhravanthi, Megha Yanthika and Others who cause rains on the Earth. These Clouds (Gods) will take permission of *Varsha* to bring rain to Earth. *Varsha* says, "If the humans on Earth are conducting themselves according to Dharma, if the Gods are being worshipped properly, if the *Puranas* are being recited, if the Vedas are being recited, charity takes place properly, if the disciple has utmost respect on

the Guru, only then You can shower rains on time and make the people on the Earth happy. Otherwise stop the rains”. The clouds which give rains will be in this enclosure. The trees and plants in this place will always look new and have fresh shoots and flowers.

### **VI<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall**

This enclosure is made with five metals Iron, Brass, Lead, Copper and Bronze. There are *Hibiscus Kalpavriksha* plants here. (Hibiscus plants which are not found on Earth). These *Kalpavrikshas* will fulfil all the wishes. It may be materialistic (objects) or non-materialistic wishes (health). There are innumerable such trees that bear different fragrant flowers and fruits. The one who eats these fruits will not have old age. The residing God for this enclosure is *Saradh* (God of Autumn). He has two wives one is Isu Lakshmi and other is Urjha Lakshmi. *Saradh* with His wives will take care of this garden. In this enclosure there will be no desires and there will only be ultimate happiness. If someone gets a desire, that will be fulfilled within no time. After fulfilling all the desires, the person will become desire less.

### **VII<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall**

This enclosure is made of Silver. The silver will be shining like moonlight. There are Parijatham *Kalpavrikshas* that (Parijatham plants which are not found on Earth) fill this garden. The plants will be filled with gorgeous flowers. The fragrance of these flowers will be spread up to 10 yojanas (one yojana =8 miles, 10x8 = 80 miles). This area will be filled with these flowers and fragrances. The residing God for this enclosure is Hemanthudu (God of Winter). He has two wives one is Saha Sri and other is Sahasya Sri. Both are immersed in the Devi’s worship, chanting Her name and remembering Her name all the time.

### **VIII<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall**

This enclosure is made with purest form of Gold. There are Kadambam Trees. (Kadambam plants which are not found on Earth). The tree trunk will be green in color. The leaves will spread the fragrance for thousands of miles. The flowers will be gold in color.



*Kadambam flower with honey bees*

Honey from these flowers will be dripping in a continuous flow. No one can describe the experience of drinking this honey. It should be felt. The residing God for this enclosure is *Sisirudu*. He has two wives one is Tapa Sri and other is Tapasya Sri. *Sisirudu* with His wives will be following Dharma. People here will enjoy all the luxuries and chant the Devi's name.

### **IX<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall**

This enclosure is known as ***Pushyaraga Prakara*** made with Topaz (***PUSHPARAGA*** or ***PUSHYARAGA***). There are Gods in the form of birds and will be chanting different mantras. The residing God for this enclosure is Indra who is astride the Airavatham. (This Indra is different from God Indra, also known as Purandharudu, who rules Earth, Heaven and Patala Lokam) The Indra in *Manidweepam* is more powerful than Purandharudu and will be with His wife Sachi Devi and has *Vajrayudham* in His hand. He will be wandering along with *Agni, Vayu, Yama, Nirruthi, Varuna, Ishana, Kubera* and other Dikpalakas. All of Them are a million times greater than the Dikpalakas of the Earth. These Dikpalakas possess different weapons, wear assorted ornaments and chant the Devi's name constantly. There will be celebrations in this

area with loud sounds. The one who listens to these sounds will not be afraid but instead have a pleasant feeling.

### **X<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall**

This enclosure is known as ***Padmaraga Prakara*** made with Rubies (PADMARAGAM). The Rubies here will be in saffron red color. There are hundreds of pillars studded with precious stones. There are many Divine plants and creepers. This enclosure is guarded by Women. They are *Pingalakshi, Visalakshi, Samrudhi, Urudhi, Sraddha, Swaha, Swadha, Maya, Vasundhara, Triloka Dhatri, Savitri, Gayatri, Tridaseswari, Surupa, Bahurupa, Skanda Mata, Achyuthapriya, Vimala, Amala, Aruni, Punararuni, Prakruthi, Vikruthi, Srushti, Sthithi, Deva Matha, Anagha Meghala, Ananga Meghala, Ananga Vega Satya Vadhini* and several Others. They are Devi's entourage. They have big eyes and long tongues and are strong, powerful and are capable of drinking up all the waters of all the Oceans, Seas and Rivers. They can also, if They wish destroy all Worlds and freeze the air."

Some Goddesses who are in charge of these Women came near and said, "Our Energies are to save the World, but not to harm any creature. By freezing everything the Worlds will be destroyed. So, keep Your Energies under control. The Energies and Power should not be used as per Your wish. Agni's nature is to burn. If He starts burning then nothing will be left in the Universe. So, the fire should be used for Yagna, cooking or some other purposes. In the same way You have to keep your Energies under control". The Devi's entourage also includes different kinds of weapons, chariots, horses and elephants and all things powerful. These Goddesses will be constantly controlling the Devi's entourage from destroying the Worlds. Any power and energy should be used for welfare of the World but not for its destruction.

As Lord Vishnu is residing on the serpent, Adishesu is calm and peaceful. Otherwise Adishesu might have destroyed all the Worlds. Adishesu has the power to swallow the Earth.

### **XI<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall**

This enclosure is known as ***Gomedhikaratna Prakara*** made with Agate (GOMEDHIKAM). There are *MANKENAPULU* (Pentapetes Phoenicia plants) and



flowers in the color of the rising sun. Many Divine Gods will be here. An army of 11 Akshauhini (2,405,700 warriors) will be constantly guarding the Devi's World. *Sri Vidya, Sri, Pushti, Pragna, Srivali, Kuhu Rudra Virya, Prabha, Nanda, Poshini, Rudhi, Sudha, Kalaratri, Maharatri, Badra Kali, Kapardhini, Vikruthi, Dandi, Mundi, Indhu Kanda, Sikandini, Mahishasura Mardhani, Indrani, Rudrani Sankharardha Saririni, Nari, Narayani, Trisulini, Palini, Hladhini* and many others are there. The Conch in Lord Vishnu's hand is known as *Panchajanyam* and in the Devi's hand is known as *Hladhini*. The Energy of *Hladhini* will be in this enclosure. When needed it will take the form of a Conch.



*Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi on serpent Adishesu*

## **XII<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall**

This enclosure is known as ***Vajraratna Prakara*** made with Diamonds (***VAJRAM***). This area will be protected by ***KAPATA SRUKHALA*** Gods. These Gods will possess many weapons. *Anangha Rupa, Anangha Madhana, Anangha Madhanatura, Sundari,*



*BhuvanaVega, Bhuvana Palika, Anangha Mekhala and Others. These Gods are very skillful and finish any task very easily.*

Jagat Guru Adi Shankaracharya has told a wonderful story when he was giving meaning to words *KUSALAH SARVA KARYESHU* in the description of *Manidweepam*.

*A man approached the King and said, "Oh King! I am more intelligent than your minister, so give me the minister's position".*

*The King was shocked with his wish but said, "You have to pass the exam to get the position of minister". The man accepted that and the King asked him to come the next day. The man came back the next morning.*

*The King said, "At the borders of our Kingdom some people have come on horses. Go and find out who they are".*

*The man went running two miles to find the answer to the question. He came back and said, "Oh King! They have come from the Kingdom of Kamarupa".*

*The King asked, "Why did they come here?"*

*The man said, "I only asked about who they are, but now I will go and ask them why they have come?" The man again went running two miles to find the answer to the question. He returned and said to the King, "They have come to do trading".*

*The King asked, "What business do they want to do"?*

*The man replied, "I did not ask this and I will go and find out". The man went running two miles to find the answer to the question. He came back and said to the King, "Oh King! They want to do trading with diamonds in our Kingdom".*

*The King asked, "Oh! Are they doing wholesale business or retail?"*

*The man replied, "I did not ask this, I will go and find out". The man went running two miles to find the answer to the question. He returned back and said to the King, "They want to do both wholesale and retail business".*

*The King then asked, "How much is the retail price of the diamond and how much is the wholesale price?"*

*The man said "I cannot go and find the answer to this question as I do not have any energy left. If you send me again, I will surely die"*

*The King then called his minister and said , "Oh Minister! Near the borders of our Kingdom some people have come on horses. Go and find out who they are".*

*The Minister returned and said to the King, "Oh King! They are 200 diamond merchants from the Kingdom of Kamarupa. They have 16,800 diamonds with them. Each diamond costs rupees 100, 200 and 300. In wholesale they will give them for rupees 50 each. They want to stay in our Kingdom for 16 days. So, they are waiting at the borders for our permission".*

*The King turned to the man and said, "Do you want the minister's post"? The man humbly refused and left the place.*

The minister used his brain to collect the information. So a minister should be intelligent. *Sarva Karyeshu Kusalaha* is using the intelligence and sometimes taking proper decisions duly considering all the consequences. People possessing *Sarva Karyeshu Kusalaha* attributes were there in this enclosure. They are very skillful in all the disciplines and They do not succumb to the senses.

### **XIII<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall**

This enclosure is known as *Vaiduryaratna Prakara* made with Cat's Eye Stone (*VAIDURYAM*). There are wide paths in this enclosure. The roads are so wide, that at a time 20 elephants can walk in this path side by side. There are some buildings and many types of wells here. There were streams flowing and sand on the banks of these streams were made of precious stones. The *SAPTHA MATRUKA* (seven Goddesses) *Brahmi, Maheswari, Koumari, Vaishnavi, Varahi, Mahendri* and *Chamunda* are residing here. The Goddess *Ashtami Devatha Mahalakshmi* is also residing in this enclosure. All these 8 Goddesses will be protecting this enclosure. They have Energy and Power to give boons to the Trinity. These Goddesses can destroy the Demons. They also give suggestions to the Devi, in Creation, Nurturance and Destruction. They use horses, lions, elephants, buffaloes and other animals as Their vehicles.

### ***XIV<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall***

This enclosure is known as ***Indraneelaratna Prakara*** made with Sapphires (***INDRA NEELAM***) and where the Gods have 16 qualities and they bless the devotees of the Devi with these.

*Lord Rama had these 16 qualities.*

1. ***Guṇavan = Principled Person***
2. ***Viryavan = Potential One***
3. ***Dharmajñaḥ = Conscientious***
4. ***Kṛtajñaḥ = Redeemer***
5. ***Satya vakyo = Speaker of Truth***
6. ***Dhṛḍha vrataḥ = Self-determined in His deed***
7. ***Karitreṇa ka ko yuktaḥ = Blend with good-conduct***
8. ***Sarva bhuteṣu ko hitaḥ = Benign, in respect of all beings***
9. ***Viidvan = Adept***
10. ***Samarthaḥ = Ablest***
11. ***Eka priya darsanaḥ = Uniquely good-looking***
12. ***Atmavan = Courageous***
13. ***Jita krodho = One who has controlled His anger***
14. ***Dyutimān = Brilliant One***
15. ***Anasuyakaḥ = Not jealous***
16. ***Kasya bibhyati devaḥ ca jata roṣasya saṁyuge = Even whom the Gods do fear, when provoked to war***

The 16 energies in this enclosure are *Karali, Vikarali, Uma, Saraswathi, Sri, Durga, Usha, Lakshmi, Sruthi, Smruthi, Dhruthi, Sraddha, Medha, Kathi* and others. These Energies are bluish in color. They have unlimited Power and They can destroy any World. Instead of destruction They will utilize these Energies for the development of the Worlds. They are very brave and even a thousand headed Adishesu also cannot describe Their bravery.

### ***XV<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall***

This enclosure is known as ***Muktaratna Prakara*** made with Pearls (***MUTHYAM***). It is as wide as 10 Yojanas (1 Yojana is 7 miles 10 x 7 =70 miles and in an area of (square) 70x70= 4900 miles) on all the sides. The enclosure is fully studded with

precious Pearls. Inside this enclosure *ASHTA MANTRINI* Gods will exist. There is no one smarter and intelligent than Them. They will give information to the Devi about what is happening in the Worlds without discrimination. They know what information has to be given at what time. They enjoy all the luxuries and understand the Devi very well and are always alert to looking after the tasks of the Devi. They are Beautiful Scholars and visit all the Worlds. Sometimes staying here, They observe the worlds. These Goddesses are *Anangha Kusuma*, *Anangha Kusumathura*, *Anangha Madhana*, *Anangha Madhanathura*, *Bhuvana pala*, *Gagana Vega*, *Sasi Rekha*, *Gagana Rekha* and others.

### **XVI<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall**

This enclosure is known as *Maha Marakatha Prakaram* and is made with Emerald (*MARAKATHAM*). This is spread across 10 yojanas. This enclosure will be in the shape of *SHATKONA* (six-pointed star)

*Goddess GAYATRI DEVI* and *Lord BRAHMA* reside on the east side of the *Shatkonam*. Lord Brahma will be with four heads and he holds a *Kamandalam* in one hand and *Japamala* in the other. Goddess Gayatri will always be prepared to protect the people.

The Vedas are infinite. For the welfare of the human beings Sage Vyasa has chosen a few of them and divided them into Four Vedas and given them to Mankind. These infinite Vedas are there in this enclosure. The infinite Vedas, Upanishads, all the eighteen *Puranas* (*Matsya*, *Markandeya*, *Bhaagavata*, *Bhavishya*, *Brahma*,



*SHATKONAM*

*Brahmaanda, Brahma Vaivarta, Varaha, Vamana, Vishnu, Vayu, Agni, Naradha, Padma, Linga, Garuda, Kurma, Skanda Puranas), Ramayana and Bharatham Epics, 18 Upa-Puranas, Shastras, Smruthulu, Sruthulu and others will take on beautiful forms, worship and greet the Devi. Goddess Savitri and Maha Vishnu will also reside here. All of Them will look into the welfare of the creatures in all the worlds.*

### **XVII<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall**

This enclosure is known as *PRAVALA SALA* and made with Red Coral (*PAGADAM*). The Deities in this enclosure are *Hrulekha, Gagana, Raktha, Karalika and Mahochushma*. All the Goddesses will be young and look exactly like the Devi.

### **XVIII<sup>th</sup> Compound Wall**

This enclosure is made with *NAVARATNA* (Ruby, Diamond, Blue Sapphire, Yellow Sapphire, Emerald, Red Coral, Pearl, Cat's eye and Hessonite (Gomedhikam) are nine precious stones,). Goddess *Jaganmatha* resides here. The Devi took many incarnations to protect the creatures, to kill the Demons on the Earth and Demons who invaded Heaven. All the incarnations like *Maha Saraswathi, Maha Lakshmi, Maha Kali, Durga Devi, Bhramaramba Devi, Shakambari, Sathi Devi, Chamunda, Mahishasura Mardhini, Aruna Devi*, and Others will be in this enclosure. The one who enters this enclosure can have the Darshan of these Deities. The incarnations which are been mentioned in the *Puranas* will also exist in this enclosure. Great *Vidhyas* (educators) like *Sri Vidhya, Atma Vidhya, Maha Vidhya* and *Acharams* like *Vama Charam, Kouda Charam, Dakshana Charam, Samaya Charam* and Others exist here.

The Goddesses will be moving about on lions, on elephants, on corpses, on men and on women. All these Goddesses will be shining like millions of Suns. There are 7 crore Mantras in this Universe like *Panchakshari, Ashtakshari, Ramashtakshari, Kumarashtakshari, Navakshari, Gayatri, Saraswathi, Savitri* and other mantras. They all took the form of a Woman and are worshipping the incarnations of the Devi.

After crossing this enclosure there is a wonderful and massive building known as *CHINTHA MANI GRUHAM* and built with *Chintha Mani* (Gems). *Chintha Mani*



*Goddess Bhuvaneshwari sitting on Lord Kameswarudu's left thigh*

is the Gem which will fulfil the desires immediately including salvation and hence its name. (Chintha = thought or Desire, Mani = Gem and Gruha = home or house).



While churning the Ocean of Milk one *Chintha Mani* gem was obtained. But the entire Devi's abode is built with these gems. These gems will be bright and shine like thousands of Suns. But they are also as cool as the moonlight. *Chintha Mani Gruham* was built with infinite pillars. It is spread across thousands of miles.

Around the building there are four atriums. They are *Srungara*, *Mukthi*, *Gnana* and *Ekantha Mandapams*. All these *Mandapams* are built with thousands of pillars made with gems and the roof hangs with the support of these. (The gems have not been stuck with any substances but yet they stick together very strongly). It is an astonishing and wonderful experience to see the gems sticking to each other and bearing the weight of the roof. That is the glory of the Devi. There are many ponds with large lotus flowers and creepers with fragrant flowers. The ponds have steps which are studded with precious stones and are filled with Elixir. In this Elixir Ponds lotuses bloom, swans and other birds swim about. The Energies of the Devi took the form of honey bees and are drinking the honey from the lotus flowers with a buzzing sound. The Devi will be in all these atriums and takes rest in the *Chintha Mani Gruham*.

***Srungara Mandapam*** is for decoration, indulgence and songs. The Devi will be sitting in the *Srungara Mandapam* fully adorned and smiling, the members in the assembly will sit opposite Her. One by one the members will sing songs. The Devi will enjoy these songs and will be blessing them with luxuries.

***Mukthi Mandapam***, is where the Devi will be thinking about removing the sorrows and giving salvation to the devotees.

***Gnana Mandapam***, is where the Devi with Lord DakshinaMurthy provides teachings on enlightenment and reveals the secret of Creation to human beings. She will also preach about the path of wisdom.

***Ekantha Mandapam***, is where the Devi with some Ministers will be discussing on how to improve the Creation, how to give comfort to mankind in Kali Yuga. She will also have secret meetings on different issues.

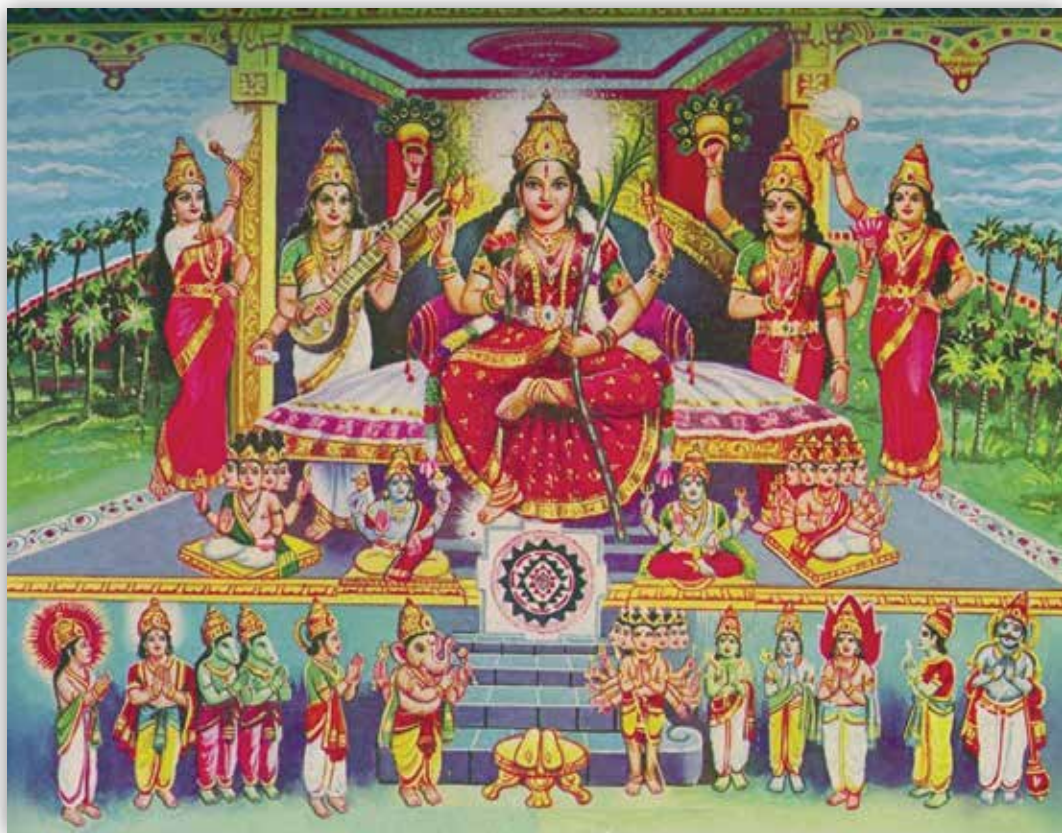
While She is at *Chintha Mani Gruham* She will meet only the people who are very close to Her heart. She will allow only a few people into Her *Gruham*. While

giving Darshan She will sit on a beautiful throne. The throne has ten steps. Lord Vishnu, Lord Brahma, Lord Rudra and Lord Eswara are the legs of the throne and the plank of the throne is Lord Sada Siva. While giving Darshan for the welfare of the World She has converted Her body into two forms. On the right side is Lord Kameswarudu and the Devi will sit on His Left thigh.

Lord Kameswarudu will be with three eyes and He is more handsome than 1000 Manmadhas. He has five heads and wears assorted ornaments. He holds the *Soolam* (Spear), the *Parashu*, (Battle Axe) in his hands. He will always be 16 years old. He is as bright as a million suns and as cool as million moons. He will be crystal white in color. He always looks at others with great affection.

The Devi sitting on His left thigh is Goddess *BHUVANESWARI*. She wears a waist belt studded with nine precious stones. She is wearing the armlets on her upper arm (*BHUJA KEERTHULU*) and a chain around Her neck. She is wearing Sri Chakram as Her earrings. Goddess *Bhuvaneswari's* face is like a lotus flower. Her fore head resembles a half-moon. Her nose looks like a champak (*SAMPENGA*) flower. Her lips are as red as a ripened *BIMBA fruit* (Donda Fruit). Her gums are red in color and Her teeth are bright white like pearls. The *KUMKUMA* (vermilion) on the fore head is bright red in color. She wears *Chudamani* on Her head. *Chudamani* is a gem as bright as a thousand suns and Her nose ring resembles the rising Sun.

Goddess Bhuvaneswari applies *PACHA KARPURAM* (edible camphor) and *KUMKUMA* to Her body. (This is considered to be the practice in olden days.) Her Crown is studded with priceless precious stones and half-moon. Goddess Bhuvaneswari Devi's anklets have beautiful bells and are studded with gems. When the Devi moves Her feet, the anklets make melodious sounds which are sweeter than the songs sung by Goddess Saraswathi Devi. She wears gem studded wristlets and bangles. When the Devi moves Her hand, the bangles make a melodic music. She has long hair that is dark black in color. She decorates Her hair with jasmine, champak and other fragrant flowers. Bees are attracted towards these fragrant flowers constantly. One hand is in *Abhaya* (blessing) gesture and other is in *Vara Pradayini* (giver of boons) posture. She has spear in one hand, rope in the other hand.



*Goddess Bhuvaneswari in Manidweepam*

Goddess Bhuvaneswari Devi will be adorned from head to toe. She wears a red color sari and appears very delicate and incredibly beautiful. She is in the form of unconditional love. Her speech is so melodious, even the *Kachapi* (the instrument in the hands of Goddess Saraswathi) will be silent when She is talking. Once on the request of Goddess *Jaganmatha*, Goddess Saraswathi started singing with a very sweet voice while playing the instrument *KACHAPI* (name of the instrument in Her hand and also called as *VEENA*) in Her hand. All the people who were present there were mesmerized by Her singing. The reason behind it was the Goddess of knowledge and music was singing the songs, while playing the Kachapi. After the completion of Her singing Goddess *Jaganmatha* appreciated Her and said, “Saraswathi, Your singing was very sweet, playing Kachapi was even more so”. On hearing that Goddess Saraswathi replied, “From now onwards I will stop singing songs”

Goddess *Jaganmatha* smiled and asked, “I am praising the song, the sweetness in Your voice and also the way You played the Kachapi. Why are You saying that You do not want to sing any more even after I have praised You? What is the reason?” Goddess *Saraswathi* replied, “For quite some time I was singing and playing Kachapi. At the end You said the song is good. That one word is sweeter than my entire songs and the tune of my Kachapi”. Goddess *Jaganmatha* has such a mesmerizing voice.

Goddess *Bhuvaneswari Devi* is surrounded by *Lajja*, *Tushti*, *Keerthy*, *Kshama*, *Kanthi* and other Goddesses. A marvelous thing is that juices from fruits such as grapes, sugarcane, blueberries and other exotic fruits flow copiously like great big streams. They flow for some distance after which they join the Sea of Elixir. Diseases, old age, thoughts, jealousy, lust, anger have absolutely no place here and those who are here, do not age at all and look as bright as the Sunlight. Goddess *Bhuvaneswari Devi* is being constantly worshipped here with great devotion and there are a few near Her, some merge with Her, while some others give Her suggestions and inputs on all matters of importance. The Devi sits in the *Chinta Mani Gruham* and protects the millions of people all over.

“Oh Janamejeya! Goddess *Bhuvaneswari Devi* does not have any Form, Attributes, Karma. But for the welfare of the World, She has created a World called *Manidweepam* and took the Form and has Attributes. By taking form She is making all of us happy. I have described to you the glory of the Devi and *Manidweepam*. There is no other place in this World that can match *Manidweepam*. The one who worships the Devi constantly can reach this World.

- If a person listens to *Manidweepam Varnanam* before dying, they will directly reach the World of the Devi.
- The devotee will get rid of all the negatives by listening to *Manidweepam Varnanam*.
- If *Manidweepam Varnanam* is read in a newly constructed home, the architectural flaws will be removed and the house becomes a *Manidweepam*. The devotee will get the result of performing a Yagna. If the owner is not able to read then he can make someone read on his behalf. The members of the family will get good fortune all the time.

Oh King! I have recited and you have heard *Devi Bhagavatham*. The same was told by Lord Narayana to Sage Naradha. To give salvation to your father you have to now perform *AMBAYagam*". Janamejeya accepted this. Sage Dhaumyudu was called to conduct as the Pandit and performed the *Amba Yagam* during *NAVARATRI*. He performed the Yagna sincerely and diligently and requested Sage Vyasa to recite the *Devi Bhagavatham*.

Then the Devi appeared there and said, "Your father was afraid of a snake bite before his death so now he is in Hell. The Yagna you performed is very auspicious and reciting the *Devi Bhagavatham* is very propitious and so your father has reached My World because of this". In the meantime, Sage Naradha came there.

Janamejeya asked him, "Where are you coming from?"

Sage Naradha said, "I am coming from *Manidweepam*. Your father attained salvation. I saw him in the Devi's World". Janamejeya was very happy with the information. From then onwards he heard *Devi Bhagavatham* continuously. Whenever possible he performed *Amba Yagam* on the banks of River Yamuna and in Kasi on the banks of River Ganga. Once he went to Ayodhya and performed the Yagam on the banks of River Sarayu.

Sage Sukha recited *Devi Bhagavatham* to Sages Sounaka and others. He also talked about the benefits of reading or listening to *Devi Bhagavatham*. The Devi recited *Devi Bhagavatham* in half Sloka and *Vata Patra Sai* (Lord Vishnu as an infant form on the banyan leaf during the Pralayam) heard it. Lord Vishnu wrote this half sloka into 1000 million slokas and spread them through Lord Brahma. Lord Brahma gave them to Sage Vyasa. He condensed them into 18,000 slokas with 12 sections. There is no other Purana which is equivalent *Devi Bhagavatham*. The devotee will get the result of performing Ashvamedha Yagam with every step they take to reach the place of the recitation of *Devi Bhagavatam*. (If the devotee took 10 steps, he gets the benefit of performing 10 Ashvamedha Yagnas).

- The person who is listening to *Devi Bhagavatham* should consider the reciter as Sage Vyasa.



- The person who reads or listens to it with attention and devotion, their wishes will be fulfilled.
- There is nothing impossible for the person who reads or listens to Devi Bhagavatham. They are blessed with everything.
- If the devotee reads or listens with the intention of having children, they will be blessed with children.
- Wealth comes to the one who wants it.
- Education comes to those who want education.
- Fame comes to those who want it.
- The devotee who wishes to get salvation in this life itself, will have to go to Kasi or some other holy place with his Guru and follow his suggestions and by practicing spirituality, the devotee will be able to reach the Devi's World.
- Listening to *Devi Bhagavatham* ensures that women will be blessed with safe delivery, healthy and good children.
- If the devotees cannot read or listen, at least by worshipping the book, the home will become the abode for the Goddesses Lakshmi, Saraswathi and Parvathi. (*TRI MATRU SWARUPAM* form of three Goddesses)

This is the greatest gift bestowed on mankind, that it's very presence and contents grant great bounties and prosperity to all those who read or listen to its Magnificent Existence. All wishes and desires are fulfilled and once that has been achieved, then this ultimate path is laid out for those who are devout and filled with Bhakti in this lifetime. This *Purana* will earn salvation and the unparalleled joy of being in the World of the Devi.

*Hari Om*

*DEVI BHAGAVATHAM XXXII CHAPTER*

*Om Shanthi*

*Sarvejana Sukhinobavanthu*

*DEVI BHAGAVATHAM SAMPURNAM*





## SLOKAS

### Veda Stuthi

*Namo Devi Maha Deyi Namu Devi Maha Devi Maha Maye Visvospathi Kare Sive  
Nirgune Sarva Buthe Si Matha Ha Sankara Kamade Thvam Bhumi Hi*

*Sarva Bhuthanam Prana Prana Vatham Thattha Dhee Hi Sree Hi Kanthi Hi Kshma  
Shanthi Hi, Sradhaaa Medha Truthi Smruthi Hi Thamudh Geetedra Matrasi Gayathri*

*Vyakruthi Thadha Jayacha Vijaya Dhatri Lajja Keerthi Hi Spruha Daya, Thvam  
Sousthuvom Vabhavana Traya Samvidhana Daksham Daya Rasa Yutham*

*Jananim Jananam Vidyam Sivam Sakala Loka Hitham Varenyam Vakbeeja Vasa  
Nipunam Bhava Nasa Katrim Bramhra Souri*

*Sahasra Netra Vag Vakri Surya Buvanadhi Nadha Ha Te Tvakrutha Ha Sandhi Thho  
Ho Na Mukhya Mataya Stathvam Sthiratho Janga Manam Sakala Bhuvaname*

*Tat Kathu Kamaya Dathvam Srujasi Janani Devam Vishnu Rudraya Mukhyan  
Sthithi Laya Janmam Tai Krayasye Ka Rupa Nakhalutava Kanchith Devi*

*Samsara Lesaha, Nathe Rupam, Vethvam Sakala Bhuvane Kopi Nipuno Nana  
Namnam Sankhya De Kathithu Miha Yogosti Purushaha Nana Namnam Sankhyam  
De Kathithu Miha Yogosti Purushaha*

*Yadlpan Pan Kilalam Kalayithum Mitha shakthim Sadguna Raha Kala Sath Kadham  
Karam Para Vara kalana Chathurasya Brutha Mathi Hi.*

### Hayagreeva Stothram

*Gynanananda Mayam Devam Nirmala Spatikakruthim, Aadharam  
Sarva Vidhyanam Hayagrivam upasmahe*

## One Sloka Covering all the Knowledge and Divinity as follows:

*Srushtou, Ya Sarga Rupa, Jagadha Vinavodhou Palini Yacha Roudri  
Samharecha Ya Pisya Jagadhidha Makhilam Kreedanam Ya Parakya  
Pasyanthi Madhya Madho Thadanu Bhagavathi Vaikari Varnarupa,  
Sa Asmadh Vacham Prasanna Vidhibhari Girisa Radhitha Lankarothu*

### Navakshara Mantra

*Aim Hreem Kleem Chamundayai Vichche*

### Lord Mrutyunjaya

*Anayasena Maranam, Vina Dainyena Jeevitham, Dehanthe  
Tava Sayudyam, Dehime Parvathi Pathe,*

### Worshipping Devi



*In Lalitha Sahasranamam the process was given and is called Lamityadi  
Pancha pujalu She should be pleased with five treats, first is*

**SANDAL WOOD** (Gandham), **LAM** is a Beejam and mantra

**Om Lam Prithivi Aatmane Gandham Samarpayami**

**FLOWERS, HUM** is the Beejam and mantra.

**Om Hum Akasha Tatvatmane Sri Pushpam Samarpayami**

**DHOOPAM, YUM** is the Beejam and mantra.

**Om Yum Vayu Tatvatmane Dhoopam Agbrapayami**

**DEEPAM, RAM** is the Beejam and mantra.

**Om Ram Tejas Tatvatmane Deepam Parikalpayami**

**NAIVEDYAM, VAM** is the Beejam and mantra.

**Om Vam Amritha Tatvatmane Amrutha Naivedyam Samarpayami**

*Mistakes done during offering of Pancha pujalu, **SAM** is the Beejam and mantra*

**Om Sam Sarvathmane Sarvopchara Puja Parikalpayami**

### **Ambika Kavacham**

*Agrataha, Te Ambika Paathu Parvathi Paathu Prushtathaha,  
Parvathi Parisvyoho Paathu Siva Sarvathra Sampratham*

*Varahi, VishameMarge Durga Durgeshu Karhichith  
Kalika Kalabe Ghore Paathu Thvam Parameswari*

*Mandape Tatra Mathangee Thatha Soumya Swayamvare  
Bhavani Bhupamadhyethu Paathu Tvaam Bhavamochani*

*Girija Giridurgeshu Chamunda Chatvareshu Cha  
Kaamaga Kaananeshu Eevam Rakshathu Thvam Sanathani*

*Vivade Vaishnavi Shakthihi avathath thvam Raghudwaha  
Bairavi Cha Rane Soumaya Satrunam Vai Samagame*

*Sarvada Sarvadeseshu Paathu Thvam Bhuvaneshwari  
Mahamaya Jagadhatri Sachidanandarupini*

## **Starting Navaratri Pooja Amavasya day (New Moon Day)**

*Karishyami Vratham Mathaha Navarathra Manuthamam, Sahayam Kurume  
Devi Jagadamba Mama Khilam*

### ***Navarna Mantra, This is very Sacred Mantra Specified in Vedas.***

*Om Aim Hreem Kleem Chamundayai Vichche*

### **Maha Lakshmi, Prayer by Gods**

*Namah Sivayai, Kalyanayi, Santhayai, Pushtayai, Namoh Namaha  
Bhagavathayai Namoh Devayai, Rudranayai Satatam Namaha  
Kalaratrachayai, Thadhambayai Indranayai Te Namoh Namaha  
Siddhayai Budhayai Thadha Vrudhayai Vaishnavayai Te Namoh Namaha  
Prudhvivayam Ya Sthitha Prudhvanya Na Gnatha Prudhvi Cha Ya  
Mayayam Yam Sthitha Gnatha Mayaya Na Cha Thamajam*

*The first slokam of MANTRA is*

*Hrim Karasana Gharbitha, nalasikam, Sou Kleem Kalam Vibhratham  
Sou Varanambhara Dharinim, Varasudha Doutham,  
Trinetra Jwalam, Vande Pusthaka Pasamamkusa Dharam  
Srabhushitham Ujwalam, Thvam Goureem, Tripuram  
Paratpara Kalam Sri Chakra Sancharinim.*

*The second slokam of MANTRA is*

*Srushtou Ya Sargarupa, Jagadhava Navidhou Paalini Yacha Roudri  
Samharecha Piyasyacha Jagadhitha Makhilam, Kreedanam Yaa Parakhya,  
Pasanyanthi Madhaymatho, Thadhanu Bhagavathi Vaikhari Varnarupa  
Sasmadhvacham, Prasanna Vidhi Hari Giri Saradha Talan Karothu*

*When we are **INDILEMMA**, recite or listen to these Slokas we will come out of the  
troubles and dilemma.*

*Saranam Twam Jagan Mathaha, Prapthasmi Brusa Dhukhitha,  
Rakshamethya Sathi Dharmam, Namaami Charanaou Thava, Namah Padmodhbhave,*

*Devi Nahaha Sankara Vallabhe Vishnupriye, Namo Lakshmi Veda Mathaha  
Saraswathi, Edham Jagath, Twaya Srushtam Sarvam, Sthavara Jangamam, Pasithva  
Mavyagra, Thadhaasi Loka Santhaye, Brahma Vishnu Mahesanaam,  
Janani Thavam Susamvatha Budhidasi Tavama Gnanaam, Gnaninam Mokshadha,  
Sada, Adyathvam Prakruthim Purna Purusha Priya Darsena,  
Bhukti, Mukthi, Pradasithvam Praninam Visadathmanam,  
Agnanam Dukhada Kaamam Satvaanam Sukha Saadhana, Sidhidha Yogi Namamba,  
Jayada Keerthida Punaha, Saranam Tvam Prapannasmi Vismayam Param,  
Gatha, Padhim, Darsnaye Mehata, Magnasi Soka Saagare,  
Devabyam, Charitham Kutam Kamrunomi Mohitha Pathin Darsaya,  
Sarvagne Vidith Thvame, Sathi Vratnam.*

### **Shakambhari Mantra**

*Namah Shakambhari Shive, Namasthe Satalochane*

### **Vedic Prayers for Goddess Jaganmatha**

*Namo Devyai Maha Devyai Sivayai Sathatham Namaha  
Namah Prakruthyai Bhadrarai Niyathaha Pranatha Smathaaam  
Thaamagni Varnaam Thapasa Jwalanttheem Vairochaneem Karmaphaleshu Jushtam  
Durgam Deveem Saranamaham Prapadhye Sutharasi Tharase Namaha  
Devvem Vachamajanayantha Devaha Tham Viswarupaha Pasavo Vadhanthi  
Sa No Mandrashamurjam Dhubanaam Dhenurvagasmanupasushutu Thaithu  
Kalaratreem Brahmastutham Vaishnavim Skandhamatharam Saraswathim Adithim  
Dhakshadhubitharam Namamaha Paavanam Sivaam  
Maha Lakshmaicha Vidhmahe Sarvasakthaicha Dhemahe Thanno Devi Prachothayath*

### **Saraswathi Kavacham**

*Dhyayami Dhyanam Samarpayami*

*Saraswathi Dhyana slokam : I*

*Saraswatheem Shukla Varnam, Sasmitaam Sumanoharam,  
Koti Chandra Prabhamushta Pushta Sriyuktha Vigramam  
Vanni Sudham Sukhadhanam Veena Pusthaka Dharinim  
Ratnasarendra Nirmana Nava Bhushana Bhushitham*

*Saraswathi Dhyana slokam : II*

*Ya Kundendhu Thusharabara Davala, Ya Subhra Vastranvitha  
Ya Veena Varadhanda Manditha Kara, Ya Swetha Padmasana  
Ya Brahma Chyutha Sankara Prabhruthi Virdevaihi Sada Pujitha  
Sa Mam Pathu Saraswathi Bhagavathi Nissesha Jadyapaha*

### **MULA MANTRA (one that begins with Beejaksharas)**

*Saraswathi Chathurdhyanatham Varnijayantha Mevacha  
Lakshmi Maya Dhika Chevamanthroyam Kalpa Padapaha  
Aum Sreem Hreem Saraswathai Swaha  
Aum Sreem Hreem Saraswathai Namaha*

### **Kavacham**

*Om Srim Hreem Saraswathai Swaha Sirome Pathu Sarwathaha  
Om Srim Vakdevatayai Swaha Phalame Sarwadhavathu  
Om Hreem Saraswathai Swahethi Sthothrepathu Nirantharam  
Om Srim Hreem Bhagavathyai Saraswathai Swaha Netrayugmam Sadavthu  
Om Aim Hreem Vagdevinai Swaha Nasame Sarwa Dhavathu  
Om Hreem Vidhya Dishtatru Devayai Swaha choshtam Sadavathu  
Om Srim Hreem Bramyai Swahethi Danhta Pankthim Sadavathu  
Om Aim Itheyekaksharo Mantra Mama Kantam Sadavathu  
Om Srim Hreem Pathume Grevam Skandoume Sreem Sadavathu  
Om Hreem Vidhya Dishtatru Devayai Swaha Vakshaha Sadavathu  
Om Hreem Vidhyadhi Swarupayai Swaha Pathu Nabhi Kaam  
Om Hreem Kleem Vanayai Swahethi Mama Hasthou Sadavathu  
Om Swarna Varnathmikayai Padayugmum Sadavathu  
Om Vaga Dishtathru Devayai Swaha Sarwangam Sadavathu  
Om Sarwa Kanta Vasinayi Swaha Prachayam Sadavathu  
Om Sarwa Jihavagra Vasinayi Swaha Agnidisi Rakshathu  
Om Srim Hreem Kleem Saraswathayi Budha Jananayi Swaha  
Sathatham Mantra Rajoyam Dakshane Maam Sadavathu  
Om Aim Hreem Srim Thyaksharo Mantra Nairuthayam Sarwa Davathu  
Om Aim Hreem Jihva Grvasinayi Swaha Maam Vaarunevathu*



*Om Sarwambikayai Swaha Vayevyam Maam Sadavathu  
Om Aim Sreem Kleem Gadhyavasinayai Swaha Maam utharevathu  
Om Aim Sarva Sastra Vasinayi Swaha Eesanyam Sadavathu  
Om Hreem Sarwa Pujithayai Swaha Cha Uordhvam Sadavathu  
Om Hreem Pusthaka Vasinayi Swaha Adhomaam Sadavathu  
Om Grandha Beeja Swarupayai Swaha Maam Sarvathovathu  
Idham Viswaya Jayam Nama Kavacham Brahma Rupakam*

### **Sankalpam (Oath) to get the Benefits of River Bath**

#### **Sri Gurubhyo Namaha**

*(Take the oath) Kesavaya Swaha, Narayanaya Swaha and Madhavaya Swaha  
Sankalapam: Ganga Snanam Aham Karishye.*

### **Kuja Dosha Sthotram**

*Thath Puthro Mangalo Gneyo Ghateso Mangalatmaja*

### **Vasudha Mantra or Bhudevi Mantra**

*Om Hreem Sreem Kleem Vasudhayai Swaha*

### **Bhudevi Dhyanam**

*Jaye Jaye Jaladhare, Jala Seele, Jala Pradhe  
Yajna Sukara Jaye Thvam Jayam Dehe Jaya Vahe*

*Mangale Mangaladhare, Mangalye Mangalapraddhe,  
Mangalardham Mangalese Mangalam Dehi Me Bhave*

*Sarwadhare Cha Sarvagne Sarwashakthi Samanvithe,  
Sarwakamapradhe Devi Sarveshtam Dehi Me Bhave*

*Punya Swarupe Punyananam Bijarupe Sanathani  
Punyaasraye Punyavathamalaye Punyade Bhave*

*Sarwa Sasya Laye Sarwa Sasyadye Sarwa Sasyade  
Sarwa Sasya Hare Kale Sarwa Sasyathmike Bhave*

*Bhoo Me Bhoomie Pa Sarwasve Bhoomi Pala Parayane  
Bhoomi Panaam Sukhakare Bhumim Dhehi Cha Bhumide*

## **Bhudevi Dhyana Stothram**

*Idham Sthotram Mahapunyam Prathuruthaya yah pathet  
Koti janmasu sa bhavedhbalavan Bhumi peswaraha*

## **Tulasi Mantra**

*Om Shreem Hreem Kleem Aim Brundavanyeye Namaha*

## **Gayathri Mantra is Known as Savithri Mantra From Rigveda**

*Om Bhuur-Bhuvah Svah, Tat-Savitur-Varenniyam,  
Bhargo Devasya Dhiimahi, Dhiyo Yo Nah Prachothayath*

## **Indra Krutha Lakshmi Sthothram**

namaḥ kamalavāsinyai nārāyaṇyai namō namaḥ |  
kṛṣṇapriyāyai satatam mahālakṣmai namō namaḥ || 1 ||  
padmapatrēkṣaṇāyai ca padmāsyāyai namō namaḥ |  
padmāsanāyai padminyai vaiṣṇavyai ca namō namaḥ || 2 ||  
sarvasampatsvarūpiṇyai sarvārādhyai namō namaḥ |  
haribhaktipradātryai ca harṣadātryai namō namaḥ || 3 ||  
kṛṣṇavakṣaḥsthitāyai ca kṛṣṇēśāyai namō namaḥ |  
candraśōbhāsvarūpāyai ratnapadmē ca śōbhanē || 4 ||  
sampatyadhiṣṭhāṭṛdēvyai mahādēvyai namō namaḥ |  
namō vṛddhisvarūpāyai vṛddhidāyai namō namaḥ || 5 ||  
vaikuṇṭhē yā mahālakṣmīḥ yā lakṣmīḥ kṣīrasāgarē |  
svargalakṣmīrindragēhē rājalakṣmīḥ nṛpālayē || 6 ||  
grhalakṣmīśca grhiṇām gēhē ca grhadēvatā |  
surabhissāgarē jātā dakṣiṇā yajñakāmanī || 7 ||  
aditirdēvamātā tvam kamalā kamalālayē |  
svāhā tvam ca havirdhānē kavyadānē svadhā smṛtā || 8 ||  
tvam hi viṣṇusvarūpā ca sarvādhārā vasundharā |  
śuddhasattvasvarūpā tvam nārāyaṇaparāyāṇā || 9 ||

krōdhahiṃsāvarjitā ca varadā śāradā śubhā |  
paramārthapradā tvaṃ ca haridāsyapradā parā || 10 ||

yayā vinā jagatsarvaṃ bhasmībhūtamāsarakam |  
jīvanmṛtaṃ ca viśvaṃ ca śaśvatsarvaṃ yayā vinā || 11 ||

sarvēṣāṃ ca parā mātā sarvabāndhavarūpiṇī |  
dharmārthakāmamōkṣāṇāṃ tvaṃ ca kāraṇarūpiṇī || 12 ||

yathā mātā stanāndhānāṃ śīsūnāṃ śaiśavē sadā |  
tathā tvaṃ sarvadā mātā sarvēṣāṃ sarvarūpataḥ || 13 ||

māṭṛhīnaḥstanāndhastu sa ca jīvati daivataḥ |  
tvayā hīnō janaḥ kō:'pi na jīvatyēva niścitam || 14 ||  
suprasannasvarūpā tvaṃ mām prasannā bhavāmbikē |  
vairigrastaṃ ca viṣayaṃ dēhi mahyaṃ sanātani || 15 ||

ahaṃ yāvattvayā hīnaḥ bandhuhīnaśca bhikṣukaḥ |  
sarvasampadvihīnaśca tāvadēva haripriyē || 16 ||

rājyaṃ dēhi śriyaṃ dēhi balaṃ dēhi surēśvari |  
kīrtiṃ dēhi dhanam dēhi yaśō mahyaṃ ca dēhi vai || 17 ||

kāmaṃ dēhi matiṃ dēhi bhōgāndēhi haripriyē |  
jñānaṃ dēhi ca dharmam ca sarvasaubhāgyamīpsitam || 18 ||

prabhāvaṃ ca pratāpaṃ ca sarvādhikāramēva ca |  
jayaṃ parākramaṃ yuddhē paramaiśvaryamaiva ca || 19 ||

ityuktvā ca mahēndraśca sarvaiḥ suragaṇaiḥ saha |  
praṇamāma sāśrunētrō mūrdhnā caiva punaḥ punaḥ || 20 ||

brahmā ca śaṅkaraścaiva śēṣō dharmaśca kēśavaḥ |  
sarvēcakruḥ parihāraṃ surārthē ca punaḥ punaḥ || 21 ||

dēvēbhyaśca varaṃ datvā puṣpamālāṃ manōharām |  
kēśavāya dadā lakṣmīḥ santuṣṭā surasaṃsadi || 22 ||

yayudaivāśca santuṣṭāḥ svaṁ svaṁ sthānaṁ ca nārada |  
dēvī yayau harēḥ krōḍaṁ dṛṣṭā kṣīrōdaśāyinaḥ || 23 ||

yayatuścaiya svagrhaṁ brahmēsānī ca nārada |  
datvā śubhāśiṣaṁ tau ca dēvēbhyaḥ prītipūrvakam || 24 ||

idaṁ stōtram mahāpuṇyaṁ trisandhyaṁ yaḥ paṭhēnnaraḥ |  
kubēratulyaḥ sa bhavēt rājarājēśvarō mahān || 25 ||

siddhastōtram yadi paṭhēt sō:’pi kalpatarūrnaraḥ |  
pañcalakṣajapēnaiva stōtrasiddhirbhavēnnṛṇām || 26 ||

siddhastōtram yadi paṭhēnmāsamēkaṁ ca samyutaḥ |  
mahāsukhī ca rājēndrō bhaviṣyati na saṁśayaḥ || 27 ||

### **Vyuha Lakshmi Mahamantram**

*Om Sree Om Namaha Parama Laksmayai Vishnu Vakshaha Stbithayai Ramayai Aas-  
retha Tarakayai Namō Vandhiyayai Namaha*

### **Swaha Devi**

*Om Hreem Sreem Vandhijayayai Deveyai Swaha*

### **Swadha Devi**

*Om Hreem Sreem Kleem Swadha Deveyai Swaha*

### **Dakshina Devi**

*Om Sreem Kleem Hreem Dakshinayai Swaha*

### **Sashti Devi Stothram**

*Namō Devyai Mahā Devyai Sidhyai Santhyai Namō Namaha,  
Shubhayai Devasenayai Sashtyai Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Varadayai, Puthradayai Dhanadhayai Namō Namaha,  
Sukhdhayai, Mokshdayai, Sashtyai Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Srishtiyayai, Sashtamsa Swaroopayai Sidhyayai Cha Namō Namaha,  
Mayayai Sidha Yoginyai, Sashti Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Saarayai Saradayai Cha Para Devyai Namō Namaha,  
Baladishtryai Devyai Cha Sashti Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Kalyanadayai Kalyanyai Phaladayai Cha Karmanaam,  
Prathyakshyai Sva Bhakthaanam, Sashtyai Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Poojyayai Skanda Kanthayai Sarvesham Sarva Karmasu,  
Deva Rakshana Karinyai Sashti Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Shuddha Sathwa Swaroopayai Vandhithyai, Nrunaam Sadaa,  
Himsa Krodha Varjithyai, Sashti Devyai Namō Namaha.*

*Dhanam Dehi Priyam Dehi, Puthram Dehi Sureswari,  
Manam Dehi Jayam Dehi Dvisho Jahi Maheswari*

*Dharmam Dehi , Yaso Dehi, Sashti Devyai Namō Namaha.  
Dehi Bhumim, Prajaam Dehi, Vidhyaam Dehi Supoojithe,  
Kalyanam Cha Jayam Dehi, Sashti Devyai Namō Namaha.*

### **Mangala Chandi or Mangaladevi**

*Om Hreem Sreem Kleem Sarva Poojye Devi Mangala Chandike,  
Hoom Hoom Phat Swaha (ethyevam*

*Cha Apya) Ekavinsakharo Manu Poojya Kalpa Tharuschaiwa  
Bhakthaanam Sarva Kamadha,*

### **Lord Siva Worshipping Chandi Devi**

*Raksha Raksha Jagan Mathaha Devi Mangala Chandike,  
Harike Vipadam Rasehe Harsha Mangala Karine.*

*Harsha Mangala Dakshecha, Harsha Mangala Dayike,  
Shubhe Mangala Dakshecha, Shubha Mangala Chandike.*

*Mangale , Mangalarhe Cha, Sarva Mangala Mangale,  
Sathaam Mangaladhe Devi, Sarveshaam Mangalalaye.*

### **Dhyana Slokam of Manasa Devi**

*Naganam Prana Rakshitri Yagne Parikshatasya Cha,  
Nageshwari Dwikhyatha Sanaga Bhaga Neethicha*

### **Manasa Devi Slokam by Jarathkaruvu**

*Yogina viswapujasya Jarathkaru priya thataha  
Jarathkaru Jagathgowri, Manasa, Siddha Yogini  
Vaishnavi Naga Bhagini Saivi Nageshwari Thada  
Jarathkaru Priya asthika Matha Visha Harethicha  
Mahagnanayutha Chaiva Sa Devi Viswa Pujitha*

### **Surabhi Mantra**

*Om Surabhyai Namaha*

### **Indra Kritha Surabhi Stothram**

*Purandara Uvacha*

*Namo Devyai Maha Devyai Surabhye Cha Namō Nama,  
Gavaam Bheja Swaroopaayai, Namasthe Jagadambike*

*Namo Radhaa Priyaayai Cha Padmamsaayai Namō Nama,  
Namah Krishna Priyayai Cha Gaavaam Mathre Namō Namaha*

*Kalpa Vruksha Swaroopayai Sarveshaam Sathatham Pare,  
Ksheeradhaayai Dhanadhayai Budhidhayai Namō Nama*

*Shubhadhaayai Subhadrayai Gopradhaayai Namō Nama,  
Yasodhaayai Keerthidhayai Dharmadayai Namō Nama.*

*Stotra Sravana Mathrena Thushtaa, Hrushtaa Jagath Prasu hu.*

### **Main Stothram before the start of Devi Bhagavatham**

ॐ सर्व चैतन्य रुपां तामद्यां वदियां च धीमहि बुद्धयि नः प्रचोदयात्

*Om Sarva Chaitanya Roopam Taam Aadyam Vidyaam cha Dheemahi*

*Buddhim Yaa Nah Prachodayaat*



## **Guru Mantrams**

1

*Gurur Brahma Gurur Vishnu Gurur Devo Maheswaraha  
Gurureva Param Brahma Tasmai Sri Gurave Namaha*

2

*Vande Guru Pada Dwandwam Avangmanasa Gocharam Rakta-Shukla  
Prabha Mishram Atarkyam Trai-Puram Maha ha*

3

*Thadho Nija Brahma Randre, Dhyayethe Tham Gurum Eswaram*

## **Mantram for inviting Rivers into Kalasam for Abhikesham**

*Gange Cha Yamune Chaiva Krishne Godavari Saraswathi  
Narmade Sindhu Kaveri Jale Asmin Sannidhim Kuru*

## **Mantram for Goddess Radha**

*Sri Radhayai Namaha*

## **Mantram for Goddess Jaganmatha**

Om Aim Hreem Kleem Sreem Sri Mathre Namaha  
Om Sri Mathre Namaha

## **Mantram while doing Pradikshanam in temple**

When doing Pradikshanam around the deity in a temple we have to chant  
the slokam

Papoham, Papa Karmaham, Papatma, Papa Sambhavaha  
Thrahimama Krupaya Deva Saranagatha Vasthala

## **Ashtakshari Narayana Mantram**

Om Namo Narayana

## **Dwadasa Jyothir Linga Nama Sthotram, Mrutyunjaya and Siva Panchakshri Mantram**

*Saurashtre Somanatham Cha Shrishaile Mallikarjunam  
Ujjaiyinyam Mahakaalam Omkarama-Maheshwaram*

*Paralyam Vaidyanatham Cha Dakinyam Bheemashankaram  
Setubandhe Tu Ramesham Nagesham Darukavane*

*Varanasyam Tu Vishvesham Tryambakam Gautamitate  
Himalaye Tu Kedaram Gushmesham Cha Shivalaye*

*Atani Jyotirlingani Sayam Pratah Pathennarah  
Saptajanma Kritam Papam Smaranena Vinashyati*

After meditating on Guru chant this mantra

*Om Tryambakam Yajamahe Sugandhim Pushti-Vardhanam  
Urvarukamiva Bandhanan Mrityormukshiya Mamritat*

Or

*Om Agniriti Bhasma, Vayuriti Bhasma, Jalamiti Bhasma,  
Sthalamiti Bhasma, Vyometi Bhasma, Sarva Goon Idam Bhasma  
Yetani Chakshunkhi Bhasmaani*

Or

*By chanting Lord Shiva's name*

*SIVA Panchakshari is Na Ma Shi Va Ya, the Stotram starts with these syllables (Na Ma Shi Va Ya) and ends with the same.*

*Nagendra Haraya Trilochanaya,  
Basmanga Ragaya Maheswaraya,  
Nithyaya Shudhaya Digambaraya,  
Tasmai 'Na' karaya Namashivaya.*

*Mandakini Salila Chandana Charchithaya,  
Nandeewara Pramadha Nadha Maheswaraya,  
Mandara Pushpa Bahu Pushpa Supoojithaya,*

*Tasmai 'Ma' karaya Namashivaya.  
Shivaaya Gowri Vadanara Vinda,  
Sooryaya Daksha Dwara Naasakaya,  
Sri Neela Kantaya Vrisha Dwajaya,  
Tasmai 'Si' karaya Namashivaya.*

*Vasishtha Kumbhodhbhava Gowthamadhi.  
Munendra Devarchitha Shekaraya,  
Chandrarka Vaiswanara Lochanaya,  
Tasmai 'Va' karaya Namashivaya.*

*Yaksha Swaroopaya Jada Dharaya,  
Pinaka Hasthathaya Sanathanaya,  
Divyaya Devaaya Digambaraya,  
Tasmai 'Ya' karaya Namashivaya.*

*Phalasruthi*

*Panchak- Sharamidham Punyam,  
Ya Padeth Shiva Sannidhou,  
Shivaloka Maapnothi,  
Shive Na Saha Modathe.*

**Sampoorna Sri Devi Bhagavatham by Sri Vaddiparthi Padmakar from  
5th March 2019 to 5th April 2019 at Sri Sharada Parameswari Devasthanam,  
Sri Sringeri Shankar Math, Sampath Nagar, Guntur.**

**YouTubelink:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFyy0WdIpgo&list=PLtp-ZIhnmnbVuYJ0WgNSAtJUO93iDQ9K77>

| Sl.No. | Chapter                    | Date     | Particulars  | Time             |
|--------|----------------------------|----------|--|------------------|
| 1      | Chapter 1                  | 05/03/19 | Devi Bhagavatham Slokam  | 19:34            |
|        |                            |          | Veda Stuthi  | 42:50            |
| 2      | Chapter 2 Part 2           | 06/03/19 | Hayagreeva Stothram  | 1:22:25          |
|        |                            |          | Jaganmatha mantra  | 1:21:40          |
| 3      | Chapter 3                  | 07/03/19 | Sloka for Knowledge and Divinity                                   | 1:10:46          |
| 4      | Chapter 4,8,16,17          | 08/03/19 | Navakshara and Navarna mantra                                      | 1:25:40          |
|        |                            |          | Mrutyunjaya Mantra for easy death                                  | 1:14:35          |
|        |                            |          | Pancha Pujalu Beeja Mantram  | *****            |
| 5      | Chapter 5                  | 09/03/19 | t) Sandalwood  | 11:45            |
|        |                            |          | u) Flowers   | 11:55            |
|        |                            |          | uu) Dhoopam  | 12:34            |
|        |                            |          | 10) Deepam   | 14:00            |
|        |                            |          | o) Naivedyam   | 15:24            |
|        |                            |          | oo) Mistakes done during Pancha Pujalu                             | 19:35            |
| 6      | Chapter 7                  | 11/03/19 | Siva Panchakshari Mantram  | 1:22:10          |
| 7      | Chapter 9                  | 13/03/19 | Mantram while doing Pradikshanam in a temple                       | 32:05            |
| 8      | Chapter 11, Chapter 11, 28 | 15/03/19 | Mantram for inviting river waters in Kamandalam<br>Ambika Kavacham | 19:33<br>1:42:30 |
| 9      | Chapter 12                 | 16/03/19 | Navaratri Pooja Prarambham mantra                                  | 1:16:16          |
| 10     | Chapter 15                 | 19/03/19 | Mahalakshmi Mantra   | 1:43:50          |
| 11     | Chapter 18                 | 22/03/19 | Chandika Navarna Mantra  | 1:29:18          |

| Sl.No. | Chapter    | Date     | Particulars                       | Time    |
|--------|------------|----------|-----------------------------------|---------|
|        | Chapter 19 | 23/03/19 | Mantra for removing dilemma       | 1:49:02 |
| 12     | Chapter 20 | 24/03/19 | Shakambhari Mantram               | 1:07:30 |
|        |            |          | Vedic Prayer for Jaganmatha       | 1:58:07 |
| 13     | Chapter 21 | 25/03/19 | Saraswathi Dhyana Sloka I         | 1:36:59 |
|        |            |          | Saraswathi Dhyana Sloka II        | 1:38:29 |
|        |            |          | Saraswathi Mula Mantra            | 1:42:43 |
|        |            |          | Saraswathi Kavacham               | 1:51:43 |
| 14     | Chapter 22 | 26/03/19 | Sankalpam before having river dip | 31:05   |
|        |            |          | Kujha Dosha Mantram               | 1:22:02 |
|        |            |          | Bhudevi Mantra                    | 1:33:01 |
|        |            |          | Bhudevi Dhyanam                   | 1:34:18 |
|        |            |          | Bhudevi Dhyana Stothram           | 1:37:03 |
| 15     | Chapter 23 | 27/03/19 | Tulasi Mantram                    | 1:48:56 |
|        |            |          | Gayathri Mantram                  | 1:56:05 |
| 16     | Chapter 24 | 28/03/19 | Ashtakshari Narayana Mantram      | 1:08:20 |
|        |            |          | Indra Krutha Lakshmi Stothram     | 1:27:38 |
|        |            |          | Vyuha Lakshmi Maha Mantram        | 1:31:25 |
|        |            |          | Swaha Devi Mantram                | 1:55:39 |
|        |            |          | Swadha Devi Mantram               | 2:07:28 |
| 17     | Chapter 25 | 29/03/19 | Dakshina Devi Mantram             | 27:47   |
|        |            |          | Sashti Devi Stothram              | 1:21:54 |
|        |            |          | Mangala Chandi Mantram            | 1:37:56 |
|        |            |          | Lord Siva worshipping Chandi Devi | 1:38:41 |
|        |            |          | Mansa Devi Dhyana Sloka           | 1:56:42 |

| Sl.No. | Chapter                      | Date     | Particulars                       | Time    |
|--------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 18     | Chapter 26                   | 30/03/19 | Mansa Devi Sloka by Jarath-karuvu | 1:14:20 |
|        |                              |          | Surabhi Mantra                    | 1:42:28 |
|        |                              |          | Indra Krutha Surabhi Stothram     | 1:47:09 |
|        |                              |          | Radha Devi Mantram                | 1:50:53 |
| 19     | Chapter 28                   | 01/04/19 | Dwadasa Jyothirlingam Sthotram    | 38:09   |
|        |                              |          | Maha Mrutyunjaya Mantram          | 39:10   |
| 20     | Chapter 7,<br>Chapter 28     | 11/03/19 | Guru Mantram I                    | 5:48    |
|        |                              | 28/03/19 |                                   | 28:48   |
|        | Chapter 11, 28<br>Chapter 28 | 15/03/19 | Guru Mantram II                   | 1:26:52 |
|        |                              | 28/03/19 |                                   | 31.19   |
|        | Chapter 30                   | 03/04/19 | Guru Mantram III                  | 13:13   |



## GLOSSARY

- **3 POWERS---WILL, ACTION, WISDOM**
- **3 GUNAS - SATTVIK, RAJASIC, TAMASIC .**
- **3 KAALA---PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE**
- **3 LOKAS—SWARG, BHU LOKAM AND PATAL LOKAM**
- **3 TYPES OF MISERIES –PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL**
- **3 MODES OF NATURE--CREATION, NUTURANCE AND DESTRUCTION**
- **ABHISHEKAM:** Abhishekam means “bathing of the divinity to whom worship is offered
- **AGARUDRAMALU** a black gum of incense is acquired from the trees and made as sticks which are lit for worship
- **AGNIHOTRA:** Is a Brahmin who perform the Agnihotra ritual by chanting the verses from the Rigveda. The Brahmin who performs Agnihotra ritual is called Agnihotri.
- **AGNIHOTRAM:** Ritual of chanting the verses from RIGVEDA while casting of ghee into the holy fire, performed on every sunset and sunrise
- **AHALYA:** Wife of the Sage Gautama Maharishi, she was seduced by Indra

- AKSHAUHINI: A battle formation consisting of 21,870 chariots (Sanskrit Ratha); 21,870 elephants (Sanskrit Gaja); 65,610 horses (Sanskrit Turaga) and 109,350 infantries (Sanskrit pada Saniya)
- AMRUTHAM : Elixir
- APSARAS: Celestial fairy
- ARANI: Sacrificial churning twig from which is kindled for fire.
- ARCHANA: A special, personal, abbreviated puja done in which, the name, birth star and family lineage of a devotee are recited to invoke individual guidance and blessings
- ARDHA NARAYANESWARA: Composite androgynous form Siva and Parvati (the latter being known as Devi, Shakti and Uma in this icon)
- ARTHA: Prosperity, Economic values
- ASHRAM: Ashram is the name traditionally given to a spiritual hermitage or a monastery. A spiritual or religious guru lives with their disciples there.
- ASHTA DIKPALAS: The guardians of direction. There are eight deities who are responsible for protecting the eight directions of the world
- ASWAMEDHA grandest of the Vedic religious rites of ancient India, performed by a kings to celebrate their supremacy. ... If the horse entered a foreign kingdom, its ruler had either to fight or to submit.
- ATMA VIDYA (higher knowledge by which one knows the changeless Reality).
- BAKSHYAM: Bakshanam is used in most of the languages in India for any snacks. We don't use it as food, but as snacks in between main meals. Most of the items we keep it for long, because they don't get spoiled that quickly. It means like sweets, Bombay Mixture, Tamil Murukku etc.
- BEEJAKSHARA: Beejaksharas are placed in particular order to harness energies of a particular deities.

- **BHAJAN** :Bhajans are typically lyrical and convey love for the Divine.
- **BHOJYAM**: Bojanam is our normal food like rice and Chapatti; the word is very popular in most parts of India. The word stands for meals in general. This can get spoiled in 24 or 48 hours because it is cooked food
- **BLACK DEER SKIN**: in Kali Yuga sitting on it is prohibited to avoid harm to animals.
- **BRAHMACHARYA DEEKSHA**: the stage of life of the student, entailing study of the Vedas and complete celibacy, usually lasting for twelve years
- **BRAHMARSHI**: is a Sage who has attained enlightenment (Kaivalya or Moksha) and became a Jivanmukta by completely understanding the meaning of Brahman and has attained the highest divine knowledge, infinite knowledge(omniscience)
- **BUDHA**: Planet son of Moon (Chandra) and Tara
- **CHAKRA**: Disk-like weapon literally meaning “disk of auspicious vision”
- **CHINTHAMANI**: Wish-fulfilling” gem with extraordinary power.
- **DARSHAN**: Darshan, a Sanskrit term used for “visions of the divine” auspicious sight” of a holy person
- **DEEKSHA**: Preparation or consecration for a religious ceremony.
- **DEEPAM**: Oil lamp usually made from clay, with a cotton wick dipped in ghee oil
- **DEVI HAS FOUR AUSPICIOUS MONTHS**: They are, Aswayuja (During October/ Devi Navratri), Aashaadha, (around the middle of June) Chaitra (month starts on March and ends on April), Magha (month starts on February on March).
- **DHARBALU**: Known as Half Grass and salt red grass
- **DHARMA**: Means righteousness, good moral and ethical practices in accordance with the scriptures. The eternal and inherent nature of reality, as a cosmic law underlying with right behaviour and social order

- DHOOPAM: Perfumed incense
- DOSHAM: Condition that has flaws, un-favorable or not good.
- GADHA: is a mallet or blunt mace,
- GANDHAM: Sandal wood powder or paste
- GARUDA: is a bird from Hindu mythology that has a mix of eagle and human features. It is the vehicle (*vahana*) of Lord Vishnu
- GHANDHARVAS: Distinct heavenly beings
- GRUHASTASRAMAM: get married to a woman who would be his perfect partner in his duties. His duties included “to live ethically as husband-wife, produce children, look after them, and run the family, to serve the parents and elders,
- Guru bhakti : Guru bhakti is something that is not taught or learned, but, instead, it is heartfelt and devotional belief in a guru as a deity.
- *GURU DAKSHINA*: Refers to the tradition of repaying one’s teacher or guru after a period of study
- GURU: A religious teacher and spiritual guide
- GURUKULA: Was a type of education system in ancient India with shishya (‘students’ or ‘disciples’) living near or with the guru, in the same house
- INDRA: The king of the Gods
- JITENDRIYA: Refers to one having subjugated his senses
- **KAILASH SAMHITA**: This part talks about what is Yoga and the prescribed lifestyle of a Sanyasi who is practicing Yoga.
- KAIVALYAM: Means becoming one with the Lord. Kaivalyam does not mean merging in the Lord physically. Whatever the devotee says, the Lord will say the

same. Whatever the devotee wishes the Lord wishes the same. This is vice-versa also. Such oneness is called Kaivalyam.

- **KALASAM:** A metal pot with a large base and small mouth, to hold a coconut. Sometimes “kalasha” also refers to such a pot filled with water and topped with a coronet of mango leaves and a coconut
- **KALPAMU:** A regular Kalpa is approximately 16 million years long (16,798,000 years), and a small Kalpa is 1000 regular kalpaks, or about 16.8 billion years. Further, a medium Kalpa is roughly 336 billion years, the equivalent of 20 small kalpaks. A great Kalpa is 4 medium kalpaks, or around 1.344 trillion years
- **KALPAVRIKSHAM:** Wish-fulfilling divine tree
- **KAMA:** Pleasure, lust, love, psychological values
- **KAMADHENU:** Kamdhenu, (‘wish fulfilling-cow’), was a miraculous cow of plenty who could give her owner whatever he desired.
- **KAMANDALAM** (was is an oblong water pot), and
- **KARMA YOGI:** Right action is a form of prayer
- **KOTIRUDRA SAMHITA-** This section covers story of origin of the 12 Jyotirlingas.
- **KUMKUMA:** A vermillion mark on the forehead
- **KURMAVATARA:** Vishnu’s Incarnation as a Tortoise
- **LEHYAM:** English word lick come from the same root of this Sanskrit word. Anything that is semi solid and semi liquid, mostly used in medicines nowadays is called Lehyam. Honey based items, Panchaamrutham, Chyavanaprash, medicinal Lehyam etc. fall under this category.
- **MAHARSHI:** Sanskrit word, Devanagari meaning a member of the high class of ancient Indian scientists, popularly known in India as “Rishis”. In English Maharshi means a Sage or Rishis

- MAHATMA: A Great soul
- MANGALA SUTRA: A necklace that the groom ties around the bride's neck during marriage
- MANIDWEEPAM: Manidvipa/Manidweepam is eternal supreme abode of goddess Bhuvaneshvari Devi Mula Prakritithe. Also known as Sripura, Śri Nagara and Devi Loka, it is an island situated in the middle of an ocean called the Sudha Samudra
- MAYA: Means illusion or enchantment
- MEHANDHI: Henna is a paste that is bought in a cone-shaped tube and is made into designs for men and women. Mehndi is derived from the Sanskrit word mendhika.
- MENAKA: Born during the churning of the ocean by the devas and asuras and was one of the most beautiful apsaras (celestial fairy)
- MOKSHA: Liberation, spiritual values
- NAIMISHARANYA: The Holy forest where Shree Veda Vyasa taught the Vedas and all the Puranas to his disciples. Later it is in this very holy place that Romaharshana or Lomaharshana, Veda Vyasa's disciple, narrated the Puranas to several Rishis.
- NAIVEDYAM: Food offered to a deity as part of a worship ritual, before eating it
- NAVRATRI PUJA: Devi puja for nine days during the time of Dussehra
- NIRGUNA: Without form or without qualities,
- PAAN: Also called betel quid, an Indian after-dinner treat that consists of a betel leaf (Piper beetle) filled with chopped betel (areca) nut (Areca catechu) and slaked lime (chuna; calcium hydroxide), to which assorted other ingredients, including red Katha paste (made from the khair tree



- PADMAVYŪHA: A multi-tiered defensive formation that looks like a lotus in bloom when viewed from above. The warriors at each interleaving position would be in an increasingly tough position to fight against.
- PANCHA MAHA PATHAKALU: 5 great sins
- PANCHA MATHAS: Who can be considered as mothers.
- PARA BRAHMA: That which is beyond all descriptions and conceptualizations
- PARANI: Decorating the feet by reddening the instep using herbs
- PARIKRAMA OR PRADAKSHINA: Refers to circumambulation of sacred places to imbibe their energy and the path along which this is performed. Parikrama means “the path surrounding something”
- PATALA LOKAM: Denotes the subterranean realms of the universe, which are located under the Earth.
- PINDAPRADHANA: Performing ritual after the death of a person. The word PINDA means body and DHAAN denotes charity or giving. Giving charity to the body of, the deceased. An act of acknowledgement and respect in the memory of departed elders
- PITRU YAGNA: Performing sacred rites to forefathers.
- PRADHAKSHINAM: The action of walking clockwise around a deity as a mark of devotion. The path surrounding something
- PRALAYAM: Comes from Sanskrit meaning “dissolution” or by extension “re-absorption, destruction, annihilation or death”.
- PUJA/ POOJA : The loving offering of light, flowers, and water or food to the divine.
- PURANAM: The word Purana literally means “ancient, old”, and it is a vast genre of Indian literature about a wide range of topics, particularly myths, legends and other traditional lore

- PURNAHUTHI: grains, sandal wood sticks, ghee etc. into the fire while chanting specified mantras
- PUSHPAM: Flowers
- RAJAS: passion, active, confused
- **RED CORAL FOR MANGALA (MARS):** The colour red is often associated with vitality and sexuality. Red coral helps to energize the wearer and bestows upon them insight and courage. On the other hand, it can also kindle negative repercussions like increased anger, inability to control passion/temper. It should be avoided by people with a high sex drive and should not be worn by a person suffering from fever.
- **RUDRA SAMHITA:** This section contains stories of genesis including how Vishnu and Brahma came into existence, stories related to Sati and Daksha and battles with demons like Tarakasurudu and Tripurasuras.
- RUTHVIK: A person who performs all the Vedic procedures like Homam in particular.
- SAGUNA: Worship of God with form.
- SANYASASHRAM: Sannyasashram means progressing from sacrifice towards detachment and providing other jivas with practical education on moral values.
- SAREE/SARI: A garment worn by Hindu women
- SARPA YAGAM: Snake sacrifice was a yagna performed by Emperor Janamejeya of the Kuru empire who had ascended to the throne of Hastinapur upon the death of his father Parikshit. He attempted this by performing a great sacrifice that would destroy all living serpents.
- SATTTVA : goodness, constructive, harmonious
- SHANKHA: A conch shell of ritual the “divine conch” or the “sacred chank”.
- **SHATRUDRA SAMHITA:** This chapter talks about the 10 incarnations of Lord Siva.

- SHESHA SAYANA : Naga Sayana means Vishnu who sleeps (Sayana) on Sesa Naga.
- *SIDDHI*: Fulfillment, accomplishment are material, paranormal, supernatural, or otherwise magical powers, abilities, and attainments that are the products of yogic advancement through sādhanās such as meditation and yoga.
- SLOKA: A couple of Sanskrit verse, especially one in which each line contains sixteen syllables.
- SMARPAYAMI: I am offering offer sandalwood to Devi to get back the land.
- SMRITHI: The do's and don'ts, book
- SOSHYAM: English word suck is cognate with this word. You use a straw to suck the liquid out of the cup. Fruit juices, milk shakes, Rose milk etc. fall under this category.
- SRI VIDYA: Is one of the Dasa Maha Vidyas and her form is identified with Lalita, Raja-Rajeswari, Kameshwari and Bala
- SUDARSHANA CHAKRA: Sudarshana Chakra is a spinning, disk-like weapon with 108 serrated edges used by the god Lord Vishnu
- SUDRASHANA CHAKRA: The Sudarshana Chakra is a spinning, disk-like weapon literally meaning “disk of auspicious vision,” having 108 serrated edges used by the Hindu god Vishnu
- SUKRACHARYA: Sukracharya or Asuracharya is the guru of demons
- SUKRUTHAM: Good deeds
- TALA: A traditional rhythmic pattern in classical Indian music
- TALAMBRALU: Talambralu is a ritual, the bride and groom exchange garlands and the shower on each other with pearls and rice mixed along with saffron and turmeric

- TAMAS: Darkness, destructive, chaotic
- TAPASYA: To suffer, to mortify the body, undergo penance” in order to “burn away past karma” and liberate oneself
- They are the eight deities ruling over the eight quarters of the universe.
- TRISUL: The three prongs of Trishul represents, trinity: Brahma, Vishnu, Maheswara; Saraswathi, Lakshmi and Kaali; 3 modes of nature: **creation, nurturance and destruction**
- TRISULA: The three prongs of Trishul represents — trinity –brahma , Vishnu , Mahesh; Saraswathi, Lakshmi and Kaali ;
- **UMA SAMHITA**: This section talks about how a soul can free itself from bondage of past sins and which austerities help in attaining Moksha
- **UPANAYANAM** : Is a ceremony in which a person is declared as about to ‘lead’. To Lead one must learn or train to do ‘sacrifices’ involving Niyamas (procedures) and Karmas (duties) of personal, family and society. A sacred thread is presented to the person to indicate that he has started learning the sacrifices. This is YAGNOPAVITA.
- **UPANISHADS**: Collection of sacred texts
- **VAMANA AVATARA**: Vamana, fifth of the 10 incarnations ( avatars) of god Vishnu. In the Rigveda, Vishnu took three strides, with which he measured out the three worlds: earth, heaven, and the space between them. In later mythology, the dwarf Vamana made his appearance when the demon king Bali ruled the entire universe and the gods had lost their power.
- **VANAPRASTHASHRAM**: retired from ‘Gruhasthuashram’ the couple used to go and stay with the Sages. Vanaprasthashram means staying in the forest. The person in the ‘vanaprastha’ used to act as a trustee
- **VATAPATRA SAI**: Lord sleeping on banyan tree leaf/ marri leaf. We find its presence in Markandeya Maharshi Charitra.

- **VAYVIYA SAMHITA:** This chapter details the rituals for worshipping Lord Siva and ways to overcome obstacles faced while performing Yoga.
- **VIDYESHWAR SAMHITA:** This is like an overview chapter and contains details regarding the different ways of worshipping Siva and the benefits associated with each method.
- **VIRAT- PURUSHA:** The Virat-purusha, the person managing the complete whole, acts effortlessly.
- **VISHWAMITRA:** One of the most well-known of the great Sages.
- **VRATAS:** Vrata means “vow, resolve, devotion”, and refers to the practice of austerity
- **VASHISHTA:** One of the oldest and most revered Vedic rishis. One of the Saptarishis
- **YAGNA SALA or YAGNA VATIKA** (Sacrificial hall, shed or enclosure)
- **YAGNA:** Sacrifice, devotion, worship, offering”, and refers in Hinduism to any ritual done in front of a sacred fire, often with mantras
- **YAGNAM OR YAGA:** Sacrifice, devotion, worship, offering, and any ritual done in front of a sacred fire, often with mantras.
- **YAGNOPAVEETHAM:** Sacred thread on the body without which a Yagna or a sacred ritual cannot be performed. It is called as Brahmasuthram
- **YAJNA:** In Hinduism ritual done in front of a sacred fire, often with mantras. Yajna with violence does not yield results in Kali Era. Killing of animals for Yagna is a great sin E.g.: Ashvamedha Yaga.
- **YOGA DANDA:** Wooden stick that is used to balance nostril flow while breathing, it also supports the arm in Japam meditation





## Notes







Devi Bhagavatham was the last Purana written by Sage Veda Vyasa who was an incarnation of Sri Maha Vishnu himself. This Purana contains Devi Mahatyam, Beejakshara Mantras, important places of worship, pilgrimages to be undertaken, conducting our life by following Sanathana Dharma, methods of performing puja and instances of devotees attaining Kaivalyam (Moksha). All this was beautifully explained by Pujya Guruji Shri Vaddiparti Padmakar Garu in his discourse spread over 32 days.

Reading the Devi Bhagavatham is supposed to lead to salvation of our soul. To get the maximum benefit of this book and attain Moksha, our scriptures recommend reading it during the early morning at Brahma Muhurtha time (between 3 am and 6 am)