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# Balavin Kural



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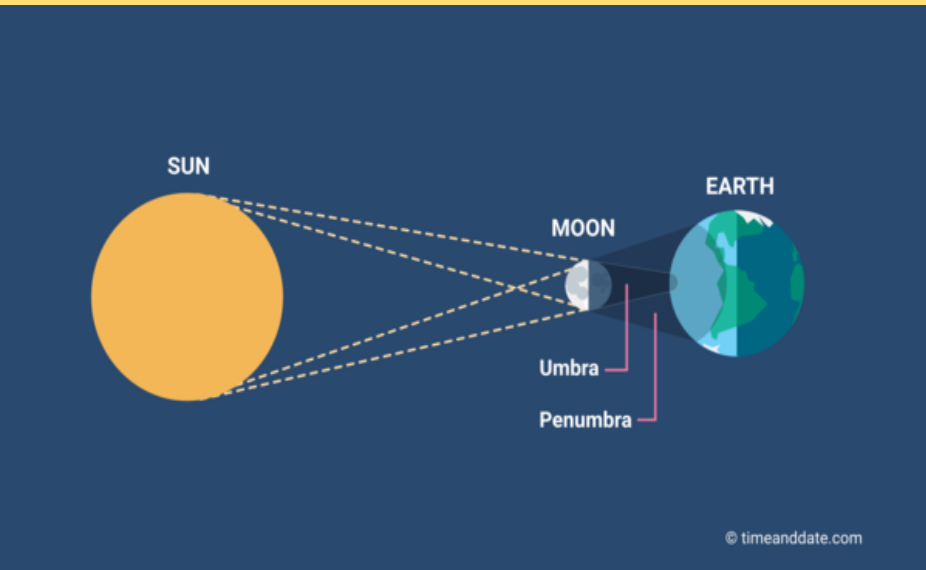
We see most of the divine forms have four hands. Our soul is self effulgent and has the supreme power of omniscience. We all have twelve inches of breath. Out of twelve inches of breath, eight inches form the basis of the body, and the other four inches represent the flow of life

## Know your Mythology: "Yayati's Transformation", by Thulasinathan Kandasamy



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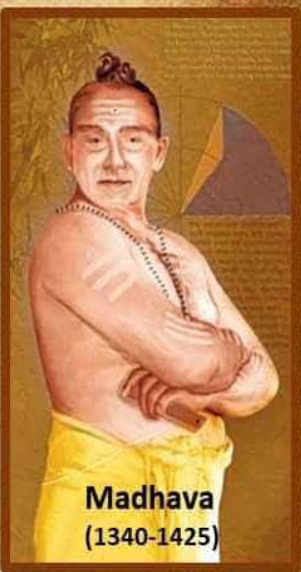
### Madhava Namputiri The Man who disrupted Calculus

Madhava Namputiri is an Indian Mathematician & Astronomer during 13<sup>th</sup> Century from Kerala. His contributions to the field of Calculus are highly disruptive and revered even today. Back then, Kerala was the Spice hub for the trade into Europe and potentially there was a flow of knowledge from India to Europe.

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# Devotee Speaks: "Chaturbhujam", by Smt. Roopa V Rajan

## Four hands and The symbolism of the divine



We see most of the divine forms have four hands. Our soul is self-effulgent and has the supreme power of omniscience. We all have twelve inches of breath. Out of twelve inches of breath, eight inches form the basis of the body, and the other four inches represent the flow of life force. This four inch breath corresponds to the soul. Hence, the total twelve inches represents both the body and the soul in it.

When a lifeform ends, the physical body actually loses its eight inches of breath. But the four inches flow of Prana remains with the soul permanently. When the soul takes up a new body, this four inches of Prana carries the old account of karma into new life.

Srividya marga calls the four inches flow of Prana into Para, Pashyanti,

Madhyama and Vaikari. They serve as energies as six Aadharas of our body making the body function properly. When the senses, mind, and breath are controlled during disciplined Tapas, one is able to sense the flow of the soul and is called Paripurna Ananda yogam. The soul which actually possesses the divine qualities loses the effulgence through countless births. Life depending only on sensory knowledge of sorrows adorns different bodies and births with the increasing attachment to the body with a sense of “I”. The spiritual thoughts and deep contemplation can help one to take back to the divine state and take out the Anava Mala of previous births. This process can reclaim the wasted four inches of breath corresponding to the soul. Conquering the flow of Prana is turning the direction of flow. (Instead of Prana in the downward direction). This movement of reversing Prana is made to flow in the vertical direction. This is possible only at the peak of Tapas and firm discipline.

A divinity with four hands represents a Brahma Jnani who has won over the four energies of Para, Pashyanti, Madhyama and Vaikari at the peak of tapas and thus attains Prana Siddhi.

Gratitude to siddhas.

Secrets of divine worship.

Balambika Charanam.

**Image courtesy:**

**<https://divyakataksham.wordpress.com/2014/05/05/>**

**vishnu-sahasranamam-part-8/**

# Know your Mythology: "Yayati's Transformation", by Thulasinathan Kandasamy



In awe of Yayati's celestial status, Janamejaya questioned why such a being was removed from heaven and allowed to enter again later, completing a full circle. He eagerly requested Vaisampayana to narrate this in the presence of the sages. 'Oh, great one! Yayati, the chief of the celestials, the brilliant progenitor of the Kurus, was a figure of immense greatness. I yearn to hear the story of his life in its entirety, ' he said, placing his request forward.

Vaisampayana said, "Certainly, I shall narrate the adventures of Yayati on Earth and heaven. It is a sacred tale that destroys the sins of those who hear it. King Yayati, the son of Nahusha, having crowned his youngest son, Puru, King, after casting his sons with Yadu for their eldest amongst the Mlechchhas, entered the forest to lead the life of a



hermit. The King, who now only lived on fruits and roots, lived for some time in the forest. By exerting complete control over his mind and passions, the King gratified the Pitrus and the gods by sacrifices. And he poured clean butter upon the fire according to the rites prescribed for those leading the Vanaprastha mode of life. Yayayi often entertained guests and strangers with the fruit of the forest and clarified butter while he supported birds and wildlife by gleaning scattered corn seeds. This was a routine and a way of life that he led for a thousand years.

Observing a vow of silence and with his mind under complete control, he spent one full year living on air alone and without sleep. Another year flew by as he practised the severest austerities amid four fires around him and the Sun over his head. He stood on one leg for six months. And the King of sacred deeds finally ascended to heaven, covering heaven and the Earth with the fame of his achievements.

While the King of kings dwelt in heaven — the home of the celestials, he was revered by the gods, the Sadhyas, the Maruts, and the Vasus. With sacred deeds and a mind under complete control, the monarch occasionally journeys from the celestial abode to the Brahman region. One day, Yayati went to Indra, and there, over the course of their conversation, Indra asked him: "What exactly did you tell your son, O king, when you placed the responsibility upon him?" Yayati answered, "I simply told him the whole country between the Ganga and Yamuna rivers was his. That is, the central region of the Earth, while the outlying regions are to be the dominions of your brothers. I also told

him that those without anger were ever superior to those under its sway; those who forgive were superior to those who would not. Man is superior to the lower animals. Among men, again, the learned are superior to the unlearned. If wronged, you mustn't do wrong in return. One's wrath, if disregarded, burns one's own self. Never subdue your foes by despicable means, and never utter such scorching and sinful words as may torture others. He who pricks men using hard and cruel words, you must know, carries in his mouth the demons. Always compare yourself with the virtuous; disregard the words of the wicked. Maintain the conduct of a wise and learned man. Practice kindness, friendship and charity. Speak words that soothe, not scorch. Regard those that deserve your regards; always give, but never beg." Vaisampayana said, After this, Indra then asked Yayati, "O son of Nahusha, who do you consider as your equal at Tapasya and Asceticism?" Yayati answered, 'O Vasava, I do not, in the matter of ascetic austerities, see my equal among men, the celestials, the Gandharvas, and the great Rishis.'" Indra was stirred by such an answer. The stench of arrogance filled his nostrils as Yayati failed to acknowledge anyone aside from himself. Indra then said, 'You disregard those that are your superiors, your equals, and even your inferiors without knowing their real merits. Your virtues have suffered diminution! You must fall from heaven.'

Yayati, realising the error of his ways, pleaded with the King of the gods, "O Sakra, if my virtues have truly waned and I must thus descend from heaven, I beseech you, chief of the celestials, let my

descent be amidst the virtuous and the honest." Indra pondered momentarily and then replied, "O king, your descent shall be amidst the virtuous and wise, earning you great renown. Let this be a lesson, O Yayati, never again disregard your superiors or equals."

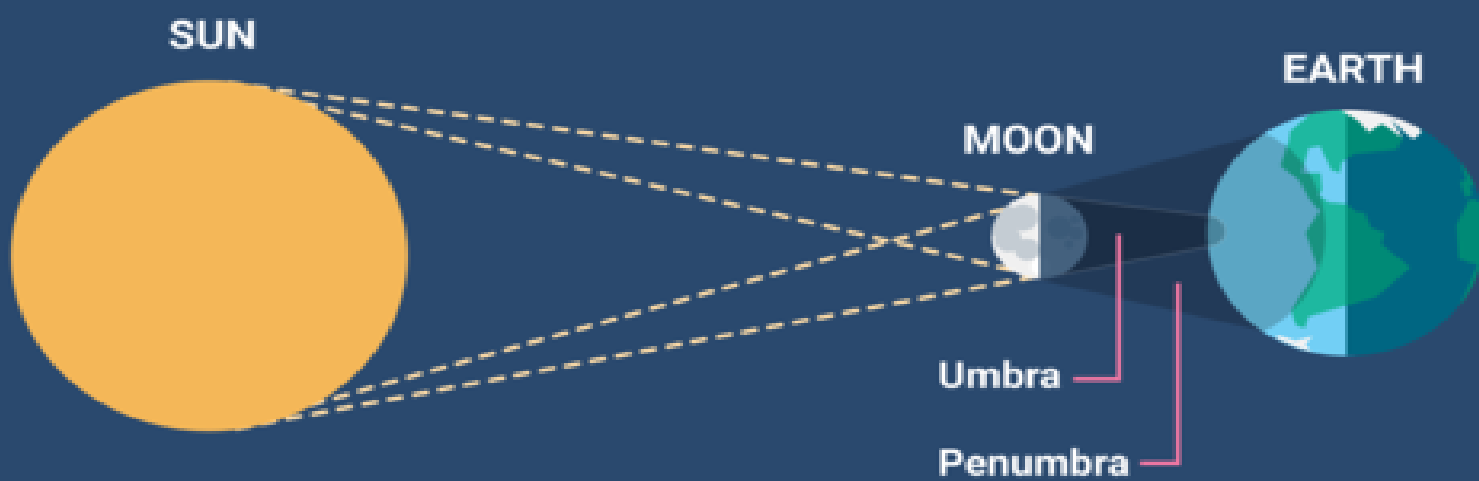
**Image courtesy:**

**[https://www.vyasaonline.com/2017/01/12/](https://www.vyasaonline.com/2017/01/12/yayati/mahabharata/)**

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# Science Snippets: "Total Solar Eclipse – Why is it so rare?", by Latha Chakravarthy



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A few weeks ago, on the 8th of April 2024, some parts of the globe witnessed a total solar eclipse, which is a rare occurrence since there are specific conditions for this to happen. During a solar eclipse, the Moon passes between the Sun and the Earth, casting the Moon's shadow on Earth. A solar eclipse can only happen on a new moon – when the Moon and the Sun are aligned on the same side of the Earth, and the Moon is in the daytime sky. The Earth's orbit around the Sun and the Moon's orbit around the Earth are not perfectly aligned, since the Moon's orbit is inclined at about five degrees relative to the Earth's orbit around the Sun. So for a total solar eclipse to occur, the Moon during its orbit has to perfectly align with the Sun and the Earth. The Moon's orbit is elliptical in shape, and when it is at its minimum distance from the Earth, it will visually appear as a larger

disk than the Sun, large enough to completely cover the Sun's disk, and cause a total eclipse. Normally, the Sun and the Moon appear to be the same size in the Earth's sky, since even though the Sun is 400 times wider than the Moon, it is 400 times farther than the Moon. Finally, when the total solar eclipse does occur, the path of totality – the dark inner shadow called the umbra, is so narrow, that only a very small fraction of the Earth's surface will actually see the totality. Only those regions of the Earth lying in the umbra will experience a total solar eclipse, while those in the penumbra will witness a partial eclipse. Additionally, since the Earth and the Moon are constantly in motion, this phenomenon lasts for only a few minutes in any one particular region. Yet, with all these limitations we are able to witness a few total solar eclipses in our lifetime, a truly astronomical feat! As per our Hindu mythology, the asura Svarbhanu cheated and sat along with the devas to acquire the elixir of immortality during the churning of the ocean. Surya and Chandra noticed this and promptly informed Vishnu, who in the guise of Mohini beheaded the asura – the head portion became Rahu, and the body portion became Ketu. As arch enemies of the Sun and Moon, it is believed that Rahu and Ketu are always attempting to swallow them, causing the eclipses we see today.

**Image courtesy:**

**<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/total-solar-eclipse.html>**

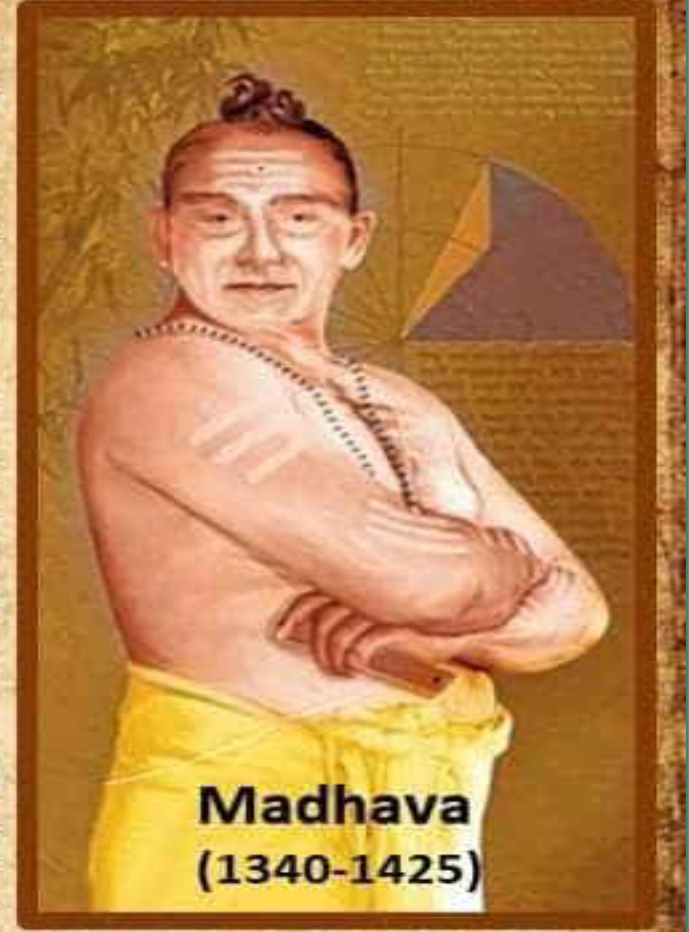


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(1340-1425)

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व्यासे वारिधिनिहते रूपहते व्याससागराभिहते ।  
त्रिशरादिविषमसङ्ख्याभक्तमृणं स्वं पृथक् क्रमात् कुर्यात् ॥

$$\pi = 4 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{7} \dots \dots \dots \right)$$



PROJECT  
SHIVOHAM