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Balavin Kural

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What's inside:

Devotee Speaks: "Ayudhas of Vishnu", by Smt. Roopa V Rajan



Ayudha translates to weapons; but, in shilpa-sastra, the term Ayudhas indicates whatever objects the idol holds in his or her hands. The Ayudhas represent the nature, character and functions associated with the idol. For instance, Saraswathi holds in her hands a book symbolising the Vedas and learning; a Kamandala (a water jug) symbolising smruthi, vedanga and shastras; a rosary symbolising the cyclical nature of time; and the musical instrument veena symbolising music and her benevolent nature.

All the above objects are not weapons in the conventional sense, but the shilpa of the particular deity employs these

Know your Mythology: "Who moves the world? from Kenopanishad", by Thulasinathan Kandasamy

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This was indeed quite a set of questions.

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Progressing with the series, we are going to talk about Methika today. It is known as Methi in Hindi, Menthulu in Telugu, Menthya in Kannada, Ventiyam in Malayalam, Vendhayam in Tamil, and Fenugreek in English.

Methi is mainly cultivated in the Punjab and Kashmir

Did you know?

Surrogacy mentioned in the Veda?

In Bharat, Surrogacy was known and practiced since ancient times. Rigved 2.18.2 clearly mentions transfer of womb from one mother to another.

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अन्यस्या गर्भमुन्य ऊं जनन्त सो अन्येभिः सचते जेन्यो वृषा ॥ २ ॥

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द्वितीयं माध्यन्दिने सवने पर्यासोऽभूत् । उतो अपि च सः तृतीयं तृतीये सवने पर्यासोऽभूत् ।
सर्वेय 'कालाएवनेः' इति द्वितीया ॥ सः यज्ञः सोमो वा मनस्यः मनस्यस्य होता शम्भानां वोढा

anyasyāḥ garbham anya u jananta
so anyebhiḥ sachate jenyo vṛṣaḥ

word-for-word meaning Rig Veda 2.18.2

anyasyāḥ = of the other female
garbham = womb
anya u = another person
jananta = gives birth
so (sah) = that (womb)
anyebhiḥ = by other person
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Science Snippets: "The Science of Symmetry", by Latha Chakravarthy

In this ever-random universe where entropy reigns, have you noticed that there is so much symmetry prevalent in our day-to-day lives? We see radial symmetry in circular objects such as snowflakes; bilateral symmetry in flowers, butterflies, and many living beings; structural symmetry at molecular and atomic levels. Nature, while trying to work smarter rather than harder, is always trying to follow the laws of conservation. For example, water seeping out from a

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Ayudha translates to weapons; but, in shilpa-sastra, the term Ayudhas indicates whatever objects the idol holds in his or her hands. The Ayudhas represent the nature, character and functions associated with the idol. For instance, Saraswathi holds in her hands a book symbolising the Vedas and learning; a Kamandala (a water jug) symbolising smruthi, vedanga and shastras; a rosary

symbolising the cyclical nature of time; and the musical instrument veena symbolising music and her benevolent nature. All the above objects are not weapons in the conventional sense, but the shilpa of the particular deity employs these as symbols to expand and depict and also interpret the nature of the idol and its meaning. Each of these symbols signifies a certain aspect and also stands for a concept. For instance, the flag signifies victory or celebration; the Ankusha (goad) signifies exercising control over senses and baser instincts, Damaru in the hands of Shiva signifies creation and origin of sound and learning.(Courtesy from Wikipedia)

The attributes of āyudha also relate to the various powers in the hands of deities with the specific postures. It definitely carries and gives subtle vibrations and meanings.

The four main and general ayudhas of Lord Vishnu are , **shankh, chakra, gada and Padma**. When we have Darshan of Lord Vishnu, we look at him like a leader; he communicates with us, reviews our prayers, rewards and also if required, makes us change the path for good. Hindu Gods are distinguished from others by the symbols they carry. Lord Shiva, the ascetic, is identified by his trident and a drum.

Why are there Four arms for Vishnu?

The four arms of Vishnu represents the three fundamental qualities, i.e., gunas and the notion of individuality (ahaṅkāra) from which all existence arises.

Four is the number of the earth, and it represents the fulfilment of manifestations in all the spheres of existence. The cardinal directions indicate that the Lord is all pervading. The Yajña kunda (fire pit):- the Lord is known as Yajña Purusha. The four Vedas, four divisions of society, four stages of life, four levels of consciousness; waking (jagrata), dream (svapna), sub-consciousness (sushupti) and transcendental consciousness (turiya); four types of devotees: distressed, inquirer, the opportunist and the sage; four functional manifestations (vyuhas):- Vasudeva, Aniruddha, Pradyumna, Sankarshana; four essential components of dharma:- truth (satya), austerity (tapa), compassion (daya), and charity (Dana); four aims of human endeavour (purusharthas):- pleasure (kama), prosperity (artha), righteousness (dharma) and liberation (moksha); four types of liberation (mukti):- communion (sayujya), association (sarupya), (samipya), and (salokya); four ages of the universe (yugas):- Satya,

Treta, Dvapara, Kali; four types of birth:— gods (deva), humans (manushya), animals (tiryak) and organic (sthavara); four types of Yogas:— jñana, karma, bhakti and saranagati; four types of differentiation among all existing things:— genus (jāti), form (rūpa), nature (svabhava) and knowledge (jnana); four qualities of all manifested beings:— category (jāti), attributes (guna), function (kriya), relationship (sambandha).

Conch or Shankh:

The Conch or Shankh represents the first manifestation of AUM nada brahman. Aum the monosyllable contains within itself all language and meaning in a potential state. Conch is the symbol of the origin of existence. Its shape is a spiral, starting at one point and evolving into ever increasing spheres. Conch or Shankh comes out from water. When blown it produces the sound AUM.

Chakra or Discus:

bala svarūpam atyanta javenāntaritanilam | cakra svarūpañca mano
dhatte viṣṇuḥ kare sthitam || 70 || (Vishnu Purana 1;22; 70.)

Chakra is In the form of mighty power, revolving swifter than the winds — the Universal Mind in the form of a wheel is held in the hand of Vishnu.

The Discus is called sudarshana which means 'pleasing-to-see', it is usually shown in iconography with a hexagon in the centre. The six points of the two triangles represent the six seasons in a yearly time cycle, in the centre, nave is the seed sound (bija) 'hrim', which represents the changeless, motionless centre, the Supreme Cause.

The Wheel has eight spokes and 8 wings, which represent the eight syllables of the sacred Ashtakshari mantra, while the outer circle of the wheel represents 'māyā', the divine power of manifestation.

The Sudarshan Chakra has 108 serrated blades, and has the ability to travel several million yojanas (1 Yojana = 8 kms) at a blink of an eye. Once out of hand, it chases the enemy and will not return without the intended result.

The Mace or gadā:

buddhirapyāste gadārūpeṇa mādhave || (Vishnu Purana 1;22;68.)

The mace which Lord Krishna wields is the Intellect.

The mace is the form of strength or power and the intellect which is the highest power. The mace is thus the symbol of the intellect (buddhi) or the power of knowledge. It is called kaumodaki which means "the-stupifier-of-the-mind".

gadā ca kālikā sākṣāt sarva śatru nibarhiṇī | (Krishna Upanishad 23)

The mace is Kāli, the power of time, and it destroys everything that opposes it.

Lotus or Padma:

A Lotus rises from the mud without stains, they are often viewed as a symbol of purity. Since they return to the murky water each evening and open their blooms at the break of day, lotus flowers are also symbols of strength, resilience, and rebirth.

Lotus is associated with Surya, sun-god (identified with Vishnu), because its petals open as the sun rises and close as the sun sets.

Lotus has been regarded as a symbol of vairagya (detachment), so essential for remaining in god-consciousness.

Balambika Charanam.

Image courtesy:

<https://www.hindu-blog.com/2018/11/ayudha-purushas.html>

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The Rishi then looks at his disciples with all love and says calmly:

“Dear boys, the power that fuels all of what you asked, is One and is Indivisible. It is behind and beyond all that functions visibly. It is the ear of the ear, the eye of the eye, the mind of the mind, the word of the words and the life of life. It's something our eyes cannot see and something words cannot express; It cannot be grasped even by the mind. Think of it like comprehending the numerical value of the

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It is known as Methi in Hindi, Menthulu in Telugu, Menthya in Kannada, Ventiya in Malayalam, Vendhayam in Tamil, and Fenugreek in English. Methi is mainly cultivated in the Punjab and Kashmir regions, its leaflets are 2-2.5 cm long and

produce small flowers. The useful part of the plant are the seeds and the leaves. The seeds have a bitter and spicy taste to it, and are primarily used to reduce the kapha and vata in our body. They help to alleviate pain, fever, inflammation of the legs, digestive issues, and the leaves are used as a remedy for irregular bowels. In addition, after delivery, the mothers are given methi leaves. There are a lot of benefits of Methi. Some people soak the methi seeds overnight and have it in the morning, powdered methi seeds are known to have anti-diabetic properties. However, I would like to caution you all to use in optimal quantities without over indulgence, as that will end up harming the body. The bitter nature of Methi is beneficial, so we need to make it part of our regular diet. When used at the right time and right quantity, it will definitely yield good results.

Image courtesy: <https://www.24mantra.com/blogs/organic-food/benefits-of-fenugreek-leaves-for-skin-hair-and-health/>

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Surrogacy mentioned in the Veda?

In Bharat, Surrogacy was known and practiced since ancient times. Rigved 2.18.2 clearly mentions the transfer of a womb from one mother to another.

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Hinduism_and_Science



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and many living beings; structural symmetry at molecular and atomic levels. Nature, while trying to work smarter rather than harder, is always trying to follow the laws of conservation. For example, water seeping out from a tiny leak will eventually form a circular shape. Crystals form and exist in perfectly symmetrical three dimensional lattice structures. Our own two hands, legs, eyes and ears are symmetrically located and structured to be able to perform our activities equally well from the left and right sides of our body. While nature is always trying to conserve.... be it energy, momentum, or matter, the goal is best achieved by following a symmetrical pattern. Symmetry achieves conservation and equilibrium, by maintaining balance without bias, sustaining a natural rhythm, and by preserving harmony. It takes more energy to break the symmetry and harmony than while retaining it. At the cellular and molecular level of biological systems, symmetry also helps with lowering the complexity level of the basic building blocks of the living organism – a key aspect of evolution. Symmetrical location of the limbs, and sense organs

such as eyes and ears and nose, helps with the organism's locomotion and response to stimuli from the environment. Thus, in addition to symmetry being more appealing to the eyes, it forms the basis of nature's laws of creation and conservation, by maintaining simplicity and stability within matter.