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MALUR SRI BALAMBIKA TEMPLE

Address: Maruthi Extension 2nd stage, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk,
Kolar District, Karnataka - India

Website : <http://malurbalambikatemple.com>

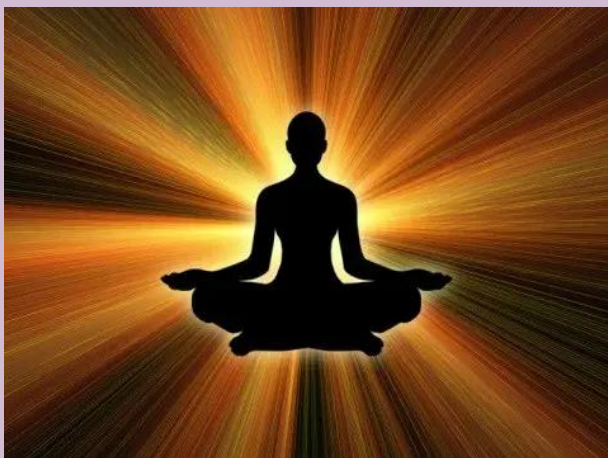
Email : contactus@malurbalambikatemple.org

Instagram: [balambikadivyasangam](https://www.instagram.com/balambikadivyasangam)



What's inside:

Devotee Speaks: "Sankalpa", by Smt. Roopa V Rajan



What is Sankalpa?

Sankalpa is nothing but a clear intention held in the heart with emotional conviction with awareness and alignment. Sankalpa is not a wish, not imagination. It is a vow of the inner being. “Sankalpa is the mind aligned with the deepest truth of the Self.” By Yoga Vasistha. When a Sankalpa is true, there is no doubt, no contradiction and there is no effort.

- San means highest truth, divine consciousness.
- Kalpa rule, vow, or idea formed in mind.

So Sankalpa literally means: “A vow or resolution is aligned with the highest truth of your being.” Hence

Kshetra Varalaru series: "Sri Chintpurni temple - Shakthi Peetam at Himachal Pradesh", by Smt. Indumathi



Shri Gurubyo Namah

Sri Balambika Charanam

We are going to see a Shakthi peetam in the Shivalik range of Himachal Pradesh.

It is believed that a part of Ambal's head fell here.

She is called Chintha Poorni or Chinnamastika. Ambal has taken a fierce form here, so devotees can take Darshan only through a window, entering through the back gate. Even after She won the war as Chandi, Her ministers, Jaya and Vijaya were not satisfied with the thirst of blood.

Know your Mythology: "Kanakadhara Stotram", by Thulasinathan Kandasamy



Golden Blessings: Grace of Maa Lakshmi

It was early morning in a quiet village. Young Adi Shankara, whose wisdom was well known even as a child, arrived at the doorstep of a humble hut.

Shankara (softly): “Bhavati Bhiksham Dehi.” (Mother, kindly give me alms.)

The lady’s eyes, already moist from tears shed before due to hardship, shimmered faintly with droplets of sorrow.

Poor Lady (anxiously): “O child, forgive me... I have nothing at home to offer.”

Noticing everything around, Shankara smiled gently.

Shankara: “Anything offered with a pure heart is more than

Cultural Connect: "Kaivalya Upanishad"

The Kaivalya upanishad is a minor Upanishad, and appears in two versions, one attached to the Krishna Yajurveda and the other attached to the Atharvaveda. While both convey the same message, The version attached to Krishna Yajurveda has 26 verses, while the edition attached to the Atharvaveda has 24 verses with an epilogue. The text emphasizes Lord Shiva as the ultimate non-dual reality, beyond all illusions (Maya). The essence of the Kaivalya Upanishad is the realization of oneness between the individual Self (Atman) and the Supreme Reality (Brahman). It teaches that liberation (Kaivalya) is attained through faith (Shraddha), devotion (Bhakti), and deep meditation (Dhyana).

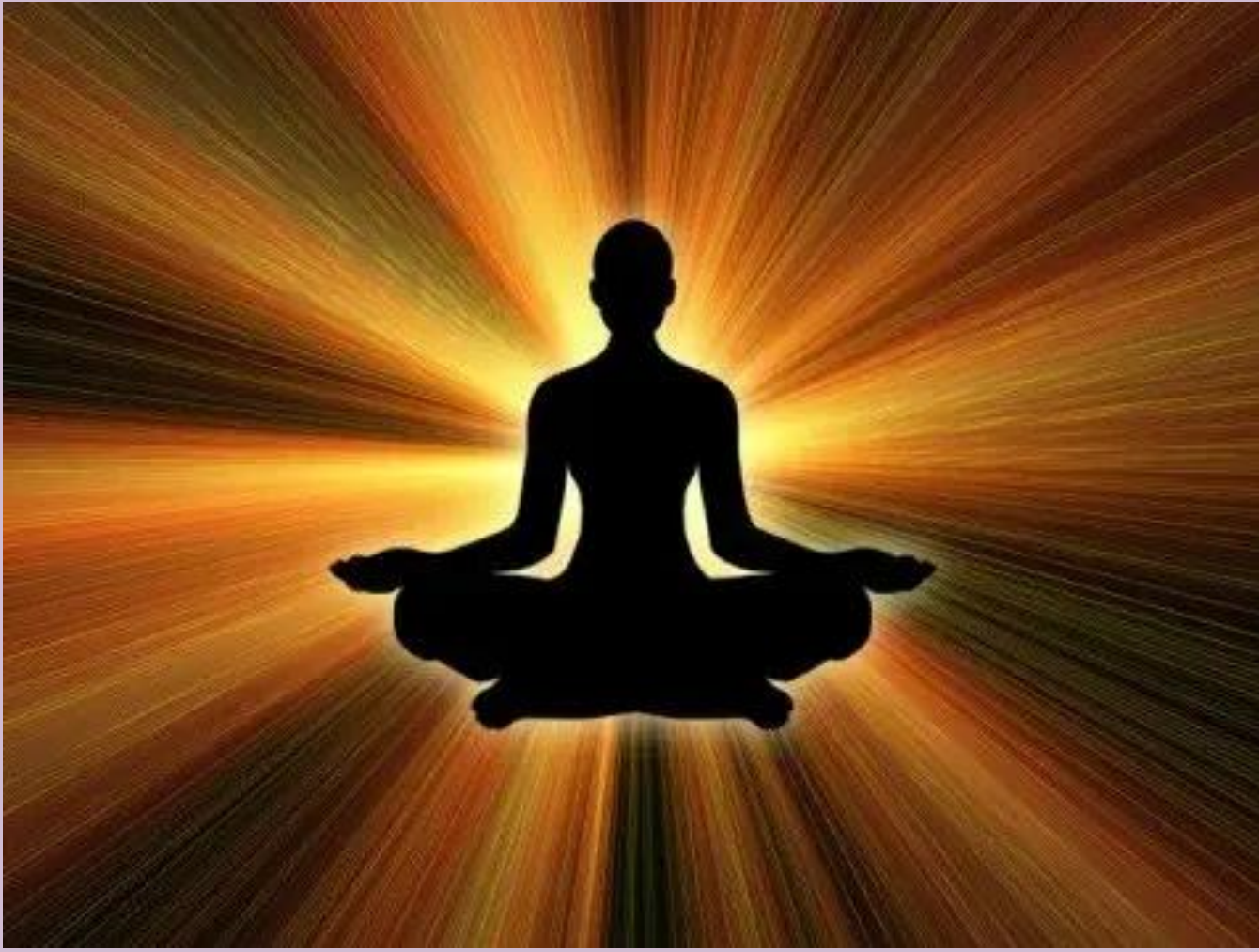
The Upanishad begins with sage Ashvalayana, a revered Vedic sage, mentioned in the Rigveda, meeting Brahma for Brahmavidya, which Ashvalyana calls "the highest knowledge, always cultivated by the good", one that enables to reach the person who is greater than the great.

23rd and 24th verses from it:

न भूमिरापो न च वह्निरस्ति न चानिलो मेऽस्ति न चाम्बरं च ।
एवं विदित्वा परमात्मरूपं गुहाशयं निष्कलमद्वितीयम् ॥ २३
समस्तसाक्षिं सदसद्विहीनं प्रयाति शुद्धं परमात्मरूपम् ॥ २४

Meaning:

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- San means highest truth, divine consciousness.
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So Sankalpa literally means: "A vow or resolution is aligned with the highest truth of your being." Hence, Sankalpa is a declaration from your deeper Self (Ātman), not from restless ego. When such a resolve arises from the stillness of awareness, it becomes a vibrational command to the cosmos.

In the Vedas, creation itself began as a Sankalpa of the Divine: "Sa īkṣata — so 'ham bhavāmi.'" "He (the One) willed: Let me become many." (Taittirīya Upaniṣad 2.6.1).

That primordial will (Īśvara Sankalpa) set all vibration into motion.

Every true Sankalpa is a microcosmic reflection of that same creative impulse.

In yogic ritual or meditation: You begin with Sankalpa which is a short statement of pure intention. Sankalpa aligns your manas (mind), prāṇa (vital energy), and buddhi (higher intelligence) toward one coherent vibration. Without Sankalpa, even rituals or mantras become mechanical. With Sankalpa, even a single breath can become sacred.

Sankalpa works both energetically and quantumly.

Sankalpa isn't just a "wish" or "affirmation." It's a vibrational resolve of consciousness. It's a sacred, and heart-aligned intention that carries the potential to shape reality itself.

The layer of our mind field holds a pattern of thought: Our Sankalpa imprints it as a seed. This intentional thought creates a wave pattern in the neural fields. The Prana or life force energises that pattern with vital current . This is where energy flows where attention goes, and amplifies the probability fields. Akasa or space element stores and transmits the vibrational signature. The field records coherent vibrations observation collapses into potential form.

Balambika Charanam

Image courtesy:

<https://aurawellnesscenter.com/2023/12/17/what-is-a-sankalpa/>

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Golden Blessings: Grace of Maa Lakshmi

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The lady’s eyes, already moist from tears shed before due to hardship, shimmered faintly with droplets of sorrow.

Poor Lady (anxiously): “O child, forgive me... I have nothing at home to offer.”

Noticing everything around, Shankara smiled gently.

Shankara: “Anything offered with a pure heart is more than enough, Maa.”

She searched desperately and found a solitary, wrinkled amla fruit.

Poor Lady: “Apologies, it’s just a single amla fruit. That's all I have.”

Shankara received the fruit with reverence.

Shankara (quietly, prayerful): “O Maa Kamakhya, O Lakshmi, Amma,

look upon this noble soul! She gives her all in kindness. Shower her with your boundless grace.” He began chanting the stotram,

Angam hare pulaka bhooshanamasrayanthi.....

—verses flowing like the sacred Ganges.

At the end of the stotram, a divine light filled the hut—Maa Lakshmi appeared, radiant as Kamakhya, visible only to Shankara.

Lakshmi: “Child, why do you call upon me?”

Shankara: “Amma, you who have thousands of names—Divine Mother Kamakhya, the fulfiller of all desires as Kameshwari, the childlike nurturer as Balambika, and Maha Maya herself—your mercy is boundless.”

Maa Lakshmi: “Shankara, my child, your words flow with the power of Vagdevi herself. You have my blessings. But why summon me here?”

Shankara: “Amma, Vagdevi is also your revered form.” (Lakshmi smiles.) “This lady is poor, yet her kindness is pure. I pray that you shower her with your blessings.”

Lakshmi: “Her fate, dear Shankara, flows from past karma. Wealth is not destined for her this life. Better left as is. Why do you seek to change it?”

Shankara (as usual, prepared to reason): “Amma, true compassion in this moment holds transformative power. Though she cannot see you, your light already alters destiny. I stand here as your child; she stands here, your child too. Is that not enough, Amma?”

Moved by his heartfelt plea and the unique choice of words, Maa Lakshmi laughed gently, acknowledging, “Vagdevi, I hear you through Shankara—and he is arguing with me.” Then, she said,

Lakshmi: “Child, your compassion is pure. Thathastu!”

A shower of golden amla fruits filled the hut, their radiance bathing both mother and child.

Poor Lady (overwhelmed, softly uttering, not quite knowing how to respond): “Oh Deva Deva! Hara Hara! Sri Hari! Maa Lakshmi, how is

this even possible?”

Her words echo a melodious invocation—Hara (the remover of obstacles, associated with Shiva) and Hari (the sustainer and protector, associated with Vishnu)—symbolizing the unity of divine powers celebrated in the Puranas. This invocation beautifully captures the all-encompassing grace of the Goddess.

Shankara (smiling softly): “It is the grace of the Goddess, the compassion of Maa Lakshmi, and the fruit of your pure generosity.”
Shankara slipped quietly away.

**Angam hare pulaka bhooshanamasrayanthi,
Bhringanga neva mukulabharanam thamalam,
Angikrithakhila vibhuthirapanga leela,
Mangalyadasthu mama mangala devathaya.**

(Let her who is the Goddess of all good things, whose glance brings prosperity, bless us with auspiciousness and grace.)

And so was born the Kanakadhara Stotram—the child forms of the Devathas are always extremely powerful! The essence lies more in love than rituals. Faith in the Goddess can turn even meager gifts into golden blessings.

Image courtesy:

[https://shlokapreneurdivyaa.com/
the-story-behind-the-kanakadhara-stotram/](https://shlokapreneurdivyaa.com/the-story-behind-the-kanakadhara-stotram/)

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Lots of people visit this temple to take Her blessings. This temple also

has been destroyed many times by the invaders.

As Ambal is in the form of Chandi, all Navaratri are celebrated in a grand way.

Lots of foreigners, too, visit this temple to see Ambal with Her own head in Her hand. And that's the reason devotees are not allowed to take a direct Darshan, but only through a window.

Image courtesy:

[https://himalayasdigital.com/blog/
chintpurni-temple-una-himachal-pradesh/](https://himalayasdigital.com/blog/chintpurni-temple-una-himachal-pradesh/)

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Meaning:

For Me there is neither earth nor water, nor fire, nor air, nor ether. Thus realising the nature of the Paramātman – the one who is in the cavity of the heart, who is without parts, without a second, the witness of all, beyond both existence and non-existence, one attains the very nature of the Paramātman.

Reference:

<https://shlokam.org/kaivalya-upanishad-all-verses/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaivalya_Upanishad