



BALAVIN KURAL

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Inside this issue:

Click to Page

- Know your Mythology ...Pg 2
- Science Snippets ..Pg 4
- Ayurveda Awareness ... Pg 5
- Did you know ...Pg 6
- Devotee Shares ...Pg 7



Science Snippets:

Contributed By Smt. Latha, this section highlights the uniqueness of the panchaloham alloy which is widely used to make all the utsava moorthys.. page 4

Devotee Shares:

In this section, Smt. Roopa Rajan describes the significance of the number 3.. page 7



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KNOW YOUR MYTHOLOGY: PANCHA INDRAS - STORY FROM MAHABHARATA

Pandavas, the five brothers were standing and waiting for Drupada's approval for their marriage with Draupadi. Drupada was very reluctant, in order to avoid being referred to as a terrible father. Veda Vyasa came there and told Drupada, "This is not something that you or I can change, it's the divine plan of Shiva and Sakthi (or Harihara). Let me take you on a walk through context." The present Indra (Sakra or Shakra) saw an

amazing golden lotus that was dancing on the waters of the river Bhagirathi. Amused, he followed the dancing flower and found several more lotuses. He saw a beautiful spinster shedding tears and as soon as her teardrops touched the surface of the water it turned into a lotus. Despite the beauty of the emerging lotuses, Indra could not handle the weep-



<https://www.vyasaonline.com/2017/01/17/the-birth-of-draupadi-and-drishadyumna/mahabharata/>

ing of such a woman. Even in the past, he or any of the Indras never liked or allowed a lady, especially a beautiful one, to cry. He asked her the reason behind her despair with utmost concern. The damsel said; "Please follow me and you will know the reason." Sakra the Indra followed her, and she kept on going and reached the Himalayas. Almost at the peaks of the mountain, they both reached a place that was filled with brilliant colour. On closer observation, Sakra realised it was not snow, but it was the light that was emanating from a couple who were so into playing a game of dice that they didn't even notice Sakra observing them from a distance. Initially Indra took that in stride as a symptom of pure dedication to the game, but over time, he too felt insulted especially in the presence of such a woman. The handsome person whose colour was almost indistinguishable from light just glanced at Sakra; however, he did not stop the game. The beautiful partner that he was playing with smiled at him after making a smart move from her side. Indra looked at the woman he climbed the mountain with, who at this point was still tearful and sobbing. Indra could not tolerate this anymore and with words that carried the same flair that his thunderbolt does, they boomed upon the players; "Do you know who I am? I am Sakra the Indra. I rule the entire universe." But the youth simply smiled at the warning, which in turn enraged Indra even further.

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After a brief pause, the man glanced at Indra with a certain resolve and look that carried its own form of power, though it was brief, he felt the presence behind it. Sakra realised he could not move. The distressed maiden now sobbed and chanted; 'Aum Namah Shivaya! Om Namah Shivaya!' Now, the young couple in front of them instantly morphed into Shiva and Sakthi, the light that emanated from their bodies multiplied by thousands.

Shiva showered his grace on the distressed women. She felt reassured, Ambal got up and placed her hand on Shiva's shoulder. Shiva told the distressed damsel to bring Indra with her to the caves. Sakra now realised that he was getting angry with Shiva Himself. He repeatedly apologised to the lord of the lords. Despite all the efforts, Indra could not move and he stumbled only to fall. He could not move easily even after the distressed damsel helped him. Shiva told Indra; "Sakra, if you think you have enough energy, which you believe is immeasurable; move this rock and get inside." With a lot of effort and after a few attempts, Indra moved the rock and saw that there were four more people who almost looked like him. They were in a miserable state; basically, captives; seemed like they also committed similar mistakes or probably even graver ones. He saw Vishwabhuk, Bhutadhaman, Sivi of great energy and lastly Santi the fourth. After taking a gander at their condition, Sakra the present Indra shivered in fear. He turned to Lord Shiva and prayed to him. Shiva in turn said; "This pride that you have, created so much misery to the point where you'd have to atone by performing arduous tasks in your own human world in order to be worthy of returning to your heaven." All the Indras before you prayed to Shiva and Shakthi and asked for forgiveness. They requested for the blessing to be the children of the gods; Dharma, Vayu, Maghavan, and Ashwin kumaras. After hearing this, Sakra prayed for mercy and said that he would create a person from himself with half of himself and ensure that the person would join the other Indras while he would continue there. When Shiva and Sakthi then blessed him he was swept over by relief. Only then he realised that the lady with the extraordinary beauty was Swarga Lakshmi herself. He could not recognize her because of Shiva's maya. She incarnates to be the spouse for the Indras. Also, Draupadi has done severe penance in her previous birth and asked for a wonderful person to be her husband. She repeated her request five times and Shiva, who is so easy to please, blessed her with five husbands. Veda Vyasa told, "So, Drupada, this is fate and we need to go with it."

SCIENCE SNIPPETS : *SIGNIFICANCE OF PANCHALOHAM IN IDOLS*



Courtesy: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Olaichuvadi.jpeg>

While temples have the 'moolavar' or the main deity made out of stone (granite), the 'utsava moorthy' and 'sanchara moorthy' are typically made out of an alloy called panchaloham. This alloy usually consists of specific proportions of gold, silver, copper, zinc and iron. Usually, copper is the largest constituent of this compound. These idols are brought out during temple festivities (utsavams), adorned in beautiful attire and taken for a procession in the vicinity of the temple. Exquisitely carved by expert craftsmen, these idols are made keeping the shilpa shastras in mind. The specific proportions of these five metals brings out their best properties in terms of idol strength, malleability, optimal weight, durability of the idol, ease of care and cleaning, and pleasing appearance. It is believed that the panchaloha idols have the power to hold and emanate the 'pancha bhootas' or the five elements - fire, air, space, water, earth. The perfect amalgamation of these five metals, in the right proportion, infused by the power of worship is believed to energize all those around. Incidentally, temple bells made out of such an alloy are supposed to produce a ring that is sharp and long lasting for at least seven seconds in a lingering resonance. This frequency and length of the bell ringing comes from the perfect proportions of the metals to create the sonorous effect. The vibrations from this sound travels into those present, and optimally, should activate the seven chakras in the body. Science has been the basic structure governing the existence of every ritual or ceremony in the Hindu culture. Being ignorant of it does not negate its meaning. As Hindus, we need to dig and delve into the depths of our culture and cherish what our ancestors have left behind for us.

AYURVEDA AWARENESS: "ANJARAI PETTI SERIES: JEERA OR CUMIN by Dr. Saranya



Photo courtesy:
<https://www.etsy.com/market/anjaraipectti>

Continuing with the Anjarai Petti series, today, we are going to talk about Jeera, whose botanical name is *Cuminum Cyminum*. It is called Jira or Sadajira in Hindi, Jilak in Telugu, Jirige in Kannada, Jirakam in Malayalam, Siragam in Tamil, and Cumin seeds in English. Why is Jeera so important? Most homes use pepper and jeera on a daily basis. Jeera is called *dipaka* and *ruchya*, as it improves and stimulates our digestive process. Due to its grain-like appearance, it is described as

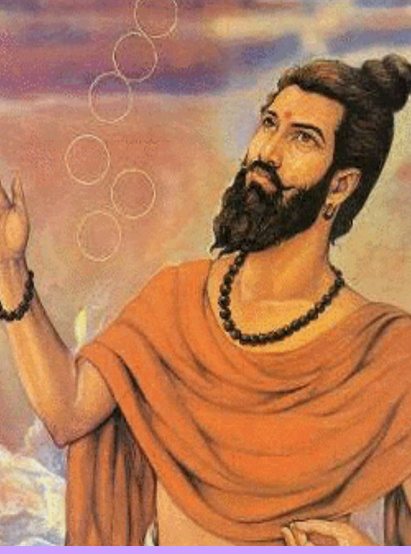
kana. In addition, it is called medhyam, as it is wholesome for the mind.

It is widely cultivated throughout Northern India, and looks like a spinach plant. The usable portion is the bija or seed.

Rasam made out of jeera is *katu* (pungent) and *tikta* (bitter). This helps regulate the *kapha* and *vata* doshas. The major use of Jeera is to help with digestive issues, enhance taste and stimulate the taste buds when used with jaggery. When we have loose stools, jeera is given with curd or buttermilk. Dhania and jeera paste with ghee can be used as a remedy for acid reflux. Various formulations using Jeera are: Jirakādyā modaka, Jirakādi cūrna, Jirakādyarista, Jirakādi lehya, and Jirakādyā taila.

Hope you all got a good overview on the various benefits of Jeera.

DID YOU KNOW?



Manchester University confirms that Isaac Newton stole the Laws of Motion and Gravity theory from Hindus.

In the fifth chapter of Vaishesika Sutra, Acharya Kanada speaks of Laws of motion and gravity. Why do objects move? Why do they fall? What is inertia? What is Impulse to Motion? And so on.

Acharya Kaṇāda was a Hindu sage and philosopher who was born in Prabhas Kshetra (near Dwaraka) in Gujarat, India. He composed his *Sutras* around 600 BCE.

Vaisheshika Sutra of Maharshi Kanada [5th chapter, 1st Ahnika]

[189] संयोगाभावे गुरुत्वात् पतनम् ॥ ७ ॥

saṁyogābhāve gurutvāt patanam ॥7 ॥

In the absence of *saṁyoga* [contact with external forces], an object falls due to *gurutva* [mass].

Note: NEWTON'S 1st law: "An object will be in uniform motion unless external forces act upon it."

[190] नोदनविशेषाभावान्नोर्ध्वं न तिर्यग्गमनम् ॥ ८ ॥

nodana-visheshā-abhāvāt na urdhvam na tiryag gamanam

If some external impulse [*nodana-visheshā*] is absent, an object cannot move upwards [*na urdhvam*], or backwards or sideways [*na tiryag*].

Note: NEWTON'S 2nd law: The relationship between an object's mass m , its acceleration a , and the applied force F is $F = ma$.

[191] प्रयत्नविशेषान्नोदनविशेषः ॥ ९ ॥

prayatna-visheshāt nodana-visheshah

For a particular action [*prayatna-visheshā*], there is particular reaction [*nodana-visheshā*].

NOTE: NEWTON'S 3rd law: Action and reaction are equal and opposite.

[192] नोदनविशेषादुदसनविशेषः ॥ १० ॥

nodanaviśeṣādudasana-viśeṣah ॥10 ॥

Some particular reaction of an object's upward motion [*udasana*] is due to special impulse [*visheshā-nodana*]

Courtesy:

1. Hinduism and Science

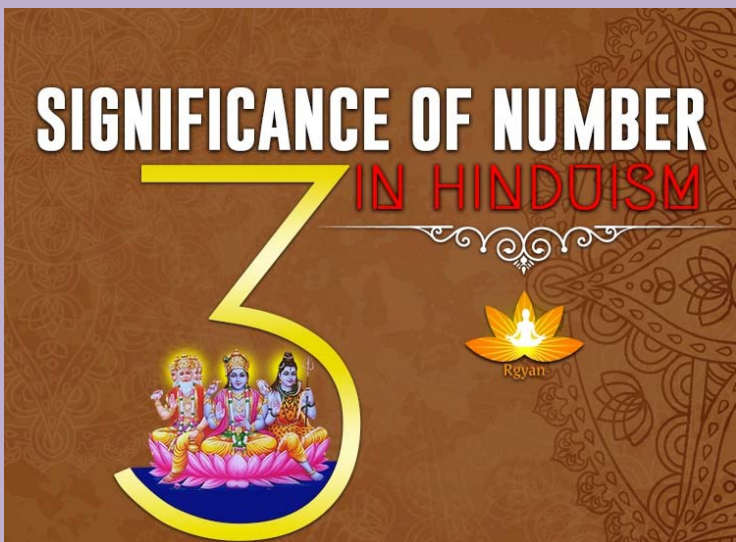
2. <https://www.booksfact.com/science/ancient-science/vaishesika-sutras-by-kanada-describe-laws-of-motion-concept-of-atom.html>

Power of numbers by Agasthiar by Smt. Roopa V Rajan

What does "knowledge" mean? We all have information which we receive through our five senses alone that constitutes knowledge. Knowledge is our power. Comprehensive knowledge gives absolute power over everything.

Generally, three things make people happy. They are health, wealth and knowledge. Health and wealth have physical limitations. There is virtually no limitation on the quantum of knowledge that one may acquire. The more knowledgeable one becomes, the more happiness one feels to derive out of his intellectual treasures. Our ancient sages knew that it is futile to win this never ending race of gaining transient knowledge by running after the objects. They have devised ingenious ways to gain absolute knowledge by taking shelter in the ultimate and absolute source of all knowledge. That is the lotus feet of the Supreme Being, this is the absolute truth of Knowledge. Treading on the paths shown by our ancient sages made sure we experienced eternal bliss bestowed by absolute and real knowledge.

Coming to numbers, our day never passes without numbers. Only Siddhas know the value of each number in the numeric system and the correct way of using them. Siddhas claim that it takes a minimum period of twenty years for a human being to master the ways of harnessing the values of each number. One need not become disheartened by the inability to become a master of numbers. Generally, one can master one's favourite number. Like one's date of birth, date of birth of one's spouse, date of birth of children, etc.



Let us say, for example, you have chosen number 3 as your favourite number. It may be 12 or 21, as the combination is also 3, since 1+2 is equal to 3 and 2+1 is equal to 3. All your daily activities should be centred around 3. All worship should reflect 3 or its multiples. You can worship Lord Ganesa with 3, 12, 30 or 300 toppu karanams. You can garland your beloved deity with three garlands or you can make a garland with 300 or 1200 flowers in it. You can feed the beggars or devotees in the temples with bread, or chapatis in multiples of 3 or the amount spent for feeding the poor may be in the multiples of Rs. 3, say Rs. 120, 300, 1200. You worship your favourite deity with the 300 names or thrishathi. Chanting of the trishathi namavali is beneficial to those who have selected 3 as their number of choice. Number 3 has Lord Dakshinamurthi as the ruling deity. Worship Lord Dakshinamurthi on Thursdays, on the 3rd, 12th, and 21st of each month.

The nine sacred planetary Gods, which we call Navagrahas, adorn almost all temples. Worshipping the Planetary God Brihaspati by going round for Pradakshina 3, 12 or 21 times daily, is also a sure way to harness the full value of 3.

No doubt, everything which we witness around us is the creation of the Almighty. Everything in the universe is the creation of God. They are in the form of God. They represent God. THEY ARE GOD.

To save the present day humanity from the clutches of racial difference, economical inequity, communal narrow-mindedness and religious fights, our Siddhas have propounded the concept of Kusa, the benevolent and the beneficial number beyond 9.

Will continue next month.

from Agasthiar.org

At the lotus feet of Balambika Charanam.

Image courtesy:

<https://rgyan.com/blogs/significance-of-number-3-in-hinduism/>