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Balavin Kural





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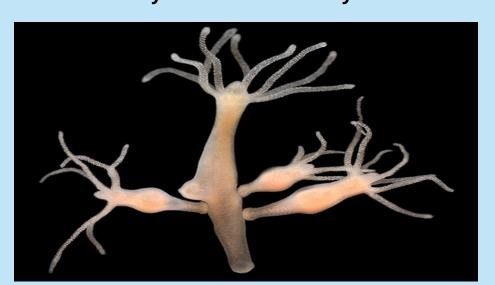
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Devotee Speaks: "Kusha grass and its benefits", by Smt. Roopa V Rajan



There is a type of grass called Kusha in Sanskrit. In Tamil, we call it "Darpai pullu". It has got divine properties. This divine grass was brought by the ancient rishis from Deva Loka for the benefit of mankind. It acts as a divine messenger between the human beings and their forefathers who live in other worlds. We can deliver the foods and drinks required by our forefathers through this divine courier service through two important ingredients,

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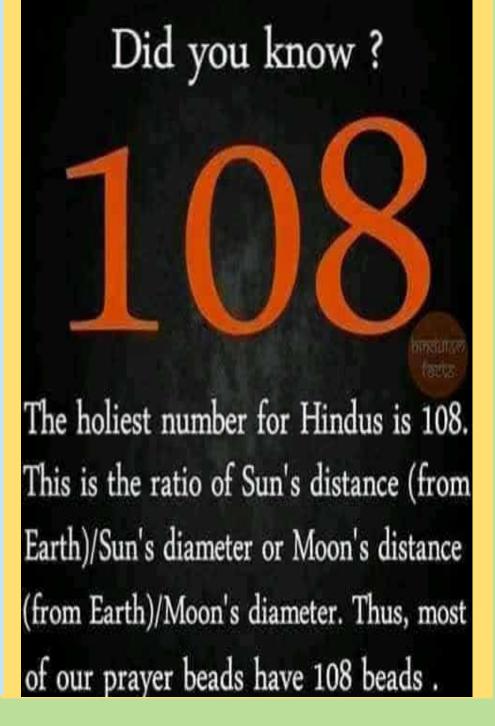
In mythological stories, we have heard of demons and monsters that grow back to their full form after their heads and limbs have been chopped off. We have often wondered how such a thing can happen, and dismissed it as a fictitious story. However, regeneration is a real concept, and is the reason why lizards grow back their tails and earthworms grow back to their full size when cut. Starfish, tadpoles, newts and salamanders are also capable of growing back their limbs when cut; sharks grow back their teeth throughout their lifetime; tiny water organisms such as hydra and planaria can grow back to their full forms even when cut into several pieces – each

Know your Mythology: "Amma! Mother Meenakshi", by Thulasinathan Kandasamy



The temple city of Madurai, historically was the capital of the Pandyan kingdom. Though the Pandyas ruled the kingdom, they considered Lord Sundareshwara (the super handsome form of Lord Shiva, hence the name Sundareshwar) and Goddess Meenakshi as the rulers of the kingdom, and they were only their representatives. Once a year, symbolically, the kings would receive the sceptre of the Goddess, keep with them for a day, and

Did you know? "Significance of the number 108"



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There is a type of grass called Kusha in Sanskrit. In Tamil, we call it "Darpai pullu". It has got divine properties. This divine grass was brought by the ancient rishis from Deva Loka for the benefit of mankind. It acts as a divine messenger between the human beings and their forefathers who live in other worlds. We can deliver the foods and drinks required by our forefathers through this divine courier service through two important ingredients, i.e., sesame and water droplets.

Likewise, Kusam is also an unknown mysterious number. The similarity between the grass kusam and the number kusam is that both of them were brought by the rishis. The purpose of introduction of Kusam into this world is for alleviating the miseries of the human beings and to uplift the downtrodden masses who live in eternal

unhappiness and poverty. The grass kusam and the number kusam will multiply four times for bestowing benevolent benefits to mankind. However, these divine instruments require the guidance of a Sat Guru, i.e., spiritual master, and the unstinted obedience and total surrender by the disciple to the spiritual master.

Numeric Value Of Kusam By Agasthiar:

The numeric value of the number kusam lies somewhere between 9 and 10 in our present day numeric system. Its value is above 9 but below 10. As you may construe, it is not 9.5 exactly. This kusam value gets repeated after all the 9s, i.e., after 9, 19, 29, 39,.... 109, 119, ... etc. The next kusam after 9, will lie between 19 and 20. However, at present, Siddhas have revealed the secrets of the kusam after 9 only.

Nature of Kusam:

The number kusam which lies after 9 is a whole number. It is not at all a fraction. Is Kusa an odd or even number? The answer to this question is very subtle. It needs a spiritual approach to this subject rather than a mathematical evaluation. We will explain why. The effect of the kusam number is even, whereas the kusam number itself may be odd or even. Alternatively, the qualitative value is even whereas the quantitative value may be odd or even. The application of the kusa concept results in an even effect. The number that gives the effect may be an odd or even kusa number. These words may seem to be very much intriguing at the first glance. As you proceed further with the application of the kusa concept, the real value of the effect and the quantitative nature of the kusam number will become evident.

To understand Kusha fully, one must understand the Supreme Being Itself. Kusa cannot be categorically classified as odd or even, in the manner that you cannot classify a knife as good or bad. Depending on the purpose for which it is used, a certain thing about kusa is that it can never be used for a negative purpose or for evil effects. Its application always brings a benevolent and positive effect to mankind. That is the very purpose of it being brought by the Siddhas to this world.

Kusha as a positive aspect and how it can be applied in day today:

The application of the concept of Kusa is very simple. In Tamil language, the application of the concept may be described as, "naangaai virundhu irandil adanguvathu kusam". The English translation is, "expansion to four parts and settlement in two parts". The concept is illustrated through the following images of Rupee notes which we use in our daily life. Please note the four steps in the implementation of the kusa concept.

Example 1:

Suppose you have four 500-Rupee notes with you. You can apply the concept of Kusa as follows:

- Step 1. Take two notes and spread them in a row.
- Step 2. Take the remaining two notes and spend them in the second row.
- Step 3. Add the two notes in the second row.

Step 4. Add the two notes in the first row.

Start spending the two notes (Rupees 1000) in the first row.

After you have spent Rs. 1000 in the first row, you can spend the balance of Rs. 1000 in the second row.

Example 2:

Suppose you have 400 one-hundred Rupee notes aggregating to Rs. 40,000 with you. You can apply the concept of Kusa to each set of four one-hundred Rupee notes as detailed in Example 1.

Another method of application of the concept as stated below is also possible.

Step 1. Arrange the one-hundred Rupee notes into four bunches of one hundred pieces in each bunch.

Step 2. Spread the four bunches in two rows and two columns.

Step 3. Combine the 200 notes in the second row into one bunch.

Step 4. Combine the 200 notes in the first row into one bunch.

Step 5. Start using the 200 notes (Rs. 20,000) in the first row.

Step 6. After you have exhausted the first row, the notes in the second row can be utilised.

Example 3:

Suppose you have 30 kilograms of rice or wheat with you. You can apply the concept of Kusa as follows:

Step 1. Spread evenly the entire 30 kilograms of the grain on the floor or a mat.

- Step 2. Make four equal divisions of the grain in two rows and two columns.
- Step 3. Merge the two divisions of the grains in the first row.
- Step 4. Merge the two divisions of the grains in the second row.
- Step 5. Arrange to store separately the grains in the first row and those in the second row.
- Step 6. Start using the grains in the first row and after you exhaust them you can use the grains in the second row.

From the foregoing examples, it will be now clear that the application of the concept of Kusa involves the following two steps in essence.

- Step 1. Expansion to four parts.
- Step 2. Containing the expanded material in two parts.

Benefits Of Kusa:

The benefits you derive from the application of the concept of Kusa is unbelievable and beyond all your imagination. They bestow the following boons.

The application of the concept of Kusa is beyond all religion, caste, creed and sex. You need no special mantra or hymns for its application.

Anybody can apply the concept of Kusa. It needs no special previous study of arithmetic or special training.

Kusa is a scientific concept. Under the given situation and circumstances, everyone who applies the concept is bound to get the same result.

There is a **General Saving Of Around Ten Percent Of Resources**.

For example, with the quantity of food sufficient to feed ten people you can feed eleven people, provided you apply the concept of Kusa to the food items before serving.

The application of the concept of Kusa Always Brings Results.

Kusa is always positive, beneficial and benevolent. The concept can never be misused to produce evil effects. The materials used in the course of application may be worldly things, say for e.g., apples, dollar notes, shirts, cars, etc. The final product is always positive and divine.

Practical Applications:

The concept of Kusa can be put to use in many of our daily activities to get monetary benefits as well as divine patronage. Once you understand the basic steps, it is easy to use the concept in all our walks of life. The specialty of the concept is that it needs no extra expenditure!

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Balambika Charanam.

Image courtesy:

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Know your Mythology: "Amma! Mother Meenakshi", by Thulasinathan Kandasamy



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the temple administration with great respect and sincerity. He treated

the people of other faiths with love and care. On his way to his office

every day, he had to cross the temple. When he got close to the temple, he would get off of his horse, remove his hat and boots, offer his salutations to Sri Meenakshi, and carry the shoes in his hands till he crossed the temple. It was a simple gesture; but he was sincere. The people of the town started to refer to him as 'Peter Pandian'. The title 'Pandian' is associated with the dynasty of the great kings who ruled in South India, with Madurai as their capital.

One night, it rained and poured quite heavily in Madurai. The river Vaigai was overflowing. Peter, who was fast asleep in his residence, was awakened by a sound similar to the tinkling of anklets. He woke up and found a little girl, a typical silk pavadai (long silk skirt or lehenga), wearing beautiful ornaments, calling him from the entrance of his residence. She called him very firmly, "Peter, come to this side, Peter, come", her voice was musical and magical; it somehow made him instinctively listen to her and follow her directions. Peter went near the child. The moment he set foot outside of the house's threshold; a powerful lightning struck his house and it collapsed. Peter was stunned. He looked at the wreckage of his home, and turned around only to see the little girl going towards the temple. He only heard the sound of the anklets and noticed that she ran barefoot! Peter knew who it was. Devi Meenakshi Herself had come in the little girl's form to save him. He called her "Amma! Mother Meenakshi!". To express his gratitude to Goddess Meenakshi, he offered her something. He thought since he walked barefoot in front of her residence, she also came barefoot to save her bhakta. Peter also knew he was only one of those several million people who kept praying to her, and he was told all the other beings also prayed to her; however, she cared and came to make his Karma way milder than they were supposed to be. Since she had come barefooted to his residence, he decided to offer her a pair of golden padukas to cover her feet. He made them out of gold with rubies, emeralds, diamonds and other precious stones. The name 'Peter' was engraved behind them. Even to this day, during the Chithirai festival, on Panchami day, when Goddess Meenakshi rides on her Ashwa vahanam (horse), these padukas adorn her feet. They are also known as "Peter Padukam or padukas".

After retirement, Peter Rous refused to go back to England. He stayed in Madurai. His last wish was to be buried with his eyes facing Goddess Meenakshi. His wish was fulfilled, and he was buried with his face towards the temple.

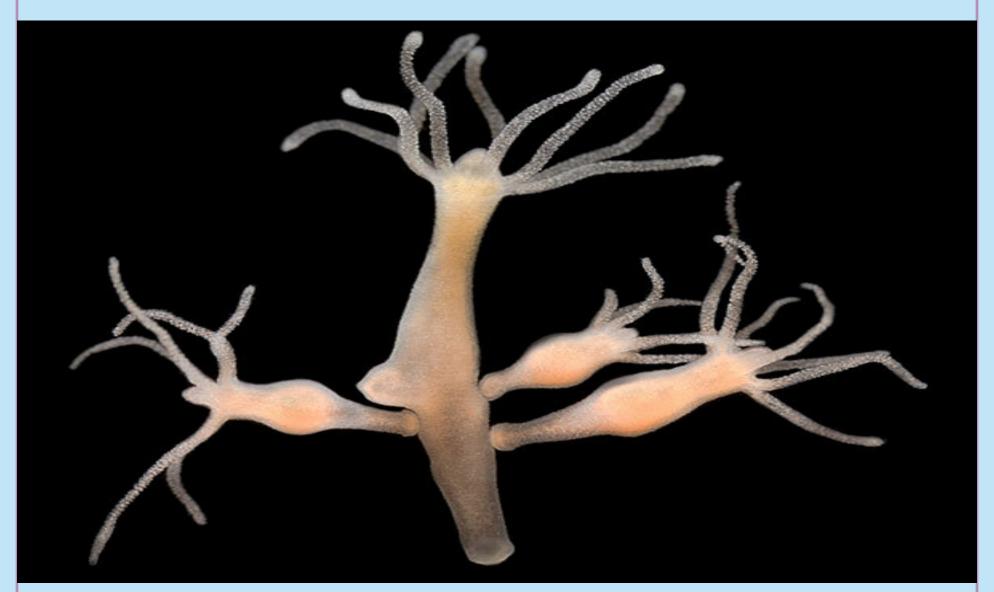
Image courtesy:

Dheivegam.com

Did you know?

The holiest number for Hindus is 108. This is the ratio of Sun's distance (from Earth)/Sun's diameter or Moon's distance (from Earth)/Moon's diameter. Thus, most of our prayer beads have 108 beads.

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In mythological stories, we have heard of demons and monsters that grow back to their full form after their heads and limbs have been chopped off. We have often wondered how such a thing can happen, and dismissed it as a fictitious story. However, regeneration is a real concept, and is the reason why lizards grow back their tails and earthworms grow back to their full size when cut. Starfish, tadpoles, newts and salamanders are also capable of growing back their limbs when cut; sharks grow back their teeth throughout their lifetime; tiny water organisms such as hydra and planaria can grow back to their full forms even when cut into several pieces – each piece of the planaria becomes a new complete planaria.

The science of regeneration has fascinated mankind for centuries, and today, it still continues to baffle scientists why some animals can

regenerate, while some can't, and why the human body can grow back only certain parts and not all of it. Less complex life forms have more regenerative capabilities than higher life forms such as humans, who can only grow back hair, nails, skin, blood from bone marrow, and bones. Surprisingly, the liver is capable of growing back to its full size if any part of it is destroyed. The key to unlocking the mystery behind regeneration is in stem cells.

Stem cells are unique cells that have the capability to develop into specialized cells that perform specific functions in the body. The unique property of stem cells that enable them to replace damaged cells is due to their capability of dividing repeatedly and changing into the specific cell types. While embryonic stem cells can change into any cell type in the body, adult stem cells can only change into a limited set of cell types. Scientists are working on stem cell research to create induced stem cells by reprogramming adult stem cells. While no one can replace the genius and perfection of the Almighty Creator, we are still stretching the boundaries of science and research to hopefully better the quality and standard of life!

Image courtesy:

https://nigms.nih.gov/education/fact-sheets/ Pages/regeneration.aspx