

**INDIAN MYTHOLOGY & HISTORY**

# **GODDESSES**

GODDESS SARASWATI, LAKSHMI, PARVATI,  
DURGA, KALI

# TRINITY



GODDESS LAKSHMI



GODDESS SARASWATI



GODDESS PARVATI

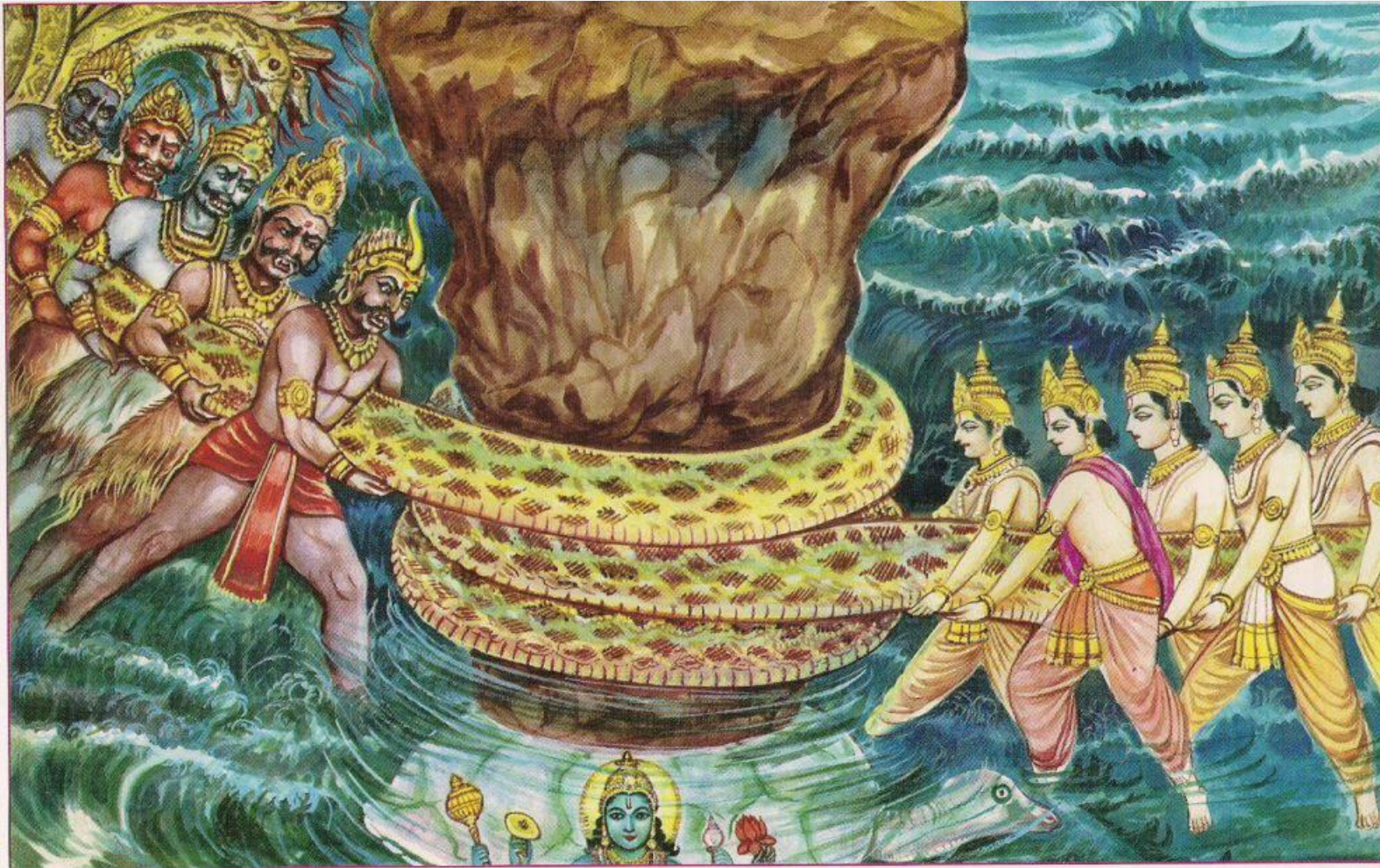


# GODDESS LAKSHMI

- Lakshmi is the goddess of wealth, fortune, power, luxury, beauty, fertility, and auspiciousness.
- She holds the promise of material fulfilment and contentment.
- She is described as restless, whimsical yet maternal, with her arms raised to bless and to grant.
- In south India, the two goddesses were visualized as two different entities, standing on either side of Vishnu, Bhodevi representing tangible wealth while Lakshmi or Shridevi representing intangible wealth. In north India, the two goddesses became one.
- She is *prakriti*, the perfect creation: self-sustaining, self-contained Nature.
- She is *maya*, the delightful delusion, the dream-like expression of divinity that makes life comprehensible, hence worth living.
- She is *shakti*, energy, boundless and bountiful.
- Mahalakshmi is also known to preside over 16 forms of worldly wealth excluding Ashta siddhis, gnana and imparting gnana. They are as follows: Fame; Knowledge; Courage and Strength; Victory; Good Children; Valor; Gold, Gems and Other Valuables; Grains in abundance; Happiness; Bliss; Intelligence; Beauty; Higher Aim, High Thinking and Higher Meditation; Morality and Ethics; Good Health; Long Life.
- Hindus worship Lakshmi the most on Diwali, the festival of lights.

# STORIES OF GODDESS LAKSHMI

- Was born of Samudra Manthan





# STORIES OF GODDESS LAKSHMI

- Lakshmi, Daridra Lakshmi and Trader
- "If one has to make the distinction, I can say Lakshmi looks a wee bit more beautiful as she walks in. Daridra Lakshmi, you look even more beautiful as you turn your back and walk out."
- The story of King Raval & Queen Rohini of Jaisalmer.
  - Light Diwali lamps in only their house to welcome Goddess Lakshmi



# GODDESS SARASWATI

- She is the goddess of speech. Saraswati first appears in the Rigveda and, in later religious texts, she is identified as the inventor of Sanskrit and, appropriately, gives Ganesha the gifts of pen and inks. She is also a patron of the arts and sciences, and the wife of Brahma.
- As the patron of music, she is frequently prayed to by musicians before concerts and, as a goddess of intellectual pursuits, by students before examinations.





# HYMN TO SARASWATI

- या कुन्देन्दुतुषारहारधवला  
या शैशवस्त्रावृता  
या वीणावरदण्डमण्डितकरा  
या श्वेतपद्मासना।  
या ब्रह्माच्युतशंकरप्रभृतिभिर्देवैः सदा वन्दिता  
सामां पातु सरस्वती भगवती निःशेषजाड्यापहा ॥
- May Goddess Saraswati, who is fair like the jasmine-colored moon, and whose pure white garland is like frosty dew drops, who is adorned in radiant white attire, on whose beautiful arm rests the veena, and whose throne is a white lotus, who is surrounded and respected by the Gods, protect me. May you fully remove my lethargy, sluggishness, and ignorance.

# STORIES OF SARASWATI

- Stories of Gandharvas trading Soma for music
- Demon saying "I would like to never stay awake"
- Shiva Badavagni - Saving those who are not impure and corrupt.



# GODDESS PARVATI

- The goddess Parvati is one of the many forms of Shakti, the unknowable but enlivening feminine force in Hindu mythology, the feminine energy of the universe.





# STORIES OF PARVATI

- Daughter of Mountain, Himavan (Himalaya).
- Does severe penance to attract Lord Shiva, who kept mourning after death of Sati.
- Skanda could not defeat Raktabija – a demon. So Parvati became Kali.
- Parvati cursed by Shiva to be born as a fisherwomen and Nandi creates situations so Shiva can marry her and bring her back.





# GODDESS DURGA

- Durga killed Mahishasur, a demon with the head of a buffalo. He got a boon that he could not be killed by a "man or animal".
- Lord Vishnu decided to create a female form to defeat Mahishasura. But since Lord Shiva is the god of destruction, they consulted with him. Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva combined all their powers together to give birth to Durga.



# FURTHER STUDIES

- <https://qz.com/india/545655/the-ancient-story-of-goddess-lakshmi-bestower-of-power-wealth-and-sovereignty/>
- <https://www.templepurohit.com/vishnu-lakshmi-story/>
- <https://www.lotussculpture.com/sarasvati.html>
- <https://www.lotussculpture.com/parvati1.html>
- <https://hindumythologysite.wordpress.com/2017/04/29/parvati/>
- <https://www.indiatoday.in/fyi/story/mahishasura-mardini-durga-puja-indra-vishnu-brahma-buffalo-king-1047785-2017-09-19>