

18 son of Lakshmi | मां भगवती लक्ष्मी के 18 पुत्र ...

hindi.webdunia.com/.../मां-भगवती-लक्ष्मी-क... - Translate this page

भगवती लक्ष्मी के 18 पुत्र वर्ग कहे गए हैं। इनके नामों का प्रति शुक्रवार जप करने से मनोवांछित धन की प्राप्ति होती है।

Lakshmi Chalisa | ॥ लक्ष्मी चालीसा ॥ | Webdunia ...

hindi.webdunia.com/.../॥-लक्ष्मी-चालीसा-॥... - Translate this page

मातु लक्ष्मी करि कृपा करो हृदय में वासा ... टेक॥ | Lakshmi Chalisa Lakshmi Aarti, Aarti of Goddess Lakshmi, the Goddess mother Aarti, Aarti.

Ashta Lakshmi - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashta_Lakshmi - Wikipedia

Gaja Lakshmi (Sanskrit: गज लक्ष्मी, Gaja Lakṣmī, "Elephant Lakshmi"): Giver of animal wealth, like cattle and elephants. Swami Chidananda interprets Gaja ...

In the news



शुभ लक्ष्मी योजना बनी ई-शुभ लक्ष्मी योजना

Rajasthan Patrika - 2 days ago

राज्य सरकार की शुभ लक्ष्मी योजना अब ई-शुभ लक्ष्मी योजना बन गई है।

More news for lakshmi " लक्ष्मी "

मां लक्ष्मी - Dharm - रफ़्तार

dharm.raftaar.in/Religion/Hinduism/.../Goddess-Laksh... - Translate this page

मां लक्ष्मी (Goddess Lakshmi). Goddess Lakshmi. मां लक्ष्मी की पूजा के दौरान इस मंत्र के द्वारा उन्हें रक्तचन्दन समर्पण ...

12 Powerful Names of Lakshmi लक्ष्मी द्वादश नाम ...



www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtbRmp0ndj4

Oct 4, 2012 - Uploaded by mantrascience

12 Beautiful names of Lakshmi will make you healthy, wealthy and wise. (Find Free Articles, Mantras ...

Lakshmi

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Lakshmi (Sanskrit: लक्ष्मी *lakṣmī*, Hindi pronunciation: [ˈləkʃmi]) is the Hindu goddess of wealth, love, prosperity (both material and spiritual), fortune, and the embodiment of beauty. She is the wife of Vishnu. Also known as Mahalakshmi, she is said to bring good luck and is believed to protect her devotees from all kinds of misery and money-related sorrows.^[1] Representations of Lakshmi are also found in Jain monuments.

Lakshmi is called *Sri* or *Thirumagal* because she is endowed with six auspicious and divine qualities, or Gunas, and also because she is the source of strength even to Vishnu. When Vishnu incarnated on the Earth as the avatars Rama and Krishna, Lakshmi took incarnation as his consort. Sita (Rama's wife), Radha (Krishna's lover),^{[2][3][4]} Rukmini and Satyabama are considered forms of Lakshmi.^[5]

Lakshmi is worshipped daily in Hindu homes and commercial establishments as the goddess of wealth. She is also worshipped as the consort of Vishnu in many temples. The festivals of Diwali and Kojagiri Purnima are celebrated in her honour.

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Lakshmi

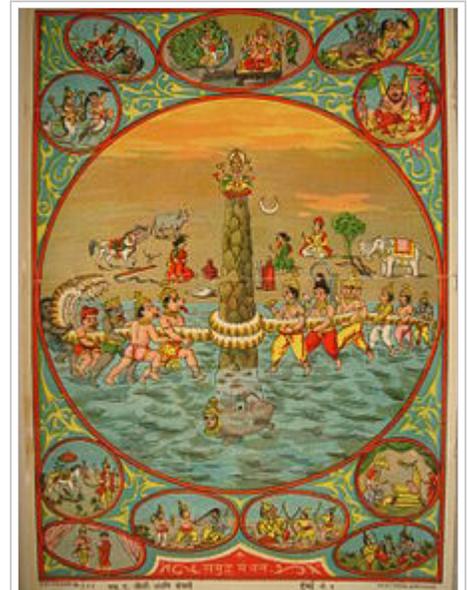


Raja Ravi Varma's Lakshmi

Devanagari	लक्ष्मी
Sanskrit	lakṣmī
Transliteration	
Affiliation	Devi (Tridevi)
Abode	Vaikuntha, Ksheera Sagara
Mantra	Om Hrim Shri Lakshmibhyo Namaha
Consort	Vishnu
Mount	Elephant, Owl

the tortoise as a churning pole. Vasuki, the great venom-spewing serpent, was wrapped around the mountain and used to churn the ocean. A host of divine celestial objects came up during the churning. Along with them emerged the goddess Lakshmi. In some versions she is said to be the daughter of Varuna, the sea god since she emerged from the sea.

In the Vishnu Purana, Garuda Purana, Linga Purana and Padma Purana she is said to have been born as the daughter of the divine sage Bhrigu. In the Vishnu Purana, she was born to Bhrigu and his wife Khyaati and was named "Bhargavi". According to the Vishnu Purana, once when the sage Durvasa was once traversing the earth he saw a celestial garland in the hands of a celestial maid and requested her to give it to him. The nymph agreed and gave the garland to Durvasa who placing it on his head yielded to its influence and wandered about inebriated. While wandering he met Indra who was accompanied by the Devas and gave the garland to him. Indra then placed the garland on his elephant Airavata where it shined brightly and blinded Airavata who seized the garland with his trunk and threw it to the ground. Durvasa on seeing this becomes infuriated and curses the whole universe to be devoid of "Shri". The Devas unable to bear this told about the matter to Brahma and he instructed them to request Vishnu to help them solve this situation. Vishnu agreed and instructed them to seek the help of the Asuras and churn the Ksheera Sagara in order for the effect of Durvasa's curse to be removed. The Devas and the Asuras together churned the cosmic ocean. First to come out of the ocean was the divine cow Kamadhenu, then Varuni, then the tree Parijat, then the Apsaras, then Chandra (the moon), then Dhanvantari with Amrita (nectar of immortality) in his hand. Then Lakshmi appeared seated on a lotus and placed herself on the chest of Vishnu.^{[8][9]}



A manuscript depicting Samudra Manthan

Etymology

The etymology and meanings of the word *lakshmi* is given in Monier-Williams' *Sanskrit–English Dictionary*.

1. laksmIka meaning a mark, sign, or token is in Rik Veda x, 71, 2 and Nirukta iv, 10.
2. laksmi (with or without pAp'I) is a bad sign or an impending misfortune referred to Atharva Veda and Apastambha Shrauta Suutra.
3. In older Sanskrit, it is usually used with "p'uNyA" meaning a good sign, good fortune, prosperity, success, or happiness in Atharva Veda.
4. Laksmi personifies wealth, riches, beauty,happiness, loveliness, grace, charm and splendour in Mahabharata.
5. Laksmi as a noun is a goddess of fortune and beauty (frequently in the later mythology identified with Śrī and regarded as the wife of Viṣṇu or Nārāyaṇa).
6. According to Sir Monier Williams, "Religious thought and life in India", 45, 40-43 she sprang with other precious things from the foam of the ocean when churned by the gods and demons for the recovery of the Amṛta. She appeared with a lotus in her hand, whence she is also called Padmā.
7. According to another legend, she appeared at the creation floating over the water on the expanded petals

of a lotus flower; she is also variously regarded as wife of Sūrya, as wife of Prajā-pati, as wife of Dharma and mother of Kāma, as sister or mother of Dhātṛ and Vidhātṛ, as wife of Dattatreya, as one of the nine Śaktis of Viṣṇu, as a manifestation of Prakṛti, as identified with Dākshāyaṇī in Bharatāśrama, and with Sītā, wife of Rāma, and with other women.

Names

Lakshmi in Sanskrit is derived from its elemental form *lakṣ*, meaning "to perceive or observe".^[10] This is synonymous with *lakṣya*, meaning "aim" or "objective". Lakshmi has many names. She is known to be very closely associated with the lotus, and her many epithets are connected to the flower, such as:

- *Padma*: lotus dweller
- *Kamala*: lotus dweller
- *Padmapriya*: One who likes lotuses
- *Padmamaladhara devi*: One who wears a garland of lotuses
- *Padmamukhi*: One whose face is as beautiful as a lotus
- *Padmakshi*: One whose eyes are as beautiful as a lotus
- *Padmahasta*: One who holds a lotus
- *Padmasundari*: One who is as beautiful as a lotus

Her other names include:

- *Vishnupriya*: One who is the beloved of Vishnu
- *Ulkavahini*: One who rides an owl

Her other names include: Manushri, Chakrika, Kamalika, Aishwarya, Lalima, Kalyani, Nandika, Rujula, Vaishnavi, Samruddhi, Narayani, Bhargavi, Sridevi, Chanchala, Jalaja, Madhavi, Sujata, Shreya. She is also referred to as Jaganmaatha ("Mother of the Universe") in Shri Mahalakshmi Ashtakam. Rama and Indira are popular.

Iconography

Lakshmi is described as bestowing coins of prosperity and flanked by elephants signifying her royal power. However, in some texts, she has an owl as her vahana. Her expression is always calm and loving. The lotus also symbolizes the fertile growth of organic life, as the world is continually reborn on a lotus growing out of Vishnu's navel.

Lakshmi is worshipped daily, but special focus is given in the month of October. Her worship ceremonies include people offering food and sweets, chanting her 108 names, prayers being repeated, and devotional songs being sung.

A 1400-year-old rare granite sculpture of Lakshmi has been recovered at the Waghama village along the Jehlum



Vishnu with Lakshmi
(*Lakshminarayana*) at Halebidu

in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir.^[11]

Secondary manifestations

Ashta Lakshmi (Sanskrit: अष्टलक्ष्मी, Aṣṭalakṣmī, lit. "eight Lakshmis") are a group of eight secondary manifestations of Lakshmi, who preside over eight sources of wealth and thus represent the powers of Shri-Lakshmi. Actually, Mahalakshmi presides over eighteen forms of wealth, ten of which are the eight great siddhis called AshtaSiddhis, the spiritual knowledge or Gnana, and teaching or imparting the spiritual knowledge to the entire world without any class difference.

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.

Ashta Lakshmi

आदि लक्ष्मी (अदिलक्ष्मी; अदिलक्ष्मी)	Ādi Lakṣmī	The First manifestation of Lakshmi
धान्य लक्ष्मी (दान्यलक्ष्मी; दान्यलक्ष्मी)	Dhānya Lakṣmī	Granary wealth
धैर्य लक्ष्मी (द्वैर्यलक्ष्मी; द्वैर्यलक्ष्मी)	Veera Lakṣmī	Wealth of courage
गज लक्ष्मी (गजलक्ष्मी; गजलक्ष्मी)	Gaja Lakṣmī	Elephants, symbols of wealth
सन्तान लक्ष्मी (सन्तानलक्ष्मी; सन्तानलक्ष्मी)	Santāna Lakṣmī	Wealth of continuity, progeny
विजय लक्ष्मी (विजयलक्ष्मी; विजयलक्ष्मी)	Vijaya Lakṣmī	Wealth of victory
विद्या लक्ष्मी (विद्यालक्ष्मी; विद्यालक्ष्मी)	Aishwarya Lakṣmī	Wealth of knowledge and education
धन लक्ष्मी (धनलक्ष्मी; धनलक्ष्मी)	Dhana Lakṣmī	Monetary wealth

The type of Ashta Lakshmis differ with every yuga and thus one would not find uniformity in the names of Ashta lakshmis in Hindu sacred texts. There are more than a crore manifestations of Mahalakshmi; without her nothing in this world would survive as she forms the basis of the entire gamut of creation. Without her grace, there will be nothing to eat, no air to breathe, no progeny in continuation, etc. At a minor level, one who has not developed spiritualism cannot survive without monetary wealth in the modern world. Even if one were to beg, one would not get even a dime without the grace of Mahalakshmi. It is only through the grace of Mahalakshmi that even the king of gods, Devendra, gained wealth, when he was cursed by the famous sage Dhurvasa for disrespecting the garland offered to him.

Mahalakshmi is said to exist in several other forms. The most famous amongst them are Sridevi, Bhoodevi, and Neeladevi. The famous Vaishnavite saint Aandal, who was born in Srivilliputhur in Tamil Nadu, about 5050 years ago, is an incarnation of Mahalakshmi herself. Sridevi represents moveable assets, called Chanchala in Sanskrit. Bhoodevi represents immoveable assets (Achanchala). It is because of this that mountains in India are prefixed with Achanachala, for example, Arunachala, Himachala etc. The term chanchala also denotes fickleness, which is why people are not always wealthy. Everything in this world operates only with the grace of Mahalakshmi.

In addition, according to the Kalki Purana, when Vishnu incarnates as Kalki, she will appear as his wife in the form of Padma and give birth to two sons.^[12]



Ashta Lakshmi murti worshipped in a Golu display during Dusshera.

Celebration in Hindu society

Hindus worship Lakshmi the most on Diwali, the festival of lights. According to tradition, people would put small oil lamps outside their homes on Diwali in hopes Lakshmi will come to bless them.

The prefix *Sri* (also spelled *Shri*, pronounced as shree) translates as "one who takes delight in". Therefore, Sri Lakshmi, means wealth of any kind. Any thing that need be affluent gets the auspicious prefix or suffix *Lakshmi*, or *Sri*, such as Rajya Lakshmi (Wealth of Empire), Shanti Sri (Wealth of Peace), etc. In modern India, common titles standing in for the English *Mr.* and *Mrs.* are *Shri* (also *Sri* or *Shree*) and *Shrimati* (also *Srimati* or *Shreemati*), as in *Sri desai* or *Srimati shanti*.

In Uttarakhand, after the worship of the goddess on Diwali night, the shankha, or conch, is not blown. This is because the shankha is also from the ocean like the goddess herself, so it is given a day of rest.

Karaveera Nivasini Mahalakshmi, also known as Ambabai, is the patron goddess of Kolhapur city, Maharashtra.

Bengal

Concept

In Bengal, Lakshmi is worshiped in autumn when the moon is full, the brightest night of the year. It is believed that she showers wealth on this night. She, along with her mount, the great white owl, come into contact with our worlds and takes away the darkness of poverty, stagnation, anger, and laziness from our lives. Her vahana owl represents royalties, penetrating sight and intelligence. It serves as her mount over which she has full control. Lakshmi is also referred to as *pranadayini* ("giver of vital life-sustaining energy") who can turn a dull thing full of life. In the Sri Vaishnava philosophy, Sri (Lakshmi) is honored as the *Iswarigm sarva bhootanam*, i.e., the supreme goddess and not just the goddess of wealth.



Lakshmi murti at Bhubaneswar during (Laxmi Puja) Festival



Kojagiri Lakshmi puja

Lakshmi is depicted in a red costume, which represents continuous activity, or in a golden costume, representing fulfillment. She wears ornaments full of gold and a golden ruby-studded crown. Her hair is long, dark and wavy. Her complexion is golden, representing a boon-giver. She shows the abhaya mudra or the gyan mudra with her right hand and holds a potful of gold in her left arm and paddy sheaf in her left hand.

Worship

Lotus flowers, sandalwood, vermilion, betel leaves & nuts, fruits and various sweet preparations made from jaggery, rice and coconuts are used for her ritual worship.

Apart from the autumnal celebration, Lakshmi, along with Alakshmi (her shadow energy), is also worshipped during Diwali night in some Bengali communities. The goddess Kali of Kalighat in Kolkata is worshipped in Mahalakshmi form during Diwali.

Observing a Lakshmi Brata/Puja on Thursdays or during full moon days is quite popular. A string of poems called 'Panchali', narrating the glories of the goddess, is sung by women.

Odisha

Manabasa Gurubara

With the harvest brought home, the farmers feel greatly satisfied with the yield. After six months of toil in the field, they fill the granaries with the blessings of Lakshmi. So, the whole month of Mrigashīrsha (December–January) is spent in worshiping the goddess. All the rituals connected with the festival *Manabasa Gurubara* or *Lakshmi Puja* are done by housewives. On each Thursday of the month, the houses are plastered with cow dung, and the floors are decorated with beautiful floral designs drawn with rice powder mixed with water, called jhoti. Footprints are painted from the doorstep to the place of worship, as if Lakshmi has entered the house. The roofs are decorated with flower garlands and festoons woven out of paddy stalks.

Main ritual

After a purification bath in the morning, the homemakers worship the goddess, not through an image, but significantly through paddy measures. Different rice cakes and *Khiri* (rice soup prepared with milk and sugar) are prepared in every household and are offered to the deity and then eaten by all.

Legend

In the evening, the Laxmi Puran, in which an interesting story is told, is read or recited. Once Shreeya, worshiped Lakshmi by observing this festival. Moved by her devotion, Lakshmi left her permanent abode, the temple that is inside the campus of the temple of Jagannatha, and visited Shreeya's house. When Balabhadra, the elder brother of Jagannatha, came to know about this, she was declared defiled and was not allowed to come back into the temple. Lakshmi was deeply hurt and went to her father, Sagara.

When Lakshmi went out of the temple, all wealth in the temple started vanishing. Later, Balabhadra and Jagannatha could not find food to sustain themselves. They came out of the temple in the attire of Brahmin beggars in search of food. Ultimately, They landed at the door of Lakshmi. Balabhadra apologised for the mistake, and all of them returned to the temple.

Gaja

Gaja Lakshmi Puja is celebrated in the Sharad Purnima, the full-moon day in the Oriya month of *Aswina*(September–October). This autumn festival is one of the most popular and important festivals of Odisha.

The goddess of wealth is worshiped for one day and, in some places, it is celebrated for seven to ten days. The festival is religiously celebrated by the business community in Odisha. All over Odisha, richly decorated and beautifully made images of Gaja Lakshmi are installed. The festival instills a spirit of holiness and sanctity into the whole community, so much so that people of other faiths participate in it with abundant warmth and sincerity. In Odisha, this festival, also known as Kumar Purnima, falls on the full moon - Purnima. Girls and boys wear new clothes and generally have a good time with family and friends.

In the early morning, the girls, after their purification baths, wear new garments and make food offerings to the sun. They observe fasting for the day. In the evening, when the moon rises, they again make food offerings of a special variety and eat it after the rituals are over.

It is a festival of rejoicing for the girls; all of them sing and dance. The songs are of a special nature. They play a kind of game known as *puchi* and other country games.

Worship

There are innumerable slokas in praise of Mahalakshmi. Some of the most famous prayers for worshipping her are "Sri Mahalakshmi Ashtakam", "Sri Lakshmi Sahasaranama Sthothra" by Sanathkumara, "Sri Stuti" by Sri Vedantha Desikar, Sri Lakshmi Stuti By Indra, "Sri Kanakadhara Sthothra" by Sri Aadhi Shankaracharya, "Sri Chatussloki" by Sri Yamunacharya, "Sri Lakshmi Sloka" by Bhagavan Sri Hari Swamiji and Sri Sukta which is contained in the Vedas. The famous Lakshmi Gayathri Sloka, "Om Mahalakshmi chae Vidmahe sri Vishnupathinichae Dhi-Mahi Thanno Lakshmi Prachodayat" is a prayer to Lakshmi contained in the *Sri Sukta*.

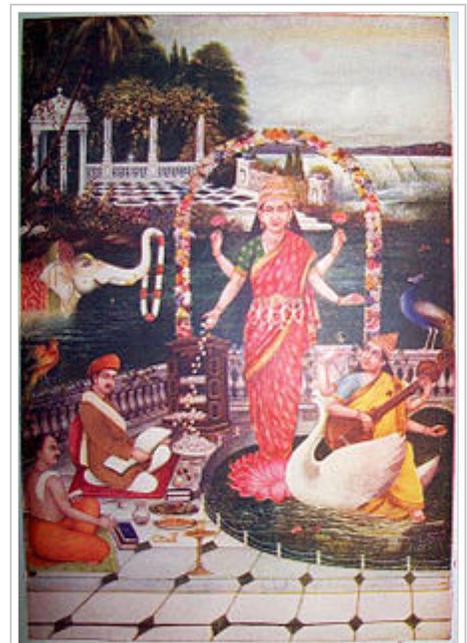
There is another famous prayer pronounced by the great sage Agastya: "Agastya Lakshmi Stotra". Although Mother Lakshmi is worshiped as the goddess of fortune, when she is worshiped with Narayana, the worshiper is blessed with not only wealth but also peace and prosperity. They can be worshiped in forms, such as Lakshmi Narayana, Lakshmi Narasimha, Sita Rama, Radha Krishna, or Vithal Rukmini.

Mantra

- Sanskrit:^[13] ॐ श्रीं ह्रीं क्लीं त्रिभुवन महाक्षयै अस्माकम् दारिद्र्य नाशं प्रचुर धन देहि देहि क्लीं ह्रीं श्रीं ॐ
- English transliteration: om śrīṃ hrīṃ klīṃ tribhuvana mahālakṣmyai asmākam dāridrya nāśaya pracura



Azilises coin depicting Gaja Lakshmi standing on a lotus, 1st century BCE.



Lakshmi is worshipped by Brahmins

dhana dehi dehi klīm hrīm śrīm om

Respect for money

In many areas of India it is customary that, out of respect, when a person's foot accidentally touches money (which is considered as a manifestation of Lakshmi) or another person's leg, it will be followed by an apology in the form of a single hand gesture (Pranāma) with the right hand, where the offending person first touches the object with the finger tips and then the forehead and/or chest. This also counts for books and any written material, which are considered as a manifestation of the goddess of knowledge Saraswati.^[14]

See also

- Ashta Lakshmi
- Deepalakshmi
- Doddagaddavalli
- Hindu goddess
- Laxminarayan
- Star of Lakshmi

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Further reading

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- *Hindu Goddesses: Vision of the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious Traditions* (ISBN 81-208-0379-5) by David Kinsley
- *Lakshmi Puja and Thousand Names* (ISBN 1-887472-84-3) by Swami Satyananda Saraswati

External links

- Lakshmi Sadhana Vidhi (<http://www.docstoc.com/docs/109584806/Laxmi-Anusthan-and-Puja-For-Wealth>)
- Mahalaxmi Temple, Ambabai Temple, Kolhapur (<http://www.ambabai.com/ambabai.html>)
- MahaLakshmi Puja (<http://www.lokashemayagna.org/activitiestrust?id=157>)



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Categories: Mother goddesses | Buddhist mythology | Female buddhas and supernatural beings | Fortune goddesses | Hindu goddesses | Shaktism | Commerce goddesses

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