رودرا – rudra

rudra [Noun]

• father of the storm gods Marut; controller of nature; sometimes identified with Siva

http://www.bdword.com/arabic-meaning-or-translation-of-rudra

# רודרה

**International Kirtan - הקבוצות של רודרה דאס** www.internationalkirtan.com/iw/.../407-**rudra**-das - Translate this page **Rudra** Das - דיר. אוקראיני, אורדו, וייטנאמי, וולשית, יידי. **Rudra** Das - וודרה להוסיף כחבר; תמונות - וידאו; שלח הודעה. הקבוצות של רודרה דאס. בכל הקבוצות; לחפש.

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رُ و درَ ا

# پايگاه هوايي رودرا ماتا بوج - ويکيپديا، دانشنامهٔ آزاد

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# رودرا ۲۶۲۹ - ويكيپديا، دانشنامة أزاد

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# Rudra

For other uses, see Rudra (disambiguation). Not to be confused with Rudras.

Rudra (/'rodrə/; Sanskrit: रुद्र) is a Rigvedic deity,



Rudra, "a storm god and embodiment of wildness and unpredictable danger", from a 19th-century textbook on Hinduism

associated with wind or storm,<sup>[1]</sup> and the hunt. The name has been translated as "the roarer".<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> In the Rigveda, Rudra has been praised as the "mightiest of the mighty".<sup>[5]</sup> The *Shri Rudram* hymn from the Yajurveda is dedicated to Rudra, and is important in the Saivism sect.<sup>[6][7]</sup>

The Hindu god Shiva shares several features with the Rudra: the theonym *Shiva* originated as an epithet of Rudra, the adjective *shiva* ("kind") being used euphemistically of Rudra, who also carries the epithet *ghora* ("extremly [*sic*] terrifying").<sup>[3]</sup> Usage of the epithet came to exceed the original theonym by the post-Vedic period (in the Sanskrit Epics), and the name *Rudra* has been taken as a synonym for the god Shiva and the two names are used interchangeably.

# 1 Etymology

The etymology of the theonym *Rudra* is somewhat uncertain.<sup>[8]</sup> It is usually derived from the root *rud*- which means "to cry, howl."<sup>[8][9]</sup> According to this etymology, the name Rudra has been translated as "the roarer".<sup>[10]</sup> An alternative etymology suggested by Prof. Pischel derives *Rudra* as "the red one, the brilliant one" from a lost root *rud*-, "to be red"<sup>[4]</sup> or "to be ruddy" or respectively, according to Grassman, "to shine".<sup>[8]</sup> A Rigvedic verse "rukh draavayathi, iti rudraha" where 'rukh' means sorrow/misery, 'draavayathi' means to drive out or eliminate and 'iti' means that which or he who, implies 'Rudra' to be the eliminator of evil and usherer of peace.

Stella Kramrisch notes a different etymology connected with the adjectival form *raudra*, which means wild, i.e. of *rudra* nature, and translates the name *Rudra* as "the wild one" or "the fierce god".<sup>[11]</sup> R. K. Sharma follows this alternate etymology and translates the name as "the terrible" in his glossary for the Shiva Sahasranama.<sup>[12]</sup> The commentator Sāyaņa suggests six possible derivations for *rudra*.<sup>[13]</sup> However, another reference states that Sayana suggested ten derivations.<sup>[14]</sup>

The adjective *shivam* in the sense of "propitious" or "kind" is applied to the name Rudra in RV 10.92.9.<sup>[15]</sup> According to Gavin Flood, *Shiva* used as a name or title (Sanskrit *śiva*, "the kindly/auspicious one") occurs only in the late Vedic *Katha Aranyaka*,<sup>[16]</sup> whereas Axel Michaels asserts that *Rudra* was called *Shiva* for the first time in the *Śvetāśvatara Upanishad*.<sup>[17]</sup>

Rudra is called "the archer" (Sanskrit:  $Sarva)^{[18]}$  and the arrow is an essential attribute of Rudra.<sup>[19]</sup> This name appears in the Shiva Sahasranama, and R. K. Sharma notes that it is used as a name of Shiva often in later languages.<sup>[20]</sup> The word is derived from the Sanskrit root *sarv*- which means "to injure" or "to kill"<sup>[18]</sup> and Sharma uses that general sense in his interpretive translation of the name Sarva as "One who can kill the forces of darkness".<sup>[20]</sup> The names Dhanvin ("bowman")<sup>[21]</sup> and Bāṇahasta ("archer", literally "Armed with arrows in his hands")<sup>[21]</sup>[22] also refer to archery.

In other contexts the word *rudra* can simply mean "the number eleven".<sup>[23]</sup> The word "rudraksha" (Sanskrit: *rudrākşa* = *rudra* and *akşa* "eye"), or "eye of Rudra", is used as a name both for the berry of the Rudraksha tree, and a name for a string of the prayer beads made from those seeds.<sup>[23]</sup>

# 2 Rigvedic hymns

The earliest mentions of Rudra occur in the Rigveda, where three entire hymns are devoted to him.<sup>[24][25]</sup> There are about seventy-five references to Rudra in the Rigveda overall.<sup>[26]</sup>

#### 2.1 Epithets of fierceness and fright

In the Rigveda Rudra's role as a frightening god is apparent in references to him as *ghora* ("extremely terrifying"), or simply as *asau devam* ("that god").<sup>[16]</sup> He is "fierce like a formidable wild beast" (RV 2.33.11).<sup>[27]</sup> Chakravarti sums up the perception of Rudra by saying: "Rudra is thus regarded with a kind of cringing fear, as a deity whose wrath is to be deprecated and whose favor curried."<sup>[28]</sup>

RV 1.114 is an appeal to Rudra for mercy, where he is referred to as "mighty Rudra, the god with braided hair."<sup>[29]</sup>

In RV 7.46, Rudra is described as armed with a bow and fast-flying arrows. As quoted by R. G. Bhandarkar, the hymn says Rudra discharges "brilliant shafts which run about the heaven and the earth" (RV 7.46.3), which may be a reference to the destructive power of lightning.<sup>[30]</sup>

Rudra was believed to cause diseases, and when people recovered from them or were free of them, that too was attributed to the agency of Rudra.<sup>[30]</sup> He is asked not to afflict children with disease (RV 7.46.2) and to keep villages free of illness (RV 1.114.1). He is said to have healing remedies (RV 1.43.4), as the best physician of physicians (RV 2.33.4), and as possessed of a thousand medicines (RV 7.46.3). This is described in Shiva's alternative name **Vaidyanatha** (Lord of Remedies).

#### 2.2 Epithets of supreme rule

The verse RV 2.33.9 calls Rudra as "The Lord or Sovereign of the Universe" (*īśānādasya bhuvanasya*).

sthirebhiranghaih pururūpa ughro babhruh śukrebhih pipiśehiranyaih

īšānādasya bhuvanasya bhūrerna vā u yoṣad rudrādasuryam (RV 2.33.9)

With firm limbs, multiform, the strong, the tawny adorns himself with bright gold decorations:

The strength of Godhead never departs from Rudra, him who is Sovereign of this world, the mighty.<sup>[1]</sup>

1. *^ The Hymns of the Rig Veda*, trans. Ralph T. H. Griffith (1896)

However, Yajur Veda – Taittiriya Aranyaka<sup>[31]</sup> (1-10-1)<sup>[32]</sup> quotes Rudra and Brihaspati as Sons of Bhumi and Heaven<sup>[33]</sup>). This directly conflicts with the claim of Rudra being Supreme.

#### **2.3 Relation to other deities**

Rudra is used both as a name of Shiva and collectively ("the Rudras") as the name for the Maruts.<sup>[34]</sup> Gavin Flood characterizes the Maruts as "storm gods", associated with the atmosphere.<sup>[35]</sup> They are a group of gods, whose number varies from two to sixty, sometimes also rendered as eleven, thirty-three<sup>[36]</sup> or a hundred and eighty in number (i. e. three times sixty, see RV 8.96.8.).

The Rudras are sometimes referred to as "the sons of Rudra",<sup>[37]</sup> whereas Rudra is referred to as "Father of the Maruts" (RV 2.33.1).<sup>[38]</sup>

Rudra is mentioned along with a litany of other deities in RV 7.40.5. Here is the reference to Rudra, whose name appears as one of many gods who are called upon:

One scholiast interpretation of the Sanskrit word vayah, meaning "ramifications" or "branches", is that all other deities are, as it were branches of Vishnu,<sup>[40]</sup> but Ralph T. H. Griffith cites Ludwig as saying "This [...] gives no satisfactory interpretation" and cites other views which suggest that the text is corrupt at that point.<sup>[41]</sup>

# **3** Post-Rigvedic hymns

In the various recensions of the Yajurveda is included a litany of stanzas praising Rudra: (*Maitrāyaņī-Samhitā* 2.9.2, *Kāţhaka-Samhitā* 17.11, *Taittirīya-Samhitā* 4.5.1, and *Vājasaneyi-Samhitā* 16.1–14). This litany is subsequently referred to variously as the *Śatarudriyam*, the *Namakam* (because many of the verses commence with the word *namaḥ* ['homage`]), or simply the *Rudram*. This litany was recited during the *Agnicayana* ritual ("the piling of Agni"), and it later became a standard element in Rudra liturgy.

A selection of these stanzas, augmented with others, is included in the *Paippalāda-Samhitā* of the Atharvaveda (PS 14.3—4). This selection, with further PS additions at the end, circulated more widely as the *Nīlarudram* (or *Nīlarudra Upaniṣad*).<sup>[6][42]</sup>

# 4 In Sikhism

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The 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh describes the incarnation of Rudra in his book the Dasam Granth, the canto is titled Rudra Avatar. The description is, however, purely symbolic and the Sikh faith eschews Hindu devotion to separate and distinct deities.

### 5 See also

• Rudras

- Rudra Sampradaya
- Rigvedic deities

### 6 Notes

- [1] Basham (1989), p. 15.
- [2] Majumdar (1951), p. 162.
- [3] Zimmer (1972), p. 181
- [4] Griffith (1973), p. 75, note 1.
- [5] AB Keith. "Yajur Veda". All Four Vedas. Islamic Books. p. 45. GGKEY:K8CQJCCR1AX.
- [6] For an overview of the Satarudriya see: Kramrisch, pp. 71-74.
- [7] For a full translation of the complete hymn see: Sivaramamurti (1976)
- [8] Chakravarti, p. 4.
- [9] Kramrisch, p. 5.
- [10] Majumdar, p. 162.
- [11] Citation to M. Mayrhofer, *Concise Etymological Sanskrit Dictionary*, s.v. "rudra", is provided in: Kramrisch, p. 5.
- [12] Sharma, p. 301.
- [13] Chakravarti, p. 5.
- [14] Sri Rudram and Purushasukram, by Swami Amiritananda, pp. 9-10, Sri Ramakrishna Math.
- [15] Kramrisch, p. 7. For the text of RV 10.92.9, see: Arya and Joshi, vol. 4, p. 432.
- [16] Flood (2003), p. 73.
- [17] Michaels, p. 217.
- [18] Apte, p. 910.
- [19] For archer and arrow associations, see: Kramrisch, chapter 2; for the arrow as an "essential attribute" of Rudra's, see: Kramrisch, p. 32.
- [20] Sharma, p. 306.
- [21] Chidbhavananda, p. 33.
- [22] For translation of Bāṇahasta as "Armed with arrows in his hands", see: Sharma, p. 294.
- [23] Apte, p. 804.
- [24] For the three Rigvedic hymns devoted to Rudra, see: Chakravarti, p. 1.
- [25] For citation of the four Rigvedic hymns (1.43, 1.114, 2.33, and 7.46) see: Michaels, p. 216 and p. 364, note 50.
- [26] E.g., Rudra is included in a litany given in RV 7.40.5.

- [27] Arya and Joshi, vol. 2, p. 81.
- [28] Chakravarti, p. 8.
- [29] Doniger, pp. 224-225.
- [30] Bhandarkar, Ramkrishna Gopal (1995). Vaisnavism, Saivism and Minor Religious Systems. India: Asian Educational Services. p. 146. ISBN 9788120601222.
- [31] Taittiriya Aranyaka, Subramania Sarma: http://www. sanskritweb.net/yajurveda/ta-deva.pdf
- [32] http://www.sanskritweb.net/yajurveda/ta-01.pdf
- [33] SriHayagrivan AruNa praSnam, vol. 2
- [34] For the terms "Maruts" and "Rudras" as equivalent, see: Flood (1996), p. 46.
- [35] Flood (1996), pp. 45-46.
- [36] Macdonell, p. 256.
- [37] Flood (1996), p. 46.
- [38] Arya and Joshi, vol. 2, p. 78. For Shiva as the head or father of the group see: Apte, p. 804. For Rudra as the head of a host of "storm spirits, the Maruts" see: Basham (1989), p. 14.
- [39] RV 7.40.4-5 as translated in Arya and Joshi, pp. 243-244.
- [40] For the scholiast interpretation of vayāh as "ramifications" or "branches" see: Arya and Joshi, p. 244.
- [41] The citation continues as follows: "This, Ludwig remarks, gives no satisfactory interpretation; but I am unable to offer anything better at present. Grassman alters vayāh into vayāma: 'we with our offering approach the banquet of this swift-moving God, the bounteous Viṣnu; i. e. come to offer him sacrificial food." in: Griffith, p. 356, note 5.
- [42] See Lubin 2007

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# 8 External links

 Rudra-sampradaya; Vaniquotes (His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda's compiled teachings)

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