# Siddhi

<u>Hindu</u> - A goddess of good fortune. A consort of Bhaga or Ganesha. She is sometimes depicted as seated on Ganesha's knee. In some references, known as **Siddhi**.

http://www.mythologydictionary.com/siddhi-mythology.html

# सिद्धि Siddhi

# סידהי

#### כוחות על טבעיים ביוגה

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سيدهى

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ਸਿੱਧੀ

## 'ਸਵਰਾਜ ਸੰਵਾਦ' ਦੌਰਾਨ ਕੇਜਰੀਵਾਲ ਖਿਲਾਫ਼ ਸਿੱਧੀ ...

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সিদ্ধি

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# சித்தி

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# Siddhi

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Not to be confused with the African Siddi or the Karnataka Siddi

**Siddhis**<sup>[note 1]</sup> are spiritual, paranormal, supernatural, or otherwise magical powers, abilities, and attainments that are the products of spiritual advancement through sadhana (spiritual practices), such as meditation and yoga.<sup>[1]</sup> There is a related Buddhist term, "Iddhi", that translates as "psychic powers", and is often used interchangeably. People who have attained one or more Siddhis are formally known as siddhas.<sup>[2]</sup> The attainment of Siddhis are typically independent of one another, although it is not uncommon for many Siddhis to arise simultaneously out of the proper conducive state of consciousness.

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# Etymology

*Siddhi* is a Sanskrit noun which can be translated as "perfection", "accomplishment", "attainment", or "success".<sup>[3]</sup> In Tamil the word Siddhar/Chitthar refers to someone who has attained the Siddhic powers & knowledge. Chitta is pure consciousness/knowledge in Sanskrit also.

# Origins



Ganesha with the Ashta Siddhi, personified as goddesses - painting by Raja Ravi Varma (1848-1906)

The earliest appearance in Indian history of the idea that magical powers (Pāli *iddhi*) are generated by spiritual practices, (Pāli *jhāna*) is the account that appears in the Buddhist canon, in the [Sāmaññaphalasutta] of the [Dīghanikāya].<sup>[4]</sup>

The Yoga Sutras, of which Patanjali compiled around 400 BCE from many older traditions, goes into great depth about how to obtain the various Siddhis through a scientific-yogic approach.<sup>[5][6][7][8]</sup>

The term *siddhi* is later found in the Mahabharata.<sup>[9][10]</sup> As a term in the Manusmriti, the *Laws of Manu*, it refers to the settlement of a debt.

# Usage in Hinduism

In the Pancatantra, a siddhi may be the term for any unusual skill or faculty or capability.

#### Eight primary siddhis

In Hinduism eight siddhis (Ashta Siddhi) or Eight great perfections (mahasiddhi) are known:<sup>[11]</sup>

- *Animā*: reducing one's body even to the size of an atom
- *Mahima*: expanding one's body to an infinitely large size
- *Garima*: becoming infinitely heavy
- Laghima: becoming almost weightless
- *Prāpti*: having unrestricted access to all place
- Prākāmya: realizing whatever one desires
- *Istva*: possessing absolute lordship
- *Vaśtva*: the power to subjugate all<sup>[12]</sup>

#### Bhagavata Purana

#### Five siddhis of yoga and meditation

In the Bhagavata Purana, the five siddhis of yoga and meditation are:

- 1. tri-kāla-jñatvam: knowing the past, present and future
- 2. advandvam: tolerance of heat, cold and other dualities
- 3. para citta ādi abhijñatā: knowing the minds of others and so on
- 4. agni arka ambu vişa ādīnām pratistambhah: checking the influence of fire, sun, water, poison, and so on
- 5. aparājayah: remaining unconquered by others<sup>[13]</sup>

#### Ten secondary siddhis

In the Bhagavata Purana, Lord Krishna describes the ten secondary siddhis as:

- *anūrmi-mattvam*: Being undisturbed by hunger, thirst, and other bodily appetites
- *dūra-śravaņa*: Hearing things far away
- *dūra-darśanam*: Seeing things far away
- *manah-javah*: Moving the body wherever thought goes (teleportation/astral projection)

- *kāma-rūpam*: Assuming any form desired
- *para-kāya praveśanam*: Entering the bodies of others
- *sva-chanda mrtyuh*: Dying when one desires
- *devānām saha krīdā anudarśanam*: Witnessing and participating in the pastimes of the gods
- yathā sańkalpa sańsiddhih: Perfect accomplishment of one's determination
- *ājñā apratihatā gatih*: Orders or commands being unimpeded <sup>[14]</sup>

#### Samkhya

In the Samkhya Karika and Tattva Samasa there are references to the attainment of eight siddhis by which one becomes free of the pain of ignorance, one gains knowledge, and experiences bliss. The eight siddhis hinted at by Kapila in the Tattvasamasa<sup>[note 2]</sup> are as explained in verse 51 of Samkhyakarika:<sup>[15]</sup>

- 1. *Uuha*: based on the samskaras of previous births, the attainment of knowledge about the twenty-four Tatwas gained by examining the determinable and the indeterminable conscious and the non-conscious constituents of creation,
- 2. Shabda: knowledge gained by associating with an enlightened person (Guru upadesh),
- 3. Addhyyan: knowledge gained through study of the Vedas and other standard ancillary texts,
- 4. Suhritprapti: knowledge gained from a kind-hearted person, while engaged in the spread of knowledge
- 5. *Daan*: knowledge gained regardless of one's own needs while attending to the requirements of those engaged in the search of the highest truth,
- 6. *Aadhyaatmik dukkh-haan*: freedom from pain, disappointment, etc. that may arise due to lack of spiritual, metaphysical, mystic knowledge and experience,
- 7. *Aadhibhautik dukkh-haan*: freedom from pain etc. arising from possessing and being attached to various materialistic gains,
- 8. Aadhidaivik dukkh-haan: freedom from pain etc. caused by fate or due to reliance on fate,

The attainment of these eight siddhis renders one no longer in a painful state of ignorance but in possession of greater knowledge and experience of bliss. The aim of Samkhya is to eliminate all kinds of physical and mental pains and to receive liberation.

#### Patanjali's Yoga Sutras

In Patanjali's Yoga Sutras IV.1 it is stated (rendered in IAST):

janma auşadhi mantra tapah samādhijāh siddhayah

In translation:

Accomplishments may be attained through birth, the use of herbs, incantations, self-discipline or samadhi.<sup>[16][note 3]</sup>

#### Hindu gods associated with gaining siddhi

In Hinduism, both Ganesha and Hanuman possess the eight supernatural powers (ashtamahasiddhis)<sup>[17]</sup> and can

give one access to Ashta Siddhis.

### Usage in Sikhism

In Sikhism, Siddhi means Insight. The term **Eight Siddhis** is used for insight of eight qualities of Nirankar mentioned in Mul Mantar in Adi Granth, Central Scripture of Sikhs, The One(Ik) have eight qualities: Oankar, Satnam, KartaPurakh, Nirbhao, Nirvair, AkaalMurat, Ajooni and Svaibhang. The one who insight of these qualities is called *Sidh* or *Gurmukhi*.

## Usage in Vajrayana Buddhism

In Tantric Buddhism, siddhi specifically refers to the acquisition of supernatural powers by psychic or magical means or the supposed faculty so acquired. These powers include items such as clairvoyance, levitation, bilocation, becoming as small as an atom, materialization, having access to memories from past lives. The term is also used in this sense in the *Sarva-darśana-sangraha* of Madhvacharya (1238–1317).

### See also

- Abhijna
- Iddhi
- Kundalini energy
- Materialization
- Moksha
- Parapsychology
- Samādhi
- Siddha
- Six Yogas
- TM-Sidhi program
- Vibhuti
- Yoga
- Robert Adams

## Notes

1. Devanagari सिद्धि; IAST: siddhi; Tibetan: དོམ་གྱུག

, Wylie: *dngos grub*<sup>[web 1]</sup>

2. अष्टधा सिद्धिः १५ The Journal of Oriental Research, Madras. 1928. A note on the date of the Tattvasamasa. Pages 146&147. http://ebookbrowse.com/samkhya-tattva-samasa-1928-pdf-d284611874

### References

- 1. White, David Gordon; Dominik Wujastyk (2012). *Yoga In Practice*. Princeton: Princeton UP. p. 34.
- Separate translations: *janma*, "birth"; *auşadhi*, "medicinal plant, herb, drug, incense, elixir"; *mantra*, "incantation, charm, spell"; *tapaḥ*, "heat, burning, shining, as ascetic devotional practice, burning desire to reach perfection, that which burns all impurities"; *samādhi*, "profound meditation, total absorption"; *jāḥ*, "born"; *siddhayaḥ*, "perfections, accomplishments, fulfillments, attainments"<sup>[16]</sup>
- 2. Davidson 2004, p. 347.
- 3. Apte year unknown, p. 986.

- 4. White, David Gordon; Dominik Wujastyk (2012). *Yoga In Practice*. Princeton: Princeton UP. p. 34.
- 5. Wuyastik 2011, p. 33.
- 6. Feuerstein 1978, p. 108.
- 7. Tola, Dragonetti & Prithipaul 1987, p. x.
- 8. The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali Chapters 3, and a fair bit of 4, deal with the explicit obtainment of powers.
- 9. White, David Gordon; James L, Fitzgerald (2012). "2". *Yoga In Practice*. Princeton: Princeton UP. pp. 43–57.
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- 12. Danielou, Alain (1987). While the Gods Play: Shaiva Oracles and Predictions on the Cycles of History and the Destiny of Mankind (http://books.google.com /books?id=6pRe5Ta1W1YC); Inner Traditions International.

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- 15. The Samkhya Karika, with commentary of Gaudapada. Published in 1933 by The Oriental Book Agency, Poona (http://www.easterntradition.org /samkhya%20karika.html)
- 16. Iyengar 2002, p. 246.
- 17. Lord Hanuman & Siddhis[2] (http://www.hindujagruti.org/hinduism/knowledge /article/what-is-the-significance-of-various-formsof-lord-hanuman.html)

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1. Dharma Dictionary (April, 2010). 'dngos grub'. (http://rywiki.tsadra.org/index.php/dngos\_grub) (accessed: Thursday April 15, 2010)

## **Further reading**

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- [1] (http://www.osho.com/iosho/library/read-book/online-library-yogi-balance-mind-80cafe5ab92?p=7722b077ba404e90b515fcc960bd45ad)
- Bhagavata Purana (http://vedabase.net/sb/)
- http://www.yogamag.net/archives/1981/joct81/sidmean.shtml

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