

Varahi, is the same as Dandanatha. She kills the asura Vishukra whose birth is from the left shoulder of Bhandasura. Vishukra is the asura who puts vital energies to negative or nonprogressive acts. It is only by sacrifice that vital body fluids can be sublimated. Shukra stands for exudates and Varahi represents the power of sacrifice. The prefix "vi" can be taken to mean vishesha or special. Veerya is the strength resulting from living a regulated life where vital energies are not dissipated into wasteful activities. One can imagine the fire offering where liquids such as ghee are constantly poured. Instead of letting our energies go astray we should try to pour them into acts that are conducive for our divine growth.

kameyshvara-mukhaloka kalpithashreeganeshvara-30
One who produced Ganeswara by merely looking at the face of Kamesvara.

In the Brahmanda purana the joy that the devi feels while looking at her consort resulted in the birth of Ganesvara. The ganesh in this purana is very much a Siddhaganapati. He has ten arms that bear the fruit-ful- of- seeds, club, sugar cane bow, spear, discus, lotus, stalks of grain, blessing mudra, goad and a pot of gems. His hair is matted and he is of the hue of the young rising moon. He has a pot belly and he embraces Siddhalakshmi.

mahaaganeysa- nirbhinna- vighna- yantra- praharshitha

One who is overjoyed at destruction of the Vighnayantra that Mahaganesa achieved.

The time of his birth is important because Visukra taking on an invisible body inscribes a Jayavighna yantra. He activates it and throws it into the camp of the Shaktis. As a result all except Mantrini, Dandanatha and Bala are affected by this. They become subject to laziness, helplessness, misery, sleepiness, sluggishness, weakness, fame- conscious and egoism. They lose trust in their leaders, as well as a sense of purpose. They begin to fear death and crave for excessive sleep. When Mantrini and Dandanatha take their concerns to Srilalita then the opportune time comes for the birth of Ganesvara who destroys the yantra in one night with his tusks. His position as the first to be worshipped is assigned to him then.

bhandaasurendra- nirmuktha shasthra- pratyasthra- varshinee-31

One who causes the showers of defense missiles in retaliation to Bhandasura's missiles.

Here are the list of missiles used.

Missile from Bhandasura

1. **andhakaasthra** (m.of darkness)
darkness= blind to the divine
2. **paakhandaasthra** (m.of heresy)
3. **andhaarumadsrejaasthra**
(m.of creating ignorance)
4. **shakthinaashasthra**
(m.of depleting strength)
5. **anthaasthra** (m.of cause of death)
6. **sarvaasthrasmrithinaasha**
(all missiles of loss of knowledge or wisdom)

derived from those scriptures that are to be remembered)

7. **bhayaasthra** (m.of causing fear)
8. **mahaarogaasthra** (m.of causing disease)

Retaliating Missile from Devi

- mahaatharinee** (m.of the great star that helps the crossing or overcoming of darkness)
gaayathryasthra (m.of gaayathri manthra)
chaakshushmathamahaasthra
(m.of eye of wisdom)
vishvaasorathaasthra
(m.of faith)
mahaamrithyunjayaasthra
(m.of victory over death)
dhaaranaasthra
(concretisation of scriptural wisdom by

applying to life)

- abhayankaramaindraasthra**
(m.of offering protection from fear)
naamathrayaasthra
(m.of the 3 names- acchutha, anantha & govinda)

9. **aayunaashaasthra** (m.of decrease in life span) **kaalasankarshinyaaasthra** (m.of involuting time)

10. **mahaasuraasthra** (m.of the collective great asuras) **durgaanaaraayanyaasthra**
(m.of the deity durganarayani)

The asuraas are madhu, kaitabha, mahishaasura
dhumralochana, chanda,munda, shumbha, nishumbha,
chaamara, raktabeeja, chikshura and dhumraagni)

11. **mookaasthra** (m. of causing muteness) **mahaavaakvaadinee**
(m.of the great utterance)

It is very obvious from the above that all these missiles of Bhandas are what we experience ourselves. To overcome them one can use appropriate mantras after understanding the deep psychological significance of our puranic stories. We can use them to improve the quality of our life.

karaangulee-nakhothpanna-naaraayana-dashaakrithee

One who caused the birth of the ten Narayanas from the nails of her fingers.

From the fingers of Bhandas issue Veda- stealing asuras, the great flood, Hiranyaksha, Hiranyakasipu, Balindra, Kartavirya , Ravana etc. To handle them several avatars of Vishnu come into being from the fingers of the devi. Some are single such as Adikurma and some in groups such as Vasudeva, Pradyumna, Aniruddha and Sankarshana. The only one omitted from the popular group of ten is Buddha. Instead we have Taalanka (a Hanuman like character).

mahaapaashupathaasthraagni nirdagdhaasura-sainikaa-32

One who caused the burning of Bhandas's army when the fiery Pasupatastra was hurled.

In the purana prior to using this astra she aims the Sambhavasthra and the Naaraayanastra.

kaameyshvaraasthra -nirdagdhaa sabhandaasurashoonyaka

One who with the Kamesvara astra caused the destruction of both Bhandasura and his city Sunyapura

Many of the above asthras that the devi hurls refer to specific mantras. Only those who have achieved mantra siddhi can use them readily at any time for the designated purpose.

brahmopendra-maheendraadi-deyva-samsthutha-vaibhavaa-33

One who is glorified by Brahma, Upendra, Mahendra and many others.

Bhandas is born out of mere ashes and has an asuric temperament. He is undoubtedly strong but does not wish to stay within the cosmic order. This is as a result of his arrogance and greed. It is amazing that his kingdom has all the necessary goings-on of religious activities and yet he is a threat to the cosmic order as he is operating with an adharmic temperament. Though it has everything his kingdom is called Sunyapura- City of the Void. This is a clear indication to the thinking man that mere religion, mere strength, mere tapas is of no ultimate value unless it is combined with an integrated personality. On the other hand it can cause great harm if locked to an asuric personality.

That negativity and evil are forces to be contended with in our daily life is a fact for all of us. The handling of this is by channeling our thought processes whose essential matrix is chitta- the content or substratum of thoughts. Life is a battle and as in any battle there are always exchanges of missiles, arrows and use of weapons. By reciting the Srilalita sahasranama properly and regularly, by contemplating on its inner meaning we can equip ourselves with right thoughts, right type of feedback procedures and thus strengthen the subconscious and in turn the conscious in us.

SHUBHAM

USEFUL INFORMATION FROM AMBA HOUSE

Details on the aspect of **harmony within and without** are covered in our lessons on the Vedic Suktas.

1. AUTHENTIC SHRIVIDYA UPASAKAS CAPABLE OF GIVING DEEKSHA ARE A RARITY NOW..
2. THESE DAYS THERE ARE MANY PRACTITIONERS OF SRIVIDYA UPASANA THAT WILL PROMISE MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL PROSPERITY IN EXCHANGE FOR DEEKSHA AND DAKSHINA.
3. IT IS GOOD TO REMIND OURSELVES THAT- "*pashyennapi cha na pashyati mooda .Udaranimittam bahu kritha vasha.*" -*Even though the fool sees, he does not really know that many an attire is assumed only to fill the belly.* - Adi Shankara's Bhaja Govindam.
4. WE AT AMBA HOUSE WOULD CAUTION SADHAKS AND REMIND THEM THAT THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS TO DHARMIC ACQUISITION OF WEALTH AND NO SUBSTITUTIONS FOR **SELF-KNOWLEDGE, SELF-DISCIPLINE AND SELF- IMPROVEMENT.**

शुभम् भूयात्

RESPONSE 2

I Please fill in the blanks.

1. is the mansion that is located in the fortress city of.....
that is on top..... This mansion is surrounded by the grove.....
which in turn is surrounded by
- 2 Name some generals in Srilalita's army.....
3. The five cosmic processes represented by the Panchabrahmas are
.....
4. is the chakra of Srilalita.
- 5.....is the chakra of Mantrini.
- 6..... is the chakra of Dandanatha.
7. The lunar days or tithis are presided over by the.....devis.
8. Sriganesvara was born from theof Srilalita.
9. is the daughter of.....
10. Vishanga represents.....
and Visukra represents
11. Devas are..... while rishis are.....

II Please mark T for true F for false and D for doubtful.

1. The variety of weapons employed and the length of battles indicate that negativity is hard to deal with and must be handled in a variety of ways.
2. Art is a powerful weapon.
3. Tapas is connected to time.
4. Parts of our body and our body fluids are are easily subject to toxicity.
5. Chakras have many meanings.
6. Modern life cannot be improved by understanding of ancient puranas.
7. Daily life has no connexion to celestial entities like stars, moon etc.
8. Tantra, mantra and yantra are the three basic components of any worship.
9. If life is a battle then energy is at play and reinforcements are necessary.

10. The matruka shaktis preside over the alphabets.

III . Essay- If Devi- the feminine divine principle may be described as शून्यानां शून्यसाक्षिणी __ śūnyānām śūnyasākṣiṇī “in the area of emptiness, void or nothingness, She is the witnesser of that void”

What thoughts come to your mind ? Please answer with a short essay.

SHUBHAM

email response to consultations@ambahouse.org