

SAPTHA MATHAs or MATRIKAs

(Seven Divine Mothers)



Sapta Matrikas are mentioned in the Rigveda, Gobhilasmriti, Markandeya Purana,

Matsya Purana, etc. Varahamihira's Brihat Samhita also mentions about the images of Saptha Matrikas.

SAPTHA MATHAs or MATRIKAs - Seven Divine Mothers.

As per legend the Matrikas were created to help Lord Siva in his fight against Andhakasura. During the fight, on being hurt blood began to flow profusely from Andhaka's body. Each drop which touched the ground assumed the shape of another Andhaka. Thus there were innumerable Asuras fighting Shiva. To stop the flow of the blood, Shiva created a goddess called Yogesvari from the flames coming out of his mouth.

Brahma, Vishnu, Maheswara, Kumara, Varaha, Indra and Yama also sent their saktis to follow Yogesvari in stopping the flow of blood. Thus the Sapta Matrikas originated and Andhakasura finally lost his power and was defeated by Lord Shiva.

The Saptha Mathas are

Brahmi

Mahesvari

Kaumari

Vaishnavi

Vaarahi

Indraani

Chamundi

According to the Varaha Purana the account given of Andhakasura and the Matrikas is an allegory; it represents Atma-Vidya or spiritual wisdom as warring against 'Andhakara' the darkness of ignorance.

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The spirit of vidya, represented by Shiva, fights with Andhakasura, the darkness of Avidya. The more this is attempted to be attacked by Vidya, the more does it tend to increase for a time; this fact is represented by the multiplication of the figures of Andhakasura.

Unless the eight evil qualities, kama, krodha etc. are completely brought under the control of Vidya and kept under restraint, it can never succeed in putting down Andhakara.

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SAPTHA MATHAs - 1/7 - Brahmi

Brahmi or Brahmani, is the creative force of Lord Brahma. She has four faces and symbolizes creativeness in all forms of knowledge. She has hamsa (swan) as her vahana (vehicle). Bija Mantra of Brahmi is "Aam".

Shri Brahmi is Kaama Naashinya, meaning She is the destroyer of kaama or desires and She bestows Her worshippers with innate ability to transcend worldly desires.

Aum Dhevee Brahmani Vidmahe, Maha-shakthiyai Cha Dhimahee, Thanno Dhevee Prachodayath

Meaning:

Om, Let us meditate on Dhevee Brahmani, the most powerful Sakthi. Oh, Dhevee kindly protect us..

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SAPTHA MATHAs - 2/7 - Maheshwari

Maheshwari, is the activating force of Lord Shiva (Maheshwara) who is the Lord of Destruction or Dissolution. She is also known by names - Raudri, Rudrani and Maheshi, derived from Shiva's names Rudra and Mahesh. Her vaahanaa (vehicle) is Nandi (Bull). Bija Mantra of Maheshwari is "lim".

Shri Maheshwari is Krodha Naashinya, meaning She is the destroyer of krodha or anger and She bestows Her worshippers with ability to transcend anger.

Om Swetha varnaya Vidhmahe

Soola hasthaya Dheemahe

Thanno Maheshwari Prachodayath .

Meaning

Om, Let me meditate on the Goddess who is white,

Oh, Goddess who holds the spear give me higher intellect,

And let Goddess Maheshwari illuminate my mind

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SAPTHA MATHAs - 3/7 - Kaumari

Kaumari is the activating force of Lord Muruga (Kumara, Subramanya or Kaarthikeya). Her vaahana is peacock. Bija Mantra is "Hoom".

Shri Kaumari is Lobha Naashinya, meaning She is the destroyer of Lobha or greed and She bestows Her worshippers with an ability to transcend greed.

Om Sikhi Vahanaya Vidhmahe

Shakthi hasthaya Dheemahe

Thanno Kaumari Prachodayath.

Meaning

Om, Let me meditate on her who rides on peacock,

Oh, Goddess who holds the spear give me higher intellect,

And let Goddess Kaumari illuminate my mind

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SAPTHA MATHAs - 4/7 - Vaishnavi

Vaishnavi is the activating force of Lord Vishnu, the preserver or sustainer of life. Her vaahana (vehicle) is Garuda – Divine Eagle. Bija Mantra is "Room".

Shri Vaishnavi is Moha Naashinya, meaning She is the destroyer of Moha - Delusion, Confusion or Ignorance.

Om Shyama varnaya Vidhmahe

Chakra hasthaya Dheemahe

Thanno Vaishnavi Prachodayath .

Om, Let me meditate on the goddess who is of black colour,

Oh, Goddess who holds the wheel give me higher intellect,

And let Goddess Vaishnavi illuminate my mind

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SAPTHA MATHAs - 5/7 - Vaaraahi

Vaaraahi is the activating force of Lord Yamaa (The Lord of death). Her vaahana is Buffalo. Bija Mantra is "Loom".

Shri Vaaraahi is Mada Naashinya, meaning She is the destroyer of Mada or Self-Pride.

Om Shyamalaya cha Vidhmahe

Hala hasthaya cha Dheemahe

Thanno Vaaraahi Prachodayath.

Om, Let me meditate on the black goddess,

Oh, Goddess who holds the plough give me higher intellect,

And let Goddess Vaaraahi illuminate my mind.

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SAPTHA MATHAs - 6/7 - Indraani

Indraani is the activating force of Lord Indra. Her vahana (vehicle) is Elephant. Bija Mantra is "Aim".

Sri Indraani is Maatsarya Naashinya, meaning She is the destroyer of Maatsarya or Jealousy.

Om Gajath-vajaayai Vidmahe, Vajra Hasthaya Dhimahee, Thanno Indrani Prachodayath

Om, Let me meditate on the goddess who has elephant vahana,
Oh, Goddess who holds the thunderbolt give me higher intellect,
And let Goddess Indraani illuminate my mind

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SAPTHA MATHAs - 7/7 - Chaamundi

Chaamundi has her foot pressed on the demon (representing the demonic nature / characteristics of human) and displays Varadha and Abhaya Mudras.

Shri Chaamundi is Paapa Naashinya, meaning She is the destroyer of Paapa or Sins.

Om Krishna varnaya Vidhmahe

Soola hasthaya Dheemahe

Thanno Kali Prachodayath.

Meaning

Om, Let me meditate on the goddess who is black,

Oh, Goddess who holds the spear give me higher intellect,

And let Goddess Kali (Chaamundi) illuminate my mind.

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