



Sri Shami Vrکشam

Destroys all sorrows

Sri Shami Vrکشam Puja (Vijayadasami – Oct 25, 2020)

We spoke about the Parijata tree during Sri Krishna Janmaashtami. For Saran Navaratri we are going to talk about Sri Shami (Jammi) vrکشam. This tree grants all our wishes. She resides in all the divine Devis.

*Om Shamii shamayate paapam
Shamii mama shatru nashinii
Arjunasya dhanurdhaarii
Sri Ramya priyadarshini*

Shamii vrکشam is not at all an ordinary tree. To say it in one word, it is the form of Sri Shiva shaktyaika rupini. This vrکشam or tree is truly the manifest Adi Parashakti and truly a form of Devi.

Arjuna had performed a frightfully powerful tapas or austere practice for the accomplishment of his desire. Parameshwara was pleased with his tapas and granted his wish and awarded him the Sri Shiva Pashu Pataastram.

After obtaining the weapon called Sri Shiva Pashu Pataastram, Arjuna and the rest of the Pandavas went to the outskirts of the City of Virat before their exile. There they found the Shami tree and hid their weapons in the branches of that tree and prayed to that Vrکشam Mata or Divine Mother tree to protect their weapons and return them safely when they returned after a year. That tree was verily the form of Devi Agni Shakti, the power of fire. Therefore, She held the sacred Paashu Pataastram and kept it safe for a whole year. If it was any other tree it could not have held such a powerful weapon for it would have been burnt to ashes.

What exactly is in that Shami tree?

It is in the form of Sri Devi Durga. There are many forms of Durga in this one form of Durga.

Jala Durga	Ashtadashabhuj Durga	Agni Durga
Kanaka durga	Vana Durga	Maha Durga
Shanti Durga	Sthala Durga	Vaishnavi Durga

In this manner there are many hundreds of forms of Durga. Among those Shami Vrksa is also the Vana Durga in the form of Agni Durga.

Sri Shami Vrksa destroys all sorrows. She protects those who worship Her and who circumambulate around the tree on Fridays and Saturdays, from undue stress, anxiety and worries. She keeps sorrows away from them. She protects them with good health. How does She do that? For example, sometimes lightning can strike a tree and burn down all the neighboring trees. The lightning cannot touch the Shami tree. There is a powerful aura around that tree that diffuses the lightning.

When you circumambulate around the tree you get into that circle of aura of that tree. The human body gets wonderfully healed. All anxieties and worries and mental commotion are reduced. The breeze that results from this tree is very powerful. It cures all skin diseases.

In Ayurveda, the recommended medicine for disease where you have white spots, is Shami vrksham. It is described that you take the cluster of stems of a 10 year old tree or a matured stem and peel off the outer skin and take the inner core hardwood and soak it in a pot of water. Then they should use this water in which the wood was soaked in their cooking recipes and eat their food. They should also use the same water for drinking and nothing else. By doing so, this wood-soaked water removes the defects in the blood and eventually removes the white spots in their skin. This will usually be resolved in one or two years. If there are more white spots than that, then it may take several years.

Ayurveda describes that this wood-soaked water has the ability to remove the impurities in the blood and removes the symptoms of this disease.

These trees can be seen even today in ancient tribal areas and in Temples. People consider this tree as Durga Devi and worship Her. It is an auspicious tree that grows very high and expands. If you stand under the tree it gives a lot of shade and can turn day into night.

Shami Vrکشam is Adi Para Shakti

The Shami Vrکشam is worshipped as Vana Durga in the form of Adi Parashakti. The top of Shami Vrکشam appears like a gigantic snake's full-blown hood. This vrکشam is illuminated by Brahma, Vishnu and other Gods. This tree is also protected by Dakini and other Demi Goddesses. This tree is full of the power of Divine Mother's Maha Maya.

The rishis who worship trees are also worshippers of Mother Nature. There is no village or city without a temple in India. If there is such a village, it would be in the remotest corner of some mountainous region where all pujas, naivedyas and ritualistic or mental vows practices are done for the trees.

What is the significance of such pujas to trees and snake pits? There is an infinite principle behind the practice of this eternal dharma. That principle is that Parabrahman is the eternal principle everywhere in both animate and inanimate beings. Just as the fragrance and nectar is hidden in the flowers, so also Parabrahman is present in each grass blade, rivers, oceans, mountains, living beings, trees, human beings and in everything in the whole universe. This is the message that Parabrahman is the eternal principle behind everything.

Why did the Pandavas keep their weapons under the Shami tree only? It is clear that the Pandavas knew even 5000 years ago that the Shami tree had the capacity to protect their weapons against lightning. The Pandavas prayed thus, "O Vana Durga, O Shami Vrکشha Devi, you are verily the form of Agni, Fire. O Mother, if anyone approaches this tree, make the weapons appear to them like the big venomous snakes".

Bhimasena prayed to her thus, "O Devi Durge, please reduce my angry nature during the period of my exile". They prayed, "Jagadambe Durge! Please do not allow anyone to come under your shade. Restrain them Devi". Sri Durga Devi causes distress to the enemies by her glance and protects the world.

In Sanatan Dharma, Sri Devi has been named after 8 different visions.

1. Visala
2. Kalyani
3. Ayodhya
4. Dhaara
5. Madhura
6. Bhogavati
7. Avanti
8. Vijaya

These names of visions have become the names of certain cities. In the surroundings of some temples in India there are some huge rocks on which are carved some inscriptions.

There are some inscriptions in the City of Vijayawada in which name, you see the eighth name "Vijaya" mentioned above. In the temple of Sri Kanaka durga devi who is reigning on the top of Indra Kiladri mountain over the city of Vijayawada is written in one of the inscriptions over there that Sri Kanaka Durga Devi is protecting all the devotees.

Sri Shami Puja during Navaratri on the day of Vijaya Dasami (Oct 25)

On the last day of Navaratri, the day when Sri Aparajita Devi is worshipped at the vijaya muhurtam time. Sri Devi is worshipped in the Sri Shami vrksham. Devotees give the Shami leaves that have fallen from the tree to their near and dear ones with the belief that they will gain a lot of wealth when they receive them.

A sadhaka who strives in great austerity to control his or her mind, when he/she worships the Shami tree at the auspicious time, which is the vijaya muhurtham time on the evening of Vijayadasmi, his/her body becomes very strong, radiant and powerful.

Other trees that are worshipped as Divinities:

Raavi tree -- worshipped as Sri Maha Vishnu

Vepa (Neem tree) -- worshipped as Sri Maha Lakshmi

Marri(Banyan tree) -- worshipped as Sri Maha Devi

Shami(Jammi tree) -- worshipped as Sri Durga Devi.

Tulasi, Bilva, Juvvi, Atti and others that have been planted outside the cities have been worshipped as divinities.