

Sri Karthikeya with Sri Valli and Sri Devasena



Lord Muruga is the second son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvathy. The word Murugu literally means divine, youthful, fragrant etc. Since, the God is considered to be a manifestation of handsomeness and masculinity, he was aptly named Murugan. There is also another reason why he is named Muruga or Muruka. Mu stands for Mukundan or Vishnu, Ru stands for Rudra or Shiva and Ka stands for Kamalan or Brahma. So, his name is symbolic of the three major forces of nature according to Tamil mythology. He is also called as “Karthikeya”, “Subramnaya”, “Skanda” and “Kumara”.

Another name of Muruga is Shanmukha which means having six faces. The faces symbolize the five senses and the mind working in harmony. Lord Muruga was presented as the Son of God, emitted from the frontal eye of Lord Shiva, in six sparks of fire which were cooled down into six babies on the surface of six lotus flowers spanned over the still water of the pond, Saravana Poygai. When the five elements governed by Lord Shiva (Panch Mahabhoota – Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Ether) united with Shakti (Pure Consciousness), Lord Kartikeya was born.

There was once three evil brothers, Soorapadman, Simhamukha and Tarakasura who captured all the three worlds, heaven, earth and hell. They then torture all the devas, the heavenly immortals, to do a medial task. The Devas were unable to handle their torture and complained to Lord Shiva. Lord Shiva opened his third eye to create a son to kill these evil demons. This son is none other than Lord Murugan. With his huge army, Lord Murugan camped at Thiruchendur. The Lord sent his lieutenant, Veerabahu, to Soorapadman and asked to release the Devas. Soorapadman refused and for 6 days an intense war took place. During the first 5 days of the battle, Soorapadman's brother and all the other demons were defeated. Soorapadman continued to fight bravely and at last, realized that his final opponent was none other than Lord Murugan himself. Therefore, he fled the battlefield and took the form of a Mango tree. Lord Murugan realized this and with His lance broke the frightful mango tree into two. The two broken pieces immediately transformed into a might rooster and a peacock. Henceforth, Lord Murugan took the peacock as his vehicle and the rooster on his banner.

Subramanya holds a spear or javelin, *sakti* in his hand. He rides a peacock. The peacock grips a snake with his feet. Subramanya like other gods is a picture of human perfection. Through symbolism, he indicates ways and means to reach that Perfection.

Muruga has Six faces. He has the Ichcha Sakti, Kriya Sakthi and Gnana Sakthi as His Weapon,(Vel, His Spear). Subramanya Upasna is recognised by Shankaracharya and he has established the Worship of Subramanya as Kaumaaram.

Symbolism behind Lord Subramanya

1. Subramanyam symbolizes the fourth sate called TURIYA. It is achieved when you transcend the limitations of the waking, dream and deep sleep.
2. Spear in his hand is the shakti. It is used to destroy vasanas, desires.
3. Peacock is the Vahana, or vehicle of Subrmanyam. This is a subtle suggestion that one should forego their vanity to reach GOD.
4. Peacock is clutching a serpent, which is the ego. It is not killed but held captive. It shows that we should control our ego to attain tranquility.

Muruga Slokas

Moola Mantra

Om Sharavana-bhavaya Namaha

Meaning: Adorations to Lord Subrahmanya

Sloka

Gyaanashaktidhara skanda valliikalyaaNa sundara

Devasenaa manaH kaanta kaartikeya namo.astute

Om subrahmanyaaya namah

Meaning: Adoration to Lord Kartikeya, who is also known as Skanda. He is the one who holds the staff of intelligence, and holds the beautiful beloved of Goddess Vallii. She is the enchanter of the mind of Goddess Devasena. I offer adorations repeatedly to that Divine Kartikeya.

Gayatri

Om Tat Purushaya Vidhmahe

Maha Senaya Dheemahe

Tanno Shanmuga Prachodayaath.