

HINDUISM FOR JUNIORS



Compiled By Pathma.

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Religion

Religion is our **faith, love** and **devotion** to God

It is very important to pray, meditate, and study religious books.

By praying, God will

- protect us from trouble
- help us through hard times and
- help us be what we want to be.

Meditation will

- help us to think very well
- help us to remember things and
- help us be nice people.

A good person is a person who:

1. always tells the truth
2. helps other people
3. studies hard
4. does not hurt anyone
5. be polite to older people
6. Most importantly listens to their parents and teachers.

Religious books contain many stories about God.

These stories tell us about:

1. The power of God
2. How God helps people who pray.

God

God is everywhere.

God knows everything.

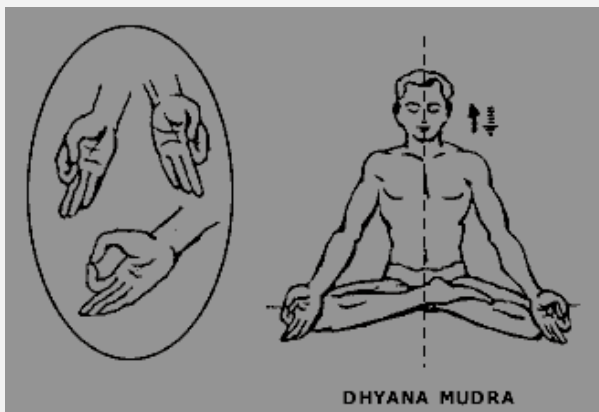
God can do anything.

God loves every one of us.

God protects us all.

Always pray to God.

Meditation



Sukasanam & Pathmasanam



Naama Sthuthi

1. Aum Vigneswaraaya namaha (3 times God)



2. Aum Sivaaya namaha (3 times) Siva



3. Aum Sakthi (3 times, Sakthi) Aum Paraasakthi



4. Aum Saravanabavaaya namaha (3 times) Murugan)



5. Aum Sri Naaraayanaaya namaha (3 times) Vishnu)



God Ganesh



God Ganesh with
His parents



God Ganesh



God Ganesh and
His brother
God Murugan

“Ganesh” means God of all living things.

Ganesh has the head of an elephant.

The elephant head is a symbol of patience, strength and wisdom.

The trunk symbolizes Aum.

He is the God of wisdom, prosperity and remover of all problems. (Obstacles)

He is worshipped before starting any activities.

He is the son of Goddess Paarvathy and God Siva.

He is also the older brother of God Murugan.

He took this form to kill an Asuran.

His belly represents the world.

His mount (vaahana) is the mouse.

His special day is Ganesh Chaturthi. This is the 4th day after the new moon in August or September.

His favourite food is the modhura (sweet ball).

Other Names of Ganesh are:

Vinaayaka
Aanaimukan
Gajamukan

Ganapathi
Pillayaar
Vigneswaran

Lambotharan
lygnkaran

Ganesh Thoathram

Aindhu Karaththanai Aanai Muhaththanai
Indhin Elampirai Poalum Eitranai
Nandhi Mahandhanai Gnaanakkolundhinai
Punthiyil Vaiththadi Potrukindreanea. (Thirumoolar-Thirumanthiram).

Gajaananam, Bootha Ganaadhi Seavitham
Kapiththa, Jamboo palasaara Padchitham
Uma Sutham, Soha Vinaasa Kaaranam
Namaami, Vigneswara Paadha Pangajam

Goddess Sakthi



Meenaakshi



Sakthi



Kaamakshi

Sakthi is the Goddess of power and courage.

Her mount (vaahana) is the lion.

She has the power to control the most violent forms.

She is the mother of Lord Ganesh, Lord Murugan and mother of everyone.

She looks after everyone like Her own child.

She is the consort of God Shiva

Other names of Sakthi

:

Paraasakthi

Amman

Uma Devi

Visaalaakshi

Buvaneswari

Paarvathi

Durga / Kottavai

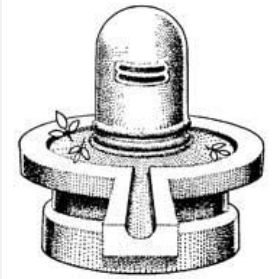
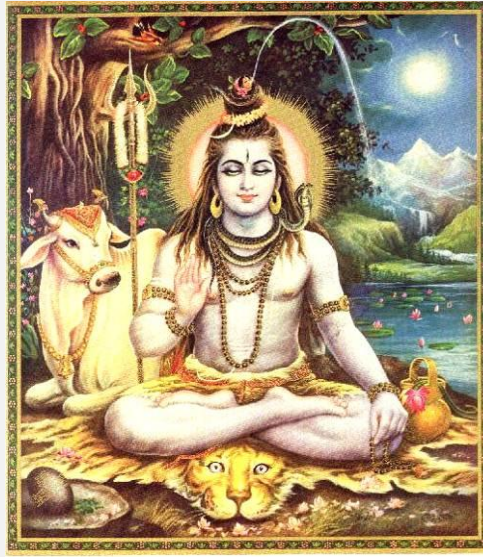
Meenakshi

Kaamaakshi

Sakthi Thoathram

Maathaa Paraasakthi Vaiyamelaam Nee Nirainthaa
Aadhaaram Unaiyalaal Yar Enakkuppaarinilea
Eithaayinum Vali Nee Seivai, Em Uyirea
Veethaavin Thaayea, Mihappanindhu Vazhvoamea (Bharathiyaar)

God Siva



Sivaalingam



Thakshanaamoorthy



Nadarajar

Siva is the God of destruction.

He has a snake around His neck.

He has 3 eyes; one eye is on His forehead.

He holds the moon on top of His head.

His mount (vaahana) is the bull.

His consort is Goddess Paarvathy.

He is the father of Ganesh and Murugan.

Siva's special festival is Sivaraathiri.

Siva takes different forms to protect his devotees.

Sivan Thoathram (Puraanam)

Ulakelaam Unarnthu Oathaikkariyavan
Nilavulaaviya Neermali Veaniyan
Alakil Soathiyam Ambalaththaaduvaan
Malar Silambadi Vazhththi Vananguvom

Sivapuraanam

Namachivaaya Vazhka Naathanthaal Vazhka
Imaippoluthum En Nenjil Neengaathan Thaal Vazhka

Other names of God Siva:

Nataraj
Eesvaran

Parameswaran
Somasuntharan

ChanthraSekaran
Gangadharan

Siva Lingam

The Lingam represents God Siva in the form of an object that is not a human form. This tells us that God lives in any object.

Linga Thoathram

Bramha Muraari Surarchitha Lingam
Nirmala Baashitha Soabitha Lingam
Janmaja Dhukka Nivaarana Lingam
Thathpranamaami Sathaasiva Lingam



God Murugan



God Murugan ,
brother ganesh
and His Parents



God Murugan



Aarumugan with
Valli and
Thevayaanai

He is the younger son of God Siva and Paarvathy.

His mount (vaahana) is the Peacock.

He carries the Vel which is the weapon that holds His mother, Paarvathy's power (Sakthi).

Muruga Thoathram

Mooviru Muhangal Poatri, Muhampozhi Karunai Poatri
Eavarum Thudhikka Nindra Eeraaru Thoalkal Poatri
Kaanchi Maavadi Vayhum Chevverl Malaradi Poatri
Annaan Seavalum Mayilum Poatri Thirukkai Vel Poatri Poatri

Other names of Murugan;

Kandhan
Mayuran
Aarumugan

Kumaran
Velan

Saravanan
Kuhan

God Vishnu

Krishna



Lord Krishna



Vishnu, Lakshmi and Brahma



Venkadeshwarar

He is the protector of everyone.

He holds the discus, conch shell, mace and the lotus in his 4 hands.

His skin colour is dark blue.

He sleeps on the thousand-headed serpent.

His mount (vaahana) is the Garuda (Vulture.)

He is the father of the creator Lord Brahma.

His wife is Lakshmi, who is the Goddess of wealth.

He is the brother of Paarvahi.

Special festival is Vaikundha aekadashi

Lord Vishnu's 8th avatharam is Lord Krishna.

Vishnu Thoathram

Patchai Maa Malai Poal Meini, Pavala Vaai Kamala Chengkann
Atchudhaa Amarar Errei, Aayartham Kolundhei Enum
Itchuvai Thavira Yaan Poy Indhira Loagam Aalum
Atchuvai Perinum Venndein, Arangamaa Nakarilaanei

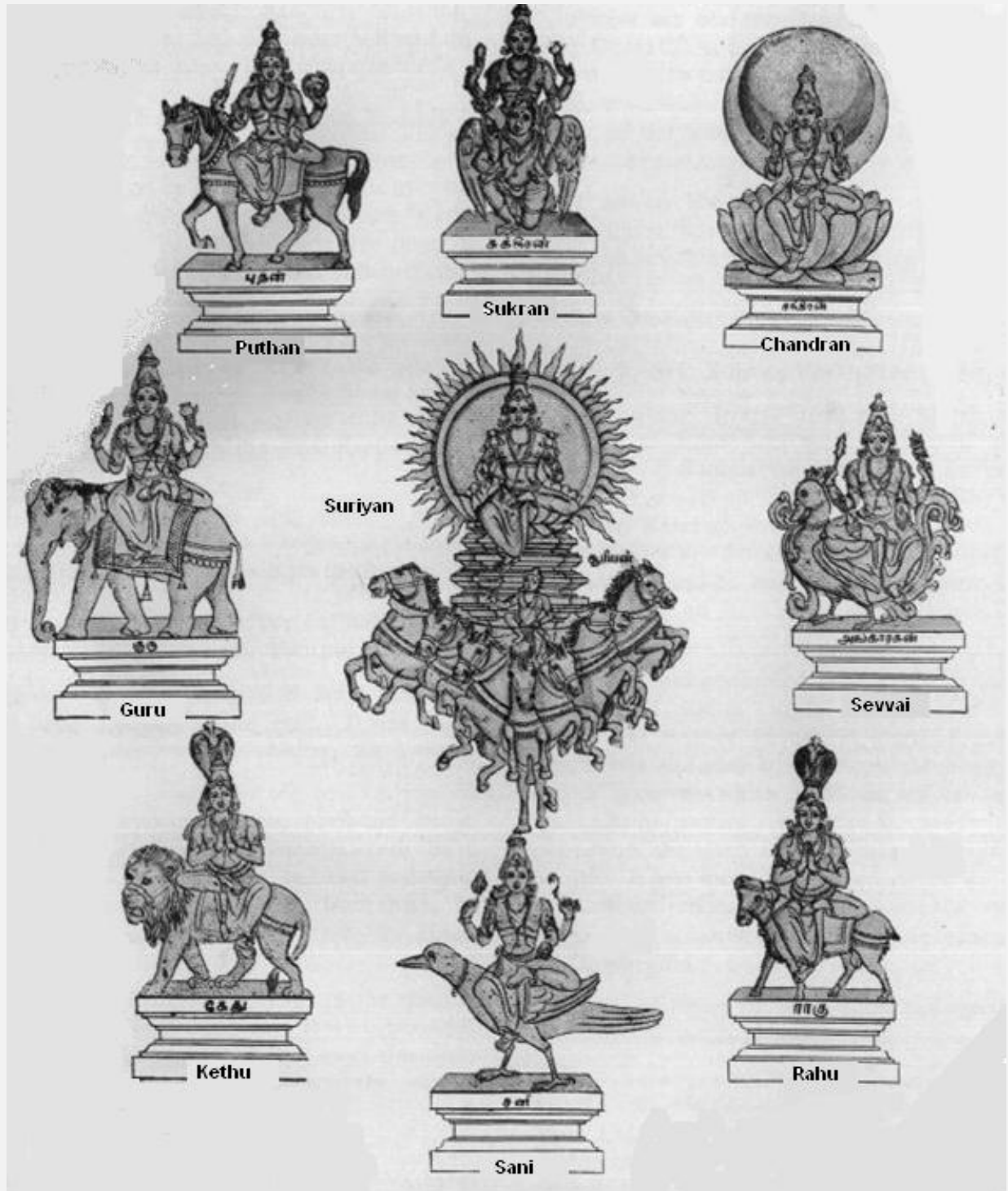
Other names of Vishnu:

Sri Naaraayanan
Kesavan
Sri Rangan
Lord Vishnu'

Govindhan
Maadhavan
Thirumaal
Madhusoothanan

Venkateswarar
Mugunthan
Muralitharan
Hari

Navagrahas



Bhairavar



Bhairavar holds the Trisoolam, just like God Shiva

Bhairavar is a terrifying and fearful form of Shiva.



Chandeswarar

The last pooja in the temple is done to God Chandeswarar



Brahman

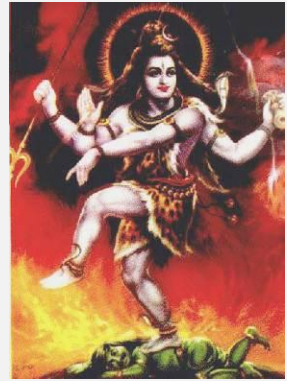
In Hinduism, **Brahman** is the one supreme, universal Spirit that is the origin and support of the universe. Brahman has no form. Humans have divided Brahman tasks into 3, known as the Trinity.



Brahma -Creator



Vishnu - Protector



Siva-Ruthran-Destroyer

Brahma

He came from God Vishnu's belly.

He has 4 heads.

His Vaahanam is the Swan

His consort is Goddess Saraswathi.

He is Sage Naarathar's father.

Other names of Lord Brahma

Ayan, Naannmugan, Pangkajan, Malaron

Navarathiri

Nine Special Nights for Three Forms of Sakthi :

Lakshmi, Durga, Saraswathi



First three nights to pray to Goddess Durga.

Second three nights to pray to Goddess Lakshmi.

Third three nights to pray to Goddess Saraswathi.

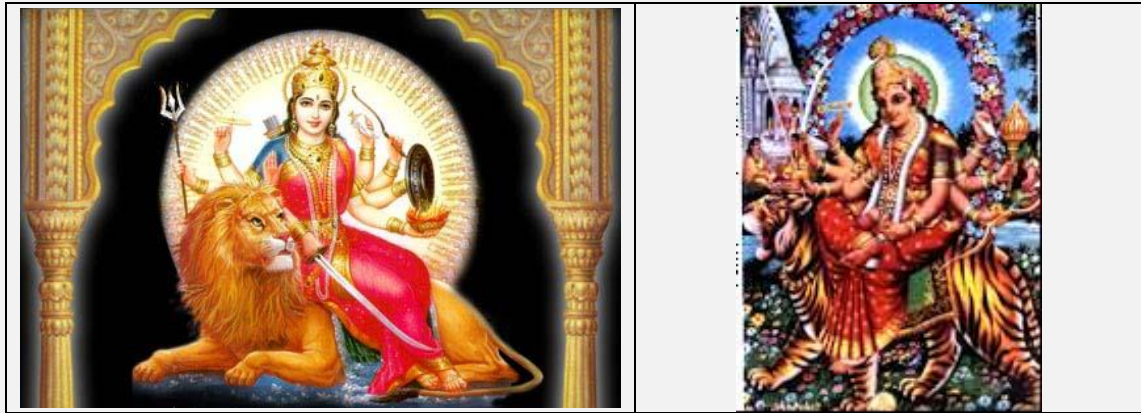
The special pooja is on the ninth night. It is called Mahanavami. On this day, we pray to Goddess Saraswathi for her blessings.

The tenth day is Vijayathasami. It is a special day to start learning new arts. For example, little children are taught how to:

- write the alphabet for the first time
- dance
- sing
- play instruments

This is called Vidhyaarambum.

Durga: Goddess of Strength, Courage and Victory



She sits on the Lion or a Tiger.

She gives power, strength and courage.

Durga Thoathram

Malaiyilea Thaan Piranthaal, Sankaranai Maalayitaal
Ulayilea Uudhi, Ulahakkanal Valarppaal
Nilayil Uyarndhiduvaal Nearea Aval Paadhum
Thalayilea Thaangi, Tharanimisai Vazhvoamea

Other names of Durga:

Malai Mahal

Paraasakthi

Gauri

Lakshmi: Goddess of Wealth



She sits on a red lotus.

She gives us wealth.

Her Vaahanam (mount) is an Owl and Elephant.

Lakshmi is consort of Lord Vishnu

Lakshmi Thoathram

Ponarasi Naarananaar, Theavi Pukal Arasi
Minunavaraththinum Poal, Meani Alakudayaal
Annai Aval Vayumelaam Aatharippaai Sri Devi
Thaniru Pottraalea Saranpukundhu Vazhvomea

Other names of Lakshmi:

Alai Mahal
Thiru Mahal

Sri Devi

Naaraayani



Saraswathi

Goddess of learning, knowledge, wisdom and arts.



She sits on a white lotus.

She plays the Veena.

She gives us knowledge, wisdom and arts.

Her Vaahanam (mount) is the Swan

Saraswathi is consort of Lord Brahma

Saraswathi Thoathram

Vaani Kalaiththeyvam Manivaakudhaviduvaal
Aani Muththaypoal, Arivu Muththu Maalayinaal
Kaanukindra Kaatchiyaay Kaanpathelaam Kaatuvathai
Maanuyarndhu Nitpaal Malaradiyea Suzhlvoamea

Other names of Saraswathi:

Vaani
Vidhiya

Saaradhaa

Kalai Mahal

Goddess Gayathiri



Gayathri Mantra ...

Om Bhur Bhuva Svaha
Tata Savitur Varenyam
Bhargo Devasya Dheemahi
Dhi Yo Yonah Prachodhayat Om

Oh Lord, You are the **protector** of life

You **destroy** all our problems and

Bring happiness. You **create** Knowledge

And light. You remove our sins.

Please guide us into the right direction.

Prayer

Aanaimugan, Aarumugan,
Ambikai, Ponnambalavan,
Gnaana Guru, Vaani
Padham Naadu

Aanaimugan



Aarumugan



Ambikai



Ponnambalavan



Gnanaguru



Vaani



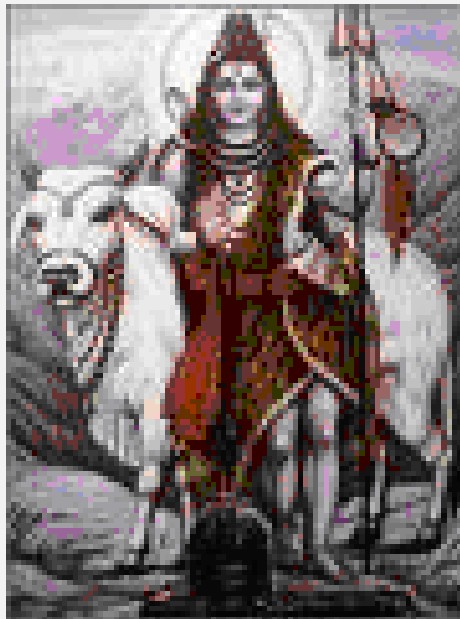
Vahanas (mount) of the different Gods (1)



Ganesh - Mouse



Sakthi - Lion

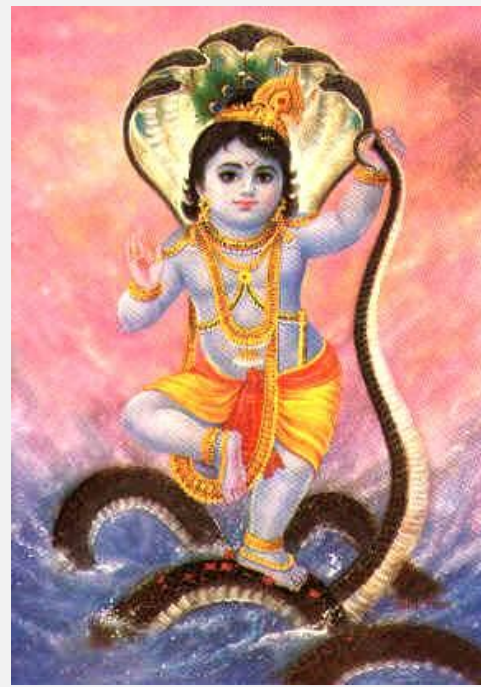


Siva – White Bull

Vahanas (mount) of the different Gods (2)



Murugan - Peacock



Krishna - Snake



Vishnu - Garuda

Vahanas (mount) of the different Gods (3)



Brahma – Swan

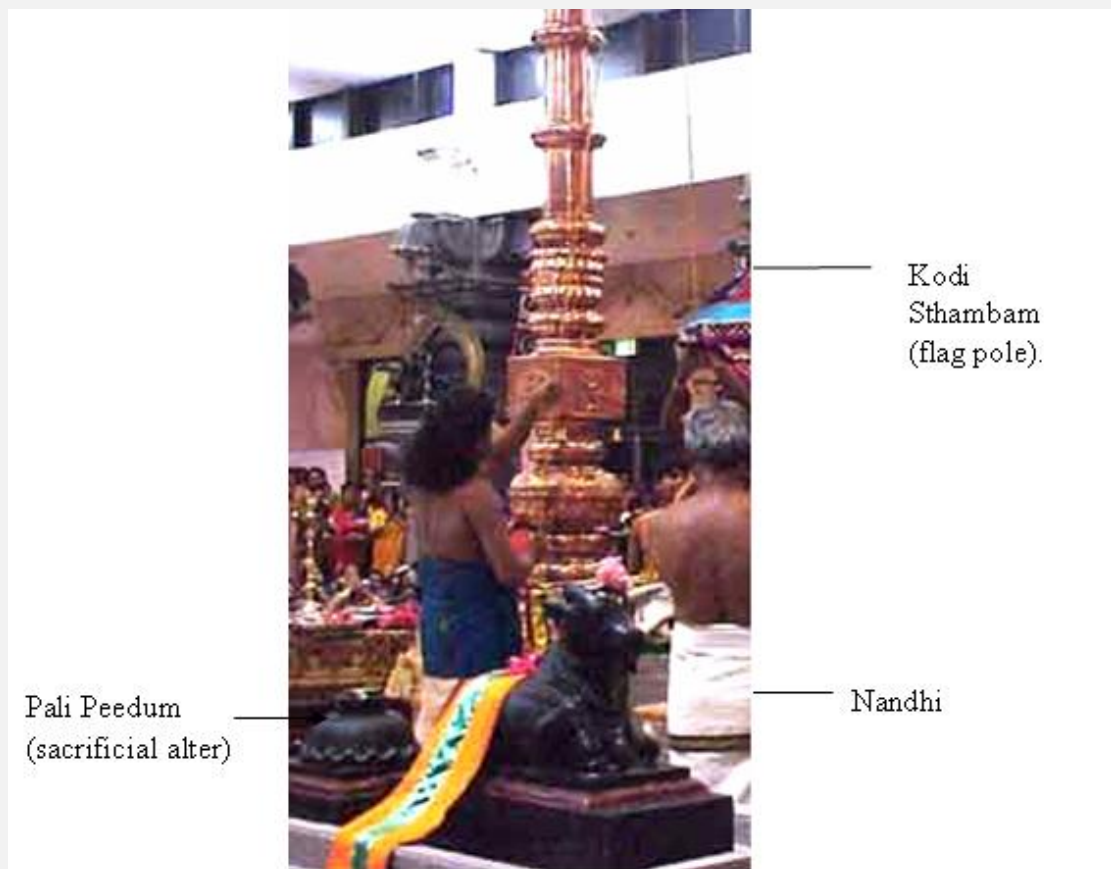


Saraswathi - Swan



Bhairavar - Dog

Sydney Murugan Temple

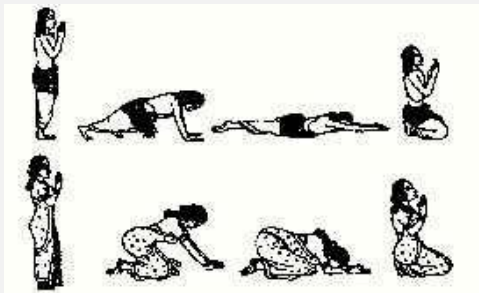


Receiving Vibhuthi Prasaadam



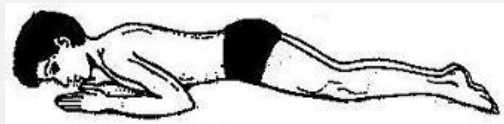
Placing the right hand
on the left hand palm

Namaskar



Ashtanga Namaskar

Ashtanga Namaskar

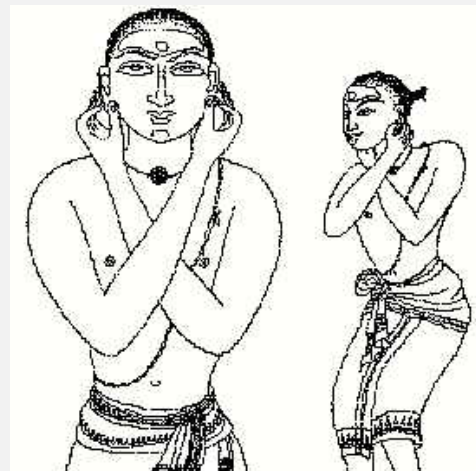
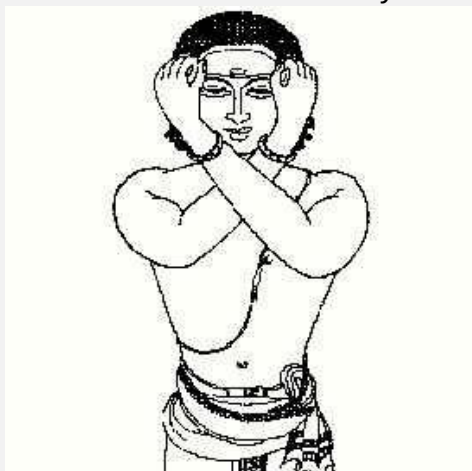


Panchanga Namaskar

Panchanga Namaskar



The way to worship to Lord Ganesh



The mango story



One day, Sage Naarathar visited God Siva and Goddess Sakthi at Kailaasam.

He gave them a very tasty mango.

God Siva looked at his sons, Pillayaar and Murugan and said **“This mango is for the first one of you, to go round the world”**.





God Murugan mounted on his peacock (vaahana) and started to fly round the world.

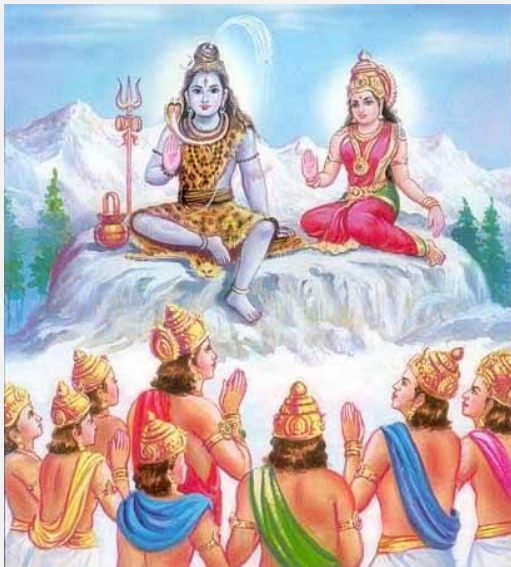
Pillayar believes that his parents are the world. So, he walked around his parents and prayed to them.

Then Pillayar said "I went around the world first!"



God Siva gave him the mango for being **smart** (wise).

The story of Murugan



Sooran, the king of Asuras, harassed the Devas.

Devas complained to God Siva.

God Siva felt sorry for them.

He wanted to punish Sooran.

God Siva opened **His third eye** (on his forehead).

Six sparks of fire came from that eye.

Those sparks fell on **Saravana** pond and changed into **six babies**.



Goddess Paravathi (Mother) hugged them together.

Immediately the six babies became one baby with six faces and twelve hands.

That baby was known as Aarumugan or Shanmugan

The story of the heated fruit (Sutta Palam)

One day a great Tamil poet, named Auvaiyar, was walking through the forest. It was a very hot day. Auvaiyar was very tired. She sat down under a fruit tree. She looked up and saw a little boy sitting on the branch of the tree and eating the fruits.

Auvaiyar asked the little boy to drop down some fruits for her to eat. The little boy asked Auvaiyar ***“Paatti! (Grandmother), would you like fruits that have been heated or the fruits that have not been heated?”*** Auvaiyar was confused; she thought that he was being silly. She laughed at him and said, ***“drop me some heated fruits”***. The little boy shook the branch. The ripe fruits dropped onto the sand. Auvaiyar picked up the ripe fruits and blew the sand off before she ate them.



The little boy then asked her ***“Paatti! Are the fruits really hot? Make sure that you blow them really well.”*** Auvaiyar then realised what he meant when he said, “heated fruit”. (Normally we blow onto hot food before we eat it). Auvaiyar said, ***“You are a clever boy. What is your name?”*** The little boy laughed at her and replied ***“Don’t you know who I am?”*** Auvaiyar looked at him closely. The little boy turned into God Murugan. Auvaiyar was surprised and she worshipped God Murugan.



The story of Krishna

Kumsan was the king of a place called Madhura. Devaki was Kumsan's sister. Devaki's husband was Vaasudeva.

One day Kumsan took Devaki and Vaasudeva to Vaasudeva's place. On the way, he heard a voice from the sky which said "O cruel king! The eighth son of your sister will destroy you."



Kumsan was scared and he put them in prison. Devaki had seven children. Kumsan destroyed all of them.

On moonless night Ashtami (8th) day of August, God Vishnu appeared and told Devaki and Vaasudeva that He will be born as their 8th child, named Krishna.

To stop Kumsan from killing Krishna, God Vishnu ordered Vaasudeva to take Krishna to a place called Gokulam.

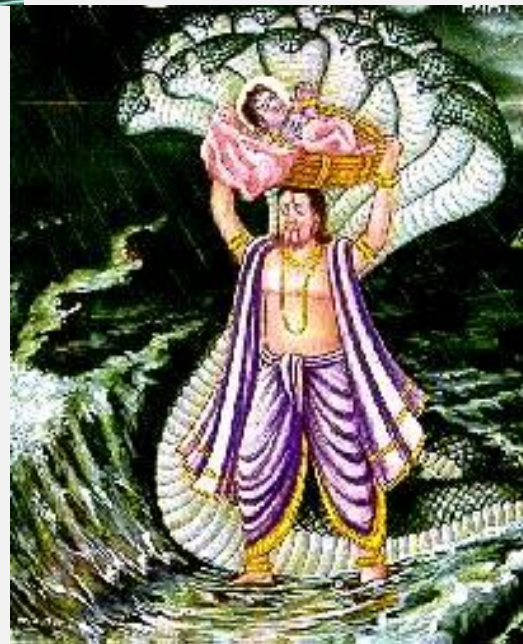




God Vishnu put all the jail guards to sleep and opened all the locked doors, so that Vaasudeva can escape. Vaasudeva placed baby Krishna inside a basket. He put the basket on his head and walked out of the jail.

It started raining and immediately a many headed serpent covered the baby like an umbrella so that the baby Krishna would not get wet.

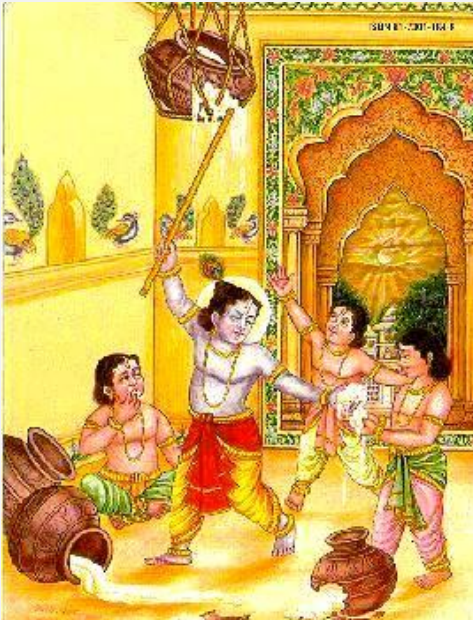
Vasudeva had to cross the deep river Yamuna. Yamuna divided into a path to let him cross



He arrived at Gokulam and went to a place called Aayarpaadi where his friend Nandagopan lived. Nandagopan's wife, named Yasodha, gave birth to a baby girl at the same time as Lord Krishna was born.

While Yasodha was sleeping, they swapped the babies. Vasudeva returned to the jail with the baby girl.

Yasodha looked after Krishna with full attention. Yasodha never left Krishna's side.



BUT, Krishna was very naughty. He loved to steal milk, butter and yogurt from his neighbours, with his friends.

Krishna played with cowherd's children (Aayarpaadi children). He looked after the cattle with His friends. When Krishna played the flute, the cows followed Him and the little calves played with Him.





One day Krishna ate a handful of sand. Mother Yasodha heard about this and became very angry. Yasodha asked Krishna to open His mouth. Krishna opened his mouth and showed the entire universe and all of Vishnu's avathaarams to His mother. Yasodha realised that Krishna was not an ordinary child.



Dhasavathaaram (ten incarnations)

The ten most famous descents of Vishnu are in the Garuda Purana (1.86.10"11) and denote those avatars most prominent in terms of their influence on human society.



Khurma
(Tortoise)



Vaamana
(Dwarf)



Matsya (Fish)



Rama



Varaaha
(Boar)



Krishna



Narasimha
(half-lion, half-
human)



Buddha-
Balarama



Parasuraman



Kalki

In some versions the 9th avatar is Balarama (elder brother of Krishna).

The story of Prahaladhan



Once there was a powerful asuran named king Hiranyakashipu (Hiranya). He wanted to be the most powerful asuran. So he prayed for many years to God Brahma and asked him to grant a wish. His wish was that no living creature (humans and animals) should be able to kill him. Brahma granted his wish. Then king Hiranya stopped everyone from praying God and forced them to pray to himself.



Everyone obeyed king Hiranyan except his son Prahalaadhan.

Prahalaadhan continued to pray God Naaraayana (Vishnu).





King Hiranyan tried his best to make his son say 'Aum Hiranyaaya namaha'. He told him nicely, screamed at him and punished him in many ways like throwing him off a cliff. Prahaladhaan did not listen; he kept on saying 'Aum Naaraayanaaya Namaha'



Finally he asked his son *"who is this Naaraayana? Where is he?"*

Prahalaadhan answered *"God Naarayana is everywhere."*

Then father Hiranya pointed to a pillar and asked *"Is your Naaraayana in this pillar?"*

Prahalaadan answered ***"He can be in a pillar or a particle of dust"***





King Hiranya started to laugh. He kicked the pillar that he pointed to. The pillar exploded, splitting open and out came God Naaraayana as **Narasimha, the form of half lion, half human.**



Narasimha destroyed the evil Hiranya, so that he could **protect** Prahalaadhan and the world.



Prahalaadan praising Vishnu's Narasimha Avataara

Four religious saints (Samaya Guruvar)

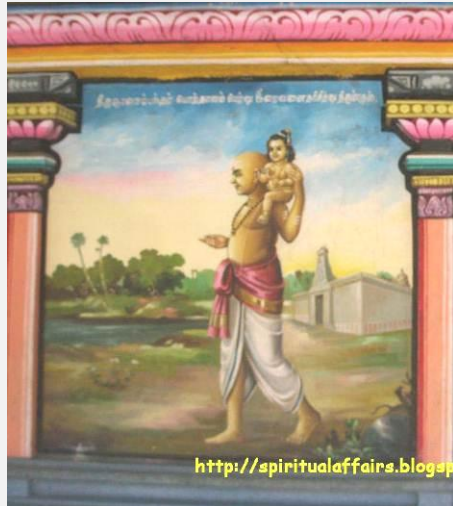


1. St Thirugnaanasambanthar [Sambanthar]
2. St. Thirunaavukkarasar [Appar]
3. St Sundharamoorthy [Sundharar]
4. Maanickavaasagar Swamikal

Saint Thirugnanasambanthar

(The child who sang Thevaaram at age of 3)

Once there was a three-year-old child called Sambanthar. His father's name was Sivapaathairuthayar and his mother's name was Bagavathiyaar. Sambanthar's real name was Pillayar.



One day Sambanthar went to the temple with his father. The father told Sambanthar to sit on the step beside the pond until he finished bathing.

When his father dipped into the water Sambanthar could not see his father. So he started to cry “AMMA!, APPA!, AMMA!, APPA!”.



Immediately God Siva and Goddess Paarvathi came down from the sky. Goddess Paarvathi fed him holy milk from a small golden bowl. Sambanthar stopped crying.

Then God Siva and Goddess Paarvathi disappeared. Few minutes later, Sambanthar's father returned from the Pond after his bath.



He saw milk dripping from the mouth of his child. He became angry. He shouted at Sambanthar asking “*Who gave you milk?*” Sambanthar pointed to the sky and began to sing about what he saw. He sang this Thevaaram

**Thoadudaya Seviyan Vidai Erei Or Thoovenn Madhi Soodi
Kaadudaya Sudalaippodi Poosi En Ullam Kavar Kallvan
Eadudaya Malaraan Unai Naadpaninthu Eatha Arul Seitha
Peedudaya Pramaapurameviya Pemmaan Evan Annrea**

After this incident, everyone called him Thiru-gnana-Sambanthar.

Thiru means God.

Gnana means Knowledge.

Sambantham means Association/Connection.

Thirugnanasambathar means ‘the one who is connected with God through the knowledge that God has given him’.

Saint Thirunaavukkarasar



His original name is Maruneeikiyaar.
His father's name is Puhalanagar.
His mother's name is Mathiniyaar.
His family was very poor and he had a sad childhood.

He converted to Jain (Samana) religion with the name Tharmasena. His sister Thilagavathy was a strong devotee of God Siva (Saivism). She loved her brother very much. When he converted to Jainism, she was very worried and prayed to God Shiva that he change back to Saivism. Her prayers worked.



God gave him a serious stomach disease. Jains (people who were part of the Jain religion), tried everything to cure him. Nothing worked. Appar realised that he made a mistake by converting to Jainism. He described his suffering by singing 'songs (Kootayinavaaru)' and converted back to Saivism and prayed to God Siva.

The Jains were very angry that he converted to Saivism, so they tried to punish him in various ways.



They tried to burn him to death by shutting him up in a **lime furnace**. (Lime stone/ kiln). He prayed to God Shiva to help him. God Shiva made the lime furnace cold. Then the Jains made him eat **poisoned food**. Again, Appar prayed to God Siva and the poison did not harm him at all.

They even tried to let a **mad elephant** attack him, but his prayers to God Shiva made the mad elephant bow down to Appar. Finally they tied him to a **big stone and threw him into the sea** so that he would sink and drown. Again he prayed to God Siva by singing this Thevaaram

**Sottunai Veathiyai, Sothivaanavan
Pottunai Thirunthadi Porunthakkai Thola
Katrunai Pootti Or Kadalil Paachinum
Nattunai Aavathu Namasivayavea**

God Siva made the heavy stone float in the water, saving the life of Appar.

Throughout Appar's life, he sang a great many Thevarams in praise of God Siva, because of this, God Shiva announced loudly from the sky to everyone that Appar should be known as **Naavukkarasar** - King (arasar) of the Tongue (Naa).

Saint Sundharamoorthy (Sundharar)



His father's name is Sadaiyanaar.
His mother's name is Isaiganiyaar.
His original name is Naambiyaarurar.

King Narasingha-munaiyar really liked Sundharar. The king wanted to adopt Sundharar so he begged his parents. They agreed. Sundharar was brought up by the king in a very religious way just as Sundharar's parents would. He was given a good education.

When Sundharar became an adult, the king fixed a wedding for him.

While the wedding was happening, an old man tried to stop the wedding. In front of everyone, he said, looking at Sundharar, *"You are my slave, how can you get married without my permission"* Sundharar got very angry. He shouted at the old man saying *"You mad fellow! (Piththaa!) That is not true. Prove to me that I am your slave!"* The old man took out a document that proved that Sundharar was his slave. He showed it to everyone who was at the wedding. Sundharar immediately grabbed the document and ripped it into pieces. The old man was very angry and he said *"This is not fair! This document was just a copy, I have the original at my place in Thiruvennai-nalloor. I will take this matter to the court in my village because I do not trust anyone here"*. Sundharar followed the old man to that village temple court yard.



The old man proved that Sundharar was his slave. Everyone at the court yard agreed. Sundharar accepted. Everyone asked the old man *"Where is your home?"* The old man replied *"Come, I will show you"* and walked into the

Thiruvarturthurai temple. Everyone, including Sundharar followed him. The old man walked straight into the Karuarai (place where the main God statue is placed). He did not return. Everyone was surprised. Sundharar, alone, entered the Karuarai, to search for him, he called him. Then he saw God Siva with Paarvathi. God Siva said *“Since you harshly spoke with me, you shall be known as Vanthondan”* ‘Van’ means harsh and ‘Thondan’ means servant. God Siva then said *“Sing songs in praise of me”*. Sundharar replied *“I don’t know how to praise you, I’m nothing, I don’t know anything, and how can I sing?”* God Siva replied *“Since you called me Piththaa, begin the song with the word ‘piththaa’ and you must always look like this, like a beautiful (Sundhara) groom”*. Then they disappeared. Sundharar first Thevaaram was this:

**Piththa Pirai Soodi Perumanae Arulala
Ethaal Maravaathea Ninakkindraen Manaththunnai
Vaiththaa Pennai Thenpaal Vennai Nallur arul thurayil
Aththaa Unaku Aalaayini Allaen Enalaamae**

Sundharar sang many Thevaarams after this.

Saint Maanickavaasakar



His father's name was Sambupaatharachariyar.
His mother's name was Sivagnanavathy.
His original name was Thiruvathavurar.

The king, Arimarththan Pandian, appointed Maanickavaasakar as his chief minister because he was very clever. Maanickavaasakar was a devotee of God Shiva.

One day the king gave him a lot of money to buy some horses. On the way, Maanickavaasakar saw a group of devotees (who were actually Sivaganam's) with their guru doing a pooja under a tree at Thirupperunthurai temple.



Maanickavaasakar forgot about what he was supposed to do and joined the group of devotees. The guru whispered the Namasivaaya manthiram into Maanickavaasakar's ears. Then the guru and the devotees disappeared. Maanickavaasakar realised that the guru was God Siva. He was very sad because he wanted to see God Siva again and serve him. So he spent all the money that the king gave on serving God Shiva.

He returned to the palace empty-handed. The king was very angry. Maanickavaasakar felt very guilty for what he did. So he prayed to God Siva to help him. God Shiva changed all the foxes into horses and sent them to the palace.

Maanickavaasakar sang many songs in praise of God Siva. The first song that he sang was **Sivapuraanum** which began with "Namasivaaya", the word he heard from God Siva (disguised as the guru). These are the first four lines of the Sivapuranum:

**Namasivaaya Vaalka Naathan Thaal Vaalka
Immaippoluthum En Nenchil Neengaathan Thaal Vaalka
Kokaliyaanda Kurumani Thanthaal Vaalha
Aagamam aahi nindrannippaan Thaal Vaalka -----**

It is said that God Shiva Himself, disguised as a devotee, wrote down all the songs as Maanickavaasakar sang them and then disappeared. He sang the Thiruvaasakam and Thirukkovaayar,



God Siva named him 'Maanikka vaasakar' because maanikkam means gems. This happened in front of Thillai vaal andhanar at Chithamparam. This is one of his songs from Thiruvaasakam:

**Vaanaaki Mannaaki Valiyaaki Olliyaaki
Uunaaki Uyiraaki Unnmaiyumaai Innmaiyumaaki
Koanaaki Yaan Enathu Endru Avaravaraik
Kooththattuvaanaaki Ninndraayai En Solli Vaalththuvanea**

Sivaraathiri

There was an argument between the Creator, God Brahma and the Protector, God Vishnu about who was the greatest among them.



They both heard a voice saying, “*the one who can find the source or the tip of the flame is the greater one*”. Brahma chose to search for the tip. So Brahma turned into a swan and flew off. Vishnu turned into a boar (wild pig) and started to dig the ground to search for the source.

They searched for several days but they failed. Vishnu was tired and so he gave up. He realized that the flame was God Siva and that God Siva is the greatest. At midnight, the flame shrunk and God Siva appeared inside the Lingam. This night is called Sivaraatiri. Hindu's pray God Siva by fasting for the entire day and praying at the temple for the entire night without sleeping. Leaves from the Vilva tree are used for the Sivaraathiri pooja.



The power of Sivaraathiri

Once there was a hunter in a jungle. He was searching for an animal to eat. He became tired and hungry because he could not find anything to eat for the whole day. Later that night, a tiger started chasing him.

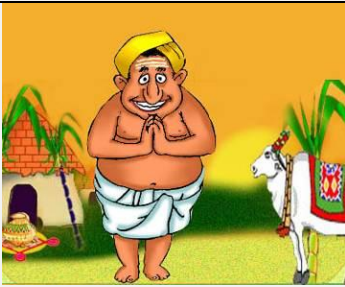
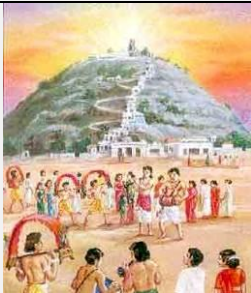
He climbed a Vilva tree to escape from the tiger. The tiger sat under the tree waiting for him to come down. The hunter did not want to fall asleep because he was scared of the tiger. So to stay awake, he plucked the leaves off the Vilva tree and dropped them down.



He did not realise that below the tree was a Siva Lingam. This happened for the entire night. God Siva was pleased with the fasting and the pooja the hunter and the tiger did without their knowledge. He gave the hunter and the tiger "Moksha".



Hindu festival calendar

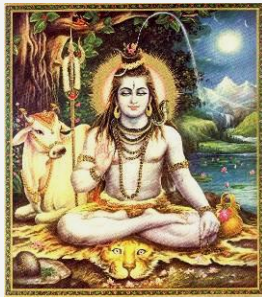
January (Thai)			
			
Farmer's Day, thanking the Sun by offering the first harvest as sweet milk rice	The next day of Pongal . Thanking the cattle by offering them sweet milk rice and prayers.	Thai Pooam. Kaavadi for God Murugan and God Shiva.	Thai Amaavaasa. (pooja for Goddess Abirami on this newmoon day night)

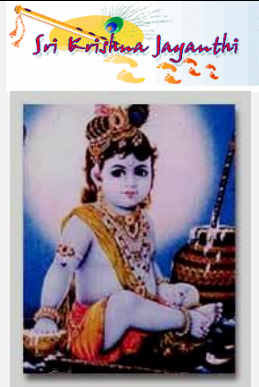
February (Maasi)	
	
Sivaraathiri	Maasi Maham (pooja to Sakthi on this day)

March (Panguni)		
		
Panguni Thingal (fasting all Mondays of march to Sakthi)	Sydney Murugan Temple Festival	Panguni Uththram (God's wedding day)

April (Chiththirai)		
		
Hindu New Year	Sri Rama Navami (Lord Rama's birthday)	Chiththiraikku Chiththirai Chiththirai pooranai Chiththra Gupta fasting (special pooja and fasting to Lord Chitraguptan on this day)

May (Vaikaasi)	June (Aani)
	
Vaikaasi Visaakam (Lord Murugan's birthday)	Aani Uththram Special.abhishekam for Lord Nataraj

July (Aadi)		
		
Aadi Sevvai (fasting every Tuesday of this month in praise of Goddess Sakthi)	Aadi Amaavaasai (New moon day (fasting day for father-less people))	Aadi Pooram (special pooja to - Sakthi and Aandaal)

August (Aavani)			
			
Ganesha Chaturthi Aavani Gnayiru (fasting every Sunday of this month in praise of God Ganesh)	Varalakshmi Pooja (Paarvati did thaba in praise of God Siva. Females fast and do pooja to Shakthi on this day)	Krishna Jayanthi or Gokulashtami (Lord Krishna's birthday)	Thiru Onam (Celebrating King Mahabali's visit to his kingdom)

September (Purattaadhi)			
			
Purattaadhi Sani (fasting and prayers to Satrun every Saturday of this month)	Navaraathiri (prayers to the 3 Goddesses for nine nights)	Vijaya Dhasami (celebrating victory when Goddess Sakthi destroyed Mahishasuran)	Ganesh Chadhurthi (God Ganesh's birthday)

October (Iyppasi)		
		
Iyppasi Velli (fasting of every Fridays of this month)	Deepaavali (celebrating the day Krishna killed Narahasuran and the return of Raman from the forest. Celebrated with deepam)	Kanthashashti (6 days of fasting and prayers in praise of God Murugan's victory in destroying Soorapadman)

November (Karthikai)		
		
Karthikai Thingal (fasting on every Monday of this month)	Karthikai Deepam (Thanking the Karthikai Maids and remembering the Sivaraathiri flame at ThiruAnnaamalai)	

December (Maarkali)		
		
Thiruvempavai (10 days of fasting and prayers to God Siva and Paarvathi)	Thiruvaathirai Arudhra dharsanam (big pooja to God Nadaraj)	Vaikunda eakaadhasi (fasting and praying to God Vishnu to reach Moksha)

Revision Questions and Answers

1. Who created the world?
God
2. What is the name of the place where we go to pray to God?
The Temple
3. List the ways in which we pray to God?
 1. **Doing Pooja**
 2. **Singing Devotional Songs**
 3. **Putting hands together and praying**
 4. **Meditation**
 5. **Panchaanga Namaskaram (female, 5 parts of the body touching the ground), Ashtaanga Namaskaram (male, 8 parts of the body touching the ground)**
4. List the items that can be offered to God for a pooja?
 1. **Flowers**
 2. **Milk**
 3. **Fruits**
 4. **Coconut**
 5. **Camphor**
 6. **Incense sticks**
 7. **Milk Rice (Sweet Rice)**
5. What needs to be done before going to the temple?
 1. **Showering**
 2. **Wearing clean clothes**
6. How should we behave in the temple?
 1. **Must be quiet**
 2. **Must not be naughty**
 3. **Must pray to God**
7. Where do we apply the holy ash (Viboothi/Thiruneeru)?
Across the forehead, with three fingers.
8. How should we receive the Viboothi from the priest (Iyar)?
With both hands (right back hand placed over the left hand palm).
9. Should Viboothi be thrown away? Why?
NO, Viboothi is God's prasaatham (blessings), it should be respected.
10. So what should we do with Viboothi left over after applying on the forehead?
Apply it on the face, neck and arms.

11. What is the name of the God with the elephant face?
Ganesh or Vinayakar or Aanimukan or Gajamukan (More names).
12. What is God Murugan's mount ('vahana')?
The peacock.
13. What is Vinayakar's mount ('vahana')?
The mouse.
14. Who sang Thervaaaram at the age of 3?
Thirugnaanasambanthar
15. What is the name of the Goddess who sits on a white lotus and gives knowledge and learning?
Goddess Saraswathi.
16. What is the name of the Goddess who sits on a red lotus and gives wealth?
Goddess Luxmi.
17. Which Goddess gives courage and strength?
Goddess Durga.
18. What is the colour of sandal?
Yellow.
19. What is the colour of Kungkumum (Kum Kum)?
Red.
20. Which God has the moon (crescent) on his head?
God Siva.
21. Which God holds the 'Vel'?
God Murugan.
22. Which God holds the conch shell and the discus?
God Vishnu.
23. Who plays the flute?
Lord Krishna
24. Which God holds a Mothakam (sweet ball) in His hand?
God Ganesh
25. Which God wears tiger skin around His waist?
God Shiva
26. Which Goddess sits next to God Shiva?
Goddess Paarvathi.
27. (*) Name the 2 Goddesses who are on either side of God Murugan?
Goddess Devayaanai and Goddess Valli.

28. What is found above the entrance of the temple?
The Kopuram.
29. What should we do before we eat?
Thank God for giving us the food.
30. What are the important objects that can be seen in the temple?
**1. God statues (vikrahams).
2. Deepas (Lamps)
3. Bell**
31. To which God should the pooja be performed first?
God Ganesh.
32. To which God should the pooja be performed last?
God Chandeswarar.
33. What kinds of Prasaadhams do we receive after a pooja?
**1. Viboothi
2. Theertham (holy water)
3. Sandal
4. Kungumum (kum kum)
5. Flowers
6. Fruits and nuts
7. Milk rice and other sweets**
34. (*)Name the 3 saints who sang Thevaarams?
**1. Appar - Saint Thiunavukkarsar
2. Sundharar- Saint Suntharamoorthy
3. Sambanthar- Saint Thirugnanasambanthar**
35. (*)Who sang Thiruvaasakam and Thirukkovaaiyar?
Saint Maanikkavaasakar.
36. Which God is the protector?
Lord Vishnu.
37. Which God is the creator?
Lord Brahma.
38. Which God is the destroyer?
Lord Ruthran (Shiva).
39. (*) What are the 3 main images of God Shiva in the temples?
**1. Linga
2. Nataraj (dancing Shiva)
3. Thakshanaamoorthy**
40. What is the name of the special night for God Shiva?
Sivaraathiri.

41. What is the name given to the 9 nights of pooja for the 3 Goddesses?
Navaraathiri.
42. What are the things needed for a Kumbam?
1. **Lamps (Vilakku)**
 2. **Pot of Water**
 3. **Banana leaf**
 4. **Coconut**
 5. **Rice or Paddy**
 6. **Mango leaves and flowers**
43. Which God is Murugan's brother?
God Ganesh.