

Maa Brahmcharini — The second manifestation of Maa Durga

Maa Brahmcharini is the second manifestation of Maa Durga who is worshipped on the second day of Navratri. Here word "Brahm" refers to "Tapa". So Brahmcharini means Tapa Charini - The one who performs Tapa or penance. It is said that the "Vedas", "Tatva" and "Tapa" are synonyms of word "Brahm". The form of Brahmcharini is tremendously effulgent and extremely majestic.

Brahmcharini

She holds a rosary in her right hand and Kamandalu in her left. She personifies love and loyalty. Mata Brahmcharini is store-house of knowledge and wisdom. Rudraksha is her most adorned ornament. When she was incarnated as the daughter of Himalaya, then influenced by the instructions of Devarishi Narada, she practiced very hard penances in order to obtain Lord Shiva as her divine consort. Due to her unearthly penances she was termed as Brahmcharini. She spent one thousand years, only on fruits and beet-roots. One hundred years she spent only by eating leafy vegetables.

For a sufficient period of time observing complete fast she suffered tormenting of nature like torrential rains and scorching sun and biting cold, under the open sky. After such a difficult routine she lived only on dry Bilva Pattaras (leaves) fallen on the ground for three thousand years. She kept herself engrossed for twenty-four hours in worshiping Lord Shiva. After that she gave up eating even these dry leaves. For several thousand years she went on without any food and water. Because she gave up eating dry Bilva leaves so she was known to be Aparna as one of her epithets.

After the hardship of penance for several thousand years her body became extremely lean and thin. She was reduced to skeleton only. Her penance, sharpened as it was, caused great disturbance in all the three worlds. The whole universe was shaken. The Gods, the Rishis, the Siddhas, the Munis all eulogised her penance as an unprecedented virtuous action.

Ultimately Lord Brahma through an oracle addressed her and said to her in a very pleasant manner-O Goddess, so far nobody has ever practiced such an austere penance. Only you could have done it. This wonderful deed is being praised in all the four quarters. Your desire would be fulfilled. You will decidedly get Lord Shiva as your divine consort. Now stop your penance and go home. Your father would be shortly coming to take you back.

Legend states that in a previous birth she was Parvati Hemavati the daughter of Himavan. Once when she was busy in games with her friends, Naradaji came to see her and on reading her hand/palm-lines Narad Muni stated that, "You will get married with a naked-terrible 'Bhole Baba' who was with you in the form of Sati, the daughter of Daksh in previous birth. But now you have to perform penance for him."

There upon Parvati told her mother Menaka that she would marry none except Shambhu, otherwise she would remain unmarried. Saying this she went to observe penance. That is why her name is famous as Tapacharini - Brahmcharini. From that time her name Uma also became familiar. She is the one who practices devout austerity. Filled with bliss and happiness, she is the way to emancipation - Moksha. 'Brahma' here refers to the meditative aspect of Brahmcharini and is always depicted as pious women or Sannyasin.

She is also worshipped as Goddess Tara and is associated with the pious form of Goddess Shakti. She is believed to be that aspect of Mother Goddess, which was present in Sati and Goddess Parvati, when they both did intense austerities to get Lord Shiva as husband.

During the penance Mata Parvati did in order to gain Lord Shivji as her consort for thousands of yrs. without eating even leaves she was called 'Aparna'. Seeing her body her mother uttered U-ma and so she is also called 'Uma'.

Her worship increases sacrifice, good deeds and restraint in humans. Rudraksha is her most adorned ornament. In some regions, Goddess Chamunda Swarup of Durga is worshiped on the second day of Navratri.

In this form she is believed to have killed the demons Chanda and Munda. There is a famous Chamunda Mata Temple at Jodhpur.



Navratri Akhand Jyoti niyam



The tradition of lighting oil lamps in temples and households in India is centuries old. Generally, people light an oil lamp twice a day- once in the morning after a bath and once in the evening (roughly during dusk).

Interestingly, a Diya or Jyoti symbolises knowledge, purity, good luck, prosperity and represents the absence of darkness/ignorance. And the lamp that remains ignited for several days is referred to as Akhand Jyoti. So, devotees light the Akhand Jyoti (eternal lamp) during Navratri to

honour Mother Goddess Durga.

The Akhand Jyot remains ignited for nine days, and that's what makes it a unique ritual. Read on to know how to light the Akhand Jyoti, the niyam (rules) and upay (solutions).

Navratri Akhand Jyoti niyam and upay

Use brass, silver or earthen lamp. If you opt for an earthen lamp, make sure you keep it soaked in water overnight to prevent it from absorbing all the oil while igniting.

Make an Ashtadal (a pattern of an eight-petaled lotus) with gulal or raw rice on the chowki/platform.

One must always install the oil lamp (Diya) on a chowki or a raised platform. You may place the Akhand Jyoti in the centre of the Ashtadal. This must be kept to the right of the Mother Goddess on the chowki or the altar.

Use a long and thick Baati (cotton wick) or the one made of Mauli to help it remain ignited until the end of the ninth day of the festival.

Use pure sesame oil, mustard oil or ghee for fuelling the Akhand Jyoti. Keep the Akhand Jyoti away from the direction of the breeze/window/door etc. Ensure that it doesn't get extinguished because of a sudden flow of breeze. You may also use a glass box open at the top or a glass cylinder with an open top to shield it from the air.

Keep a check on the quantity of oil in the lamp. Then, gently add oil to the Akhand Jyoti so that the inflamed end of the wick doesn't get immersed.

Due to constant kindling, the wick may start gathering burnt remains. Therefore, add a new wick to the Akhand Jyoti, light it, and gently remove the overburnt portion of the lighted end of the old wick with a slender stick.

Last but not least, a need may arise to follow this procedure at regular intervals to prevent the Akhand Jyoti from turning off before the vrat ends.

Mantras dedicated to each of the nine forms of Durga



Ashadha and Magha Gupta. This year Sharadiya Navratri begins on Oct 7th and culminates on Oct 15th.

Each of the nine days is dedicated to one of the nine forms of Durga. Each avatar of the Goddess has a specific significance, form and appearance. You can worship each of the nine Goddesses by chanting these simple Mantras this festive season. Check out specific mantras for each of the nine days:

- Day 1 – Maa Shailputri**
Om Devi Shailaputri Namah
- Day 2 – Maa Brahmacharini**
Om Devi Brahmacharini Namah
- Day 3 – Maa Chandraghanta**
Om Devi Chandraghantayi Namah
- Day 4 – Maa Kushmunda**
Om Devi Kushmandayi Namah
- Day 5 – Maa Skandamata**
Om Devi Skandamataayi Namah
- Day 6 – Maa Katayanyi**
Om Devi Katayanyai Namah
- Day 7 – Maa Kalaratri**
Om Devi Kalaratriyai Namah
- Day 8 – Maa Mahagauri**
Om Devi Mahagauriyai Namah
- Day 9 – Maa Siddhidatri**
Om Devi Siddhidatryai Namah

ASTRO SPEAK



ARIES

MAR 21 - APR 20

Send your attention towards your closest partnerships today, Aries. Something within you is eagerly seeking release and renewal on an emotional level, and Friday's Scorpio moon encourages you to engage with whatever's waiting to be unearthed. Later, Luna's opposition with change-bringer Uranus may highlight unexpected changes to your finances and productivity flow.



LIBRA

SEP 24 - OCT 22

The moon glides through deep-focused Scorpio, sending your attention towards the state of your finances and untapped inner resources. It's an ideal day to check in on your budgeting and get realistic about spending while also letting your forgotten talents reactivate. Luna's opposition with electric Uranus brings breakthrough conversations around intimacy that offer healing.



TAURUS

APR 21 - MAY 20

What's happening in your current relationship story, Taurus? Friday's skies push you to devote your energy towards this all-important arena as the moon floats through your opposite sign of sensual Scorpio. It's an ideal day to touch base, reach out to romantic interests, or spice things up in committed relationships. Luna's opposition with erratic Uranus can spark tensions between "me vs. us" freedoms.



SCORPIO

OCT 23 - NOV 22

As a Scorpio, it's easy for you to immerse yourself in intimate partnerships and lose your sense of identity on the way. Let yourself step back onto dry land today and reconnect with your own needs independently as the nurturing moon wades through your sign. It's an ideal day to focus on pampering and self-protection. Luna's opposition with Uranus may bring breakthrough conversations around intimacy that offer healing.



GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUN 20

Things have been heating up in your world, Gemini. In order to deal with your excess nervous energy today, it's critical that you find an outlet by getting into your body, eating right, and exercising. On top of that, the sharp-focused Scorpio moon encourages you to get productive within your craft. Luna's opposition with Uranus can bring flashes of insight around self-defeating problems.



SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23 - DEC 22

Friday's cosmic landscape beckons you into a quiet world of your own, Sagittarius. The moon floats through solitary Scorpio, signaling a strong need to recharge, recuperate, and release. It's an ideal day to reconnect with your favorite nature spot, get lost in a good book, and turn your phone off. Luna's opposition with electric Uranus may highlight changes to be embraced on the work/life balance front.



CANCER

JUN 22 - JUL 21

Get away from your desk and reacquaint yourself with that which brings your pleasure as the moon floats through sensual Scorpio. It's an ideal day to plan a date night, immerse yourself in creative activities or simply veg out and enjoy yourself in front of the TV. Luna's opposition with erratic Uranus can bring surprise news from friend groups or your social network.



CAPRICORN

DEC 23 - JUL 22

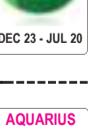
The deep-feeling Scorpio moon calls your attention towards your sense of community, making it an ideal day to reach out and reconnect with friends or your social network. It's also an ideal day to focus on clarifying your long-term goals—think writing them down or releasing ones that no longer fit the bill. Luna's opposition with electric Uranus illuminates changes or shake ups around your romantic life.



LEO

JUL 24 - AUG 23

Let your inner lazy lion emerge today, Leo. You're hankering for a restful recharge under Friday's skies as the reflecting Scorpio moon beckons you inward and away from the crowd. It's an ideal day to tend to the upkeep of your humble abode, to catch up on rest, or to reach out to family members and get nostalgic. The moon's jolting opposition with electric Uranus can bring flash in the pan insights around career matters.



AQUARIUS

JAN 21 - FEB 20

You're on top of your game right now, Aquarius. The moon's presence in laser-focused Scorpio allows you to plow ahead with your ambitions and devote tireless energy towards your craft. It's an ideal day to promote your mission at large or chip away at larger ambitions, as you're at peak visibility. Luna's opposition with erratic Uranus may bring sudden shakeups or changes to your home and family environment.

General Knowledge Question

1.Which one of the following waves are used by the common TV remote control?

C.A variety of lasers have been made from solids like the ruby crystal and semi conducting materials, liquids and gases.
D.All waves in laser, travel in phase.

5.Which one of the following elements the drum of a Photostat machine is made up of:

A.Aluminium
B.Selenium
C.Barium
D.Caesium

6.If we say the child has an IQ of 100, what does this means?

A.The performance of the child is below average.
B.The performance of the child is above average.
C.The mental age of the child is equal to his actual age.
D.The performance of the child cannot be better.

7.Which bacteria is responsible for the formation of curd?

A.Lactic acid bacteria
B.Lactobacillus Acidophilus
C.Lactobacillus aureus
D.Bacillus radicicola

8.Which one of the following bacteria present in the soil produces a peculiar smell if it rains on parched soil?

A.Streptomyces
B.Staphylococcus
C.Diplomyces
D.Micrococcus

3.Which gas is safe and an effective extinguisher for all confined fires?

A.Nitrogen dioxide
B.Carbon dioxide
C.Sulphur dioxide
D.Nitrous Oxide

4.Which one of the following statements is incorrect about laser?

A.It is a technique for producing intense beams of light, ultraviolet or infrared radiation of different wavelength.

B.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

C.In diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

D.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

E.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

F.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

G.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

H.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

I.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

J.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

K.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

L.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

M.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

N.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

O.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

P.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

Q.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

R.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

S.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

T.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

U.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

V.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

W.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

X.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

Y.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

Z.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.

A.Even in diamond laser beam can drill a hole.