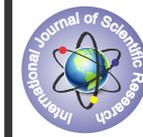


## Chandika Homam- An Astrologic way for salvation



### Astrovedic Studies.

**KEYWORDS:** six schools of devotion, Sri Sankara, Saaktham, Kaliyuga, Devi, Bagavathy, Durga, Uma, Gowri, Sri Chakram, Sri Puram, Yuga, Ayudhas, Chapam, Astrological remedy, eradicate blocks.

**Dr.Padur Subramania Sastrigal**

MA, PhD(San), PhD(Astro), PRIST University, No:8, Westcott Road, Royapettai, Chennai-13

**Dr.K Senthilkumar**

MA, PhD(Astro), Sri Haygreeva Vidyapeetam, Traramani, Chennai-113

**Dr. S.Murugesan**

MA, PhD(Astro) Sri Haygreeva Vidyapeetam, Traramani, Chennai-113.

### ABSTRACT

*As per Indian astrology the person affected due to moon or venus disposition has to offer his prayers in the way of Japa, Daana(Charity), Homa (fire sacrifice) etc.. to Goddess Durga/Lakshmi/Gouri. Since Devi Chandika is the united form of these three sakthis, Chandika homam is recommended to eradicate the obstacles or blocks in growth. The purpose of the Chandi Homam is to remove any obstacles or blocks in growth. By performing the Chandi homa, the sufferings that are caused by hostile elements, are eradicated. The sufferings resulting from poison, sorcery, thieves etc. are removed by performing this homa. – both internally and externally – for a person or a group of people.*

“Yadaaraadhanaha Sarve Sarvaan Kaamaan Avaapnuyuhu  
Na Kinchith durlabham loke Durgaaarchanavathaam Nrunaam”

The devotees who worship Goddess Durga find themselves overflowing with all the desires and there is nothing in this material world which is difficult to be procured by these devotees.

#### a) Saaktham - The Worship of Sakthi

Among six schools of devotion, instructed by Sri Sankara, Saaktham seems to be very powerful for this age, Kaliyuga. Saaktham as the name suggests is the worship of Sakthi. Sakthi literally could be translated as energy or power. As the name suggests, it is the Feminine representation of energy, which is present in all the atoms as per the modern theory. If Sakthi represents the energy, Siva represents the mass. That's why Siva, who is her partner is always associated with her. Matter is the gross manifestation of the inherent energy. Matter and the energy there in are complementary to each other. The concept of "Siva Sakthi Aikyam" is thus very scientific. We should be very proud to have inherited from ultra-modern Vedic ancestors!! The association of Sakthi & Siva can also be compared to the word & its meaning. If any word is Siva, the meaning associated with it is Sakthi. Philosophically, she is the feminine representation of the Bhramhan or the Formless & Timeless Entity. Matha or Divine Mother is present in all the places which are beautiful & aesthetic, all the **auspicious ladies (Sumangalis)** & in all the places where divine thoughts are given more importance.

#### b) Technical terms/ words

There are lots of frequently used Sanskrit words or terms which might be understandable by scholars only, they are as follows :-

- Devi = the feminine gender of the Sanskrit term "Deva"
- Bhagavathy = the feminine gender of the Sanskrit term "Bhagavan",
- Durga = one who protects her devotees like a "fort" or "Durgham",
- Uma = a girl of 8 years age,
- Gowri = a girl of 6 years age,
- Sri Chakram = The divine house of Matha,
- Sri Puram = The divine City of Sri Matha,
- Sri Lalitha = A beautiful lady,
- Thripura Sundari = Beautiful in all the three worlds,
- Sri Raja Rajeswari = Queen of the King of Kings!!,
- Sri Vidhya = One among the 64 Tanthras of Sri Matha,
- Tanthra = A customized procedure for Sakthi Worship,
- Mudhra = A symbol shown by joining different fingers in a particular pattern,
- Naivedhyam = Food offering to the Lord,

- Rishi = a saint of Vedic period,
- Veda(m) = The divine script, which were observed by the Rishis from the cosmos & encrypted,
- Hayagreeva = Lord Vishnu's horse faced incarnation,
- Agasthya = He is supposed to have originated from the pot or Kalasham. He is a saint & is also called as Sri Kalashodhbhava or Kumbhodhbhava.,
- Bheeja = seed (Bheeja Manthras are the sounds which are the seeds for invoking the Devatha),
- Amba = Mother (Matha),
- Jagathamba = Mother of the Universe (Amba is used as a suffix for the Sanskrit words),
- Namam = Name,
- Sahasranamam = Thousand Names of any Deity,
- Yuga = Time period consisting of several thousand years. (Thredha Yuga, Dhwapara, Yuga, Krutha Yuga & Kali Yuga) etc.
- Ayudhas or weapons of Devi are Pasham = the rope in Matha's right hand,
- Ankusham = the goad in Matha's right hand,
- Pushpa Banam = the arrows decorated with flowers,
- Chapam = The bow made up of sugarcane

#### c) Devi Mahathmyam or Durga Saptha Sati (700)

Devi Mahathmyam talks the glories of the Divine Mother in her manifestation as Devi or Chandika. This is a wonderful literature present in Markandeya Puranam. This is also called as Chandi Paatam or Saptha Shathi. Devi Mahathmyam, which is all in simple Sanskrit as a conversation between a lay man (a trader named Samaadhi) & Markadeya Maharishi. The theme of the whole work is to pave way for the salvation of sinful souls by following the path of Shakthi worship. The greatness of Devi Mahathmyam is that in addition to narrating Matha's glories all the 700 verses are being used as Manthras for Sri Chandi Homam or fire sacrifice for Chandi. None of the other Puranas have this status!!

#### d) The Udbhava or origin of Saptasathi :-

The time of origin happened to be during Navarathri the time was when Devi, (Sri Durga) did penance for the Siva Danush or Pinakam or the bow of Lord Siva & finally destroyed the buffalo-faced demon, Mahishasura. It is in the month of Chaithram (the 8 days before Sri Rama Navami) after the Ama Vasya. But the greatness of Sarada Navrathri is that Lord Rama himself did pooja to Devi before destroying Ravana & others to get Matha's blessings. Nowadays Sarada Navrathri is more famous throughout India. The story implemented in this is demon kings Shumbh and Nishumbh had captured the kingdom of Lord Indra and thrown out gods from heaven. After intense prayers to gods, incarnation of power and

strength, Chandika Devi appeared from the cells of the body of Goddess Parvathi. She assumed the form of an exceptionally beautiful woman and Shumbha desired to marry her. On being refused, Shumbha sent his demon chief Chanda and Munda to kill her. They were killed by Kaalika devi born out of Chandika Devi's anger. Shumbha and Nishumbha then tried to kill Chandika Devi but were slain by the Goddess.

#### e) Contents of Devi Maahaatmya

Devi Mahatmyam contains 700 mantras with following chapters. The purvabhagam and uttarabhagam is not included in 700 mantras. The Purva Bhagam contains Devi Kavacham, Argala Stothram, Keelaka Stothram & Navakshari Vivechanam and Uttharabhagam contains Navakshari, Devi Suktham, Pradhanika Rahasyam, Vaikruthika Rahasyam & Murthy Rahasyam. The main stories and glories of Devi explained in 3 parts as Prathama Charithram (First Part):- Dhyanam & Madhu Kaidhabha Vadham. 2 Madhyama Charithram (Second Part) :-Dhyanam, Mahishasura Sainya Vadham, Mahishasura Vadham, Devi Sthuthi. 3 Uthama Charithram (Third Part):-Dhyanam, Devi Dhutha Samvaadham, Dhumralochana Vadham, ChandaMunda Vadham, Raktha Bheja Vadham, Nishumba Vadham, Shumbha Vadham, Devi Stuthi, Phala Stuthi, VaraPradhanam

#### f) Why Homam?

Homam or fire sacrifice is an auspicious way of accessing the divinity within us and manifesting it externally. Fire, unlike earth (solid) and water (liquid), is the first element that is able to make an upward transition, defying as it were, gravity (representing our limitations and attachments). It is this elevating property of the fire – a manifestation of grace and compassion of the goddess - that allows the divine purpose of our lives to find expression and be manifest here and now. Homams are Poojas performed for a particular deity by invoking Agni - the God of fire. It is said that when Lord Brahma (the creator among the Trinity) created man, he also created "Homam" for man's livelihood and his attainment of spiritual desires. The fundamental premise of Homam is derived from the Veda, although, according to "Purusha Sooktham", it is the other way around - Veda originated from Homam! Anyhow, Veda and Homam are eternal truths having neither beginning nor end, and are "Apourusheyam" (divine, not the creation of humans). Karmam (work or action) is an integral part of living. Right and wrong Karmams can hardly be discerned by human intellect, and has to be guided by knowledge. Veda, indeed, contain the highest form of knowledge. The singular goal of Vedam is to guide man through the correct path. And Homam forms the essence of all the Karmams prescribed in the Veda. The goal of all Homams is the prosperity of the people at large by energizing and protecting the environment. The Sun is considered as the main source of energy supply, and fire is considered as a representation of the Sun's energy. According to the ancient texts on Homam, any offer to Fire as a god, is actually an offer to Sun. Any such offer is either to enrich energy in the environment or to destroy the undesirable elements in the environment, and thus, in both ways, environment is protected. Attaching divine nature to such rituals (like Homam) induced people to practice them. Thus, the ancient texts proclaim that "Such Vaidika Karmams are result-oriented, and meant to lead to Sreyass or spiritual attainments".

#### g) Ritual:

The core of the homam ceremony involves a recitation of the Durga Saptashati or 700 mantras in praise of the goddess Durga. With the recitation of each verse, offerings are made in the sacrificial fire invoking the goddess. The Durga Saptasati is 13-chapter narration from Markandeya Purana attributed to the rishi Markandeya. In a workbook-like, fascinating, allegoric way the verses demonstrate how the Goddess Chandika vanquishes and annihilates the two demons Shumbha (or Pride) and Nishumbha (or Shame), slaying the negativities of Indulgence and Denial, restoring the equilibrium necessary for perfection.

#### h) Purpose:

The purpose of the Chandi Homam is to remove any obstacles or blocks in growth. By performing the Chandi homa, the sufferings that are caused by hostile elements, are eradicated. The sufferings resulting from poison, sorcery, thieves etc. are removed by performing this homa. – both internally and externally – for a person or a group of people.

#### i) The role of Astrology

As per Indian astrology the person affected due to moon or venus disposition has to offer his prayers in the way of Japa, Daana (Charity), Homa (fire sacrifice) etc.. to Goddess Durga/Lakshmi/Gouri. Since Devi Chandika is the united form of these three saktis, Chandika homam is recommended to eradicate the obstacles or blocks in growth

#### j) Visualization:

Visualize the goddess Durga riding on a tiger and you sitting in her lap. As she moves forward she is removing all obstacles in the path without you even realizing it. You are her child in a state of bliss bestowed by her proximity and ever-present smile.

j) Mantra: The mantra for Chandi Devi is called Navakshari or the one with nine-syllables. The mantra is "Aim Hrim Klim Chamundaye Vichhe".

#### k) Why in a Group?

While the homam can be performed alone or in a group, the latter is preferable. Why? Because there is focus, power, grace and beauty to doing this activity in a group. If you think about it – we are like birds who migrate in groups – in this case we are returning to our home and what better way than all of us going together!

#### l) Why Secret?

The words Para-Para-Ati Rahasya (or extremely secret!) are often used along with any worship of Devi or the goddess. The words are often misinterpreted to mean that it should be not made accessible to the common people. However, the true meaning of Rahasya in these rituals is that a major part of the ritual or ceremony is internal. The external ceremony is often coupled with internal visualizations garnering our infinite resources within, making the ritual both powerful and meaningful. The true purpose of the Chandi Homam therefore is to provide a blueprint for balancing our Passion and Dispassion, Indulgence and Denial, manifesting our true divine Self that unites Selfishness and Selflessness.

#### m) Kanyaka pooja:

In Chandika homam Goddess Durga is treated as 2 to 10 old Kanyaka (girl) and while performing the Homam the following types of girl child to be worshipped with dress and worldly kinds. They were names as one year child to be avoided and from 2 years onwards:

Age	Name
2	Kumaari
3	Thrimoorthi
4	Kalyaani
5	Rohini
6	Kaalika
7	Chandika
8	Saambhavi
9	Durga
10	Subhadraa

One who perform the said havan 9 days consequently will be benefited as he has performed the Mahaayagna called "Vaajapeyam"

#### n) Varieties of Chandika Homam:-

The Durga Saptasathi contains 700 secret and powerful mantras in 13 chapters and they are split in to 535 full verses (containing 4 padaas), 66 <sup>3/4</sup> Verses (containing 3 padaas), 42 half verses (containing 2 padaas) and 57 small words like "Uvaacha" (said). As stated earlier the first part symbolizes 'Icchaasakthi' the second part

Gnaanasakthi' and the 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Kriyaasakthi' of Goddess Devi.

- a) Chandihomam : 10 time chanting of Saptasathi and one time homam( fire sacrifice).
- b) Sathachandi : 100 times chanting of Saptasathi and 10 times Homam.
- c) Sahasrachandi: 1000 times chanting and 100 times Homam
- d) Ayudachandi: 10000 times chanting and 1000 times Homam
- e) Lakshachandi: 100000 times chanting and 10000 times Homam

In all these exercise Argala sthostram, Devi Kavacham and Keelaka Sthostram are to be chanted along with usual Vedic formalities.

If one with full devotion performed the chanting of Durga Saptasathi/ Devi Maahaatmyam 5 times his maleffects of Navagrahas (9 planets) will be vanished. If 7 times chanted his all fears will be removed. 11 times is Raajavashyam (will be able to fascinate everybody), 16 times all wealth (16 Eishwaryas) will be reach to him.

The Durga is the one form of “ Brahmi, Maaheswari, Vaishnavi, Vaaraahi, Naarasimhi, Aindri, Mahaakaali, Mahalakshmi, Mahaasaraswathi” thus she is “Mahaamaayaa”.

“Brahma vidyaamimaam devi nithyam sevetha yaha sudhii  
Aihikaamushyakam saukhyam sidhyathyeva na samshayaha”

One who able to know these details which is very secret will be gaining all goodness in his life and also will be observed to Svarga (immortal) at the end of the life.

#### REFERENCES

1. Durgasptasati, Homavidhanam, Yagurvedam, Devi Bhagavatham, Devipuja kadambam, Astrology for all, and other internet sources.