

# Lord Muruga Envelopes of Miraculous Bestowals

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## **Abstract:**

Lord Muruga is a preeminent divine being worshipped as god of many Hindus all over the world. It is said that the avatar of lord Muruga is given by lord shiva to conquer evil forces. Pilgrims all over the world worship lord Muruga to attain Wisdom, secured life, spiritual development. The mythical legendary armament is a spear which is believed to be given by goddess Parvati to eradicate evil forces. The importance of lord Muruga is beyond the living objects and physical reality. Lord muruga is known for his versatility, young, courage and wisdom. It is firmly believed that worship of lord muruga gives inspiration for pilgrims who seeks spiritual knowledge .Mostly devotees can feel changes in their inner transformation after the firm belief of supreme god lord Muruga. It can be felt that the spiritual enlightenment is being lifted up in one's life. Muruga the word itself strengthen the lasting connection between the soul and the spiritual divinity. The worship of lord Muruga is deeply venerated in the Southern most part of India mainly Tamilnadu. It is embedded as an integral part of Tamil culture and religion. It is ingrained with long and illustrious history of Hindu Mythology.

**Keywords:** Iconography, Pilgrims, supremacy, spiritual, spear

## **Introduction**

Muruga son of Shiva and Parvati represent the highest spiritual aspirant. The power of Lord Muruga is ultimate. The statues of Lord Muruga are seen everywhere all over the world but he is seen vastly in the southernmost part of India. His temples are situated inland areas, near the ocean, and on the hilltops. In ancient Hindu religion, worship of Lord Muruga is called 'Goumahram'. Muruga denotes Trimurti. Mu – Thirumal, Ru- Shiva and Ga -Lord Brahma. So when you worship Muruga it is said that you can get the blessings of Trimurtigal. He is meant for his beauty, wisdom, knowledge and courage.

## **Avatar of Lord Muruga**

Lord Muruga, the second son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, is praised by his devotees under various names such as Shanmuga, Saravana, Karthikeya, Skanda, Kumaraswamy, Kurubara, Senthilvela, and Guha. He is well known for his bravery, intelligence, and unparalleled achievements, adorned by his Victory in the battle against Demon forces. Devotees worship Lord Muruga to alleviate unfavorable human tendencies.

According to the Skanda-Purana, Sati, the first partner of Lord Shiva, self-sacrificed after her father Daksha insulted Lord Shiva by not sending an invitation to him for a Yagna. In response, Lord Shiva

opposed the Yagna with the assistance of his attendants, the Ganas. The Shiva's initial marriage union was a challenging endeavour, and subsequent marriage became a hopeless prospect after Sati's passing. Demons like Tarkasur and Surapadman gained advantageous after this incident, as they were granted invulnerability against anyone except Lord Shiva.

The demons started creating chaos for all the saints and devas in all three worlds. So Deva and Kamadeva - Lord of Love planned to disturb Shiva's meditation which later ended in the opening of the third eye. The fire from the third eye burnt, Kamadeva and this awakened Lord Shiva from his penance to remarry Goddess Parvati. Later Lord Shiva handed his fiery seed fire to Agni and this radiance was given to Ganga who deposits in a lake in the forest of Saravana where Karthikeya is born with six faces - Eesanam, Sathpurusham, Vamadevam, Aghoram, Sathyojatham and Adhomugam and hence also called as Shanmugan.

### **Lord Muruga's intellectual Supremity**

After Muruga was born he was cared for by the six divine constellation stars Kritika. He was given advice to learn knowledge from Lord Brahma and when Muruga asked Lord Brahma about the Pranav mantra on his very first day, Brahma gave a thousand verdicts of Om mantra and Muruga was not satisfied. Later when Shiva gave him a lack of verdicts he was neither satisfied. Later He became Guru of Lord Shiva and explained the meaning of Om Mantra in 2 crore verses. Thus he was called "Shiv Guru Nadha".

### **Om Saravanabava**

Lord Muruga is worshiped by this powerful Mantra "Om Saravana Bhava". Chanting this powerful mantra relieves difficulties and fulfils our wishes. Saravana Bhava means SA- attracts people, RA- Brings wealth, VA- removes debts and diseases, NA -solves problems caused by our enemies, BA- Attraction through charming, VA- Stops negative thoughts over people. It is believed that one who is chanting this mantra on Sasti thithi, Tuesdays and on days with the Karthigai star is granted all his desires and aspirations.

### **The spiritual Birds - peacock and rooster**

Peacocks are famous for their beautiful feathers and knowledge. It is said that Indra, the King of all grahas distinguishes himself as a peacock whenever he wants to disguise. In Skanda Purana Surapatma life is saved by Lord Muruga when he bestowed his defeat to Lord Muruga in the war. At the end of the war, the imminent Surapadma disguised as a mango tree to hide from Muruga and Lord Muruga split the tree with his spear into two halves. One half of the tree became his mount Peacock and the other part a Rooster in his flag.

### **Peacock symbolism**

Peacock doesn't dance always. It opens its beautiful feathers as per the climatic conditions and thus responds to nature (5 elements). In other ways, the male Peacock opens its feathers to attract females and the female chooses the male peacock. Similarly, men have to give choices to females to choose their life partner and it is called Suyamvara even in the olden days.

### **Rooster symbolism**

Lord Muruga Chose Rooster in his flag when he defeated Tarkasuran (Ego). When the demon pleaded, Karthikeya spared his life and made him the emblem on his flag. This means ego should be kept subdued. Ego is necessary in one's life but it should be kept subdued. It can also be taken as a Rooster is a natural alarm clock that wakes up people in deep sleep every morning. So, he has a Slave who is waking people from Sushupti Avasta which means deep sleep with no dreams. So Rooster symbolizes waking people from Inertia (sleep).

### **Weapons of Kandha**

The main weapon of Lord Skanda is known as Spear(Vel)given by his mother Parvati to defeat demons and hence called by the name Sakthivel.In Tamilnadu at Sikkal every year they celebrate the occasion of getting a spear from Parvati one day before Surasamharam. After receiving the spear one can find pearls of perspiration drop off from Muruga's face, the body of the idol and the walls around which is a miracle even today.

### **Spear symbolism**

The Spear symbolizes the knowledge gained through learning. The upper part of the Spear represents the vast knowledge gathered through learning so that the mind gets cleared and the spirit sees Brahman or the ultimate truth as everything. The sharp tip of the upper part denotes the keen attention and ambition towards our goal. All the efforts and knowledge gained should be brought to one point and self-realised which will destroy all pain and fears. The long shaft of the spear represents many years of learning to attain deep thinking with a height of perception and the extent of vision. Manikkavasagar has sung Lord Muruga as,

"Aalnthu agandra Nunnianae" which means the deep vast intelligence of the lord so as his Spear. Other weapons of Lord Muruga are as follows: Bow, Arrow, Sword, Flag, Goad, Vajrayutham, Staff, Mace, Discus and Conch with all the Mighty powerful weapons The Majesty Lord Dhandayuthapani Swami stands as Devasenathipathi - the commander in chief of demigods in Hinduism.

### **The iconography of Lord Muruga**

The iconographic features of Lord Muruga are sculptured in different ways. Some of the idols are seated and others are in standing postures. The seated posture is in padmasana or on a peacock (his mount). The rule to sculpt the idol of Lord Muruga in seating posture should have only two arms and if seated on a peacock, the idol can have six, eight or twelve arms. The seating posture of Lord Muruga is known as the Yoga position, whereas sitting on a Peacock represents the Dhyana position. The image with two hands is said to be Sadhvik state with four arms is said to be Rajasik state and with more than four arms is said to be Tamasik state in nature. In many idols, Lord Muruga is represented in standing posture, either single or with either of his two wives (ichaasakti- valli and kriyasakti- devyani) or both together. Sometimes he is represented as a small boy who has not undergone upanayana while otherways he is represented as a young beautiful charming adolescent man. The standing posture is known as the Bhoga position. It is said that the standing position should possess four arms. Any of the two weapons like Padma, Abhayagastha, Dandam, Sakthivel, Vajra and Kukkunda are carried by Lord Muruga. For the images with four hands Abhayahastam, Spear, Atchathamala, Vakkra, Kukkunda, and Kamandala can

be seen. For images with twelve hands Spear, Bow, Arrow, Katha, Rooster flag, Abhayahasta, Varata, Vajra, Shield, Wand, Soola, and Lotus flower (Padma) can be seen.

Lord Muruga is seen with six faces and twelve hands. This image of Lord Muruga is known as Jyotirmaya- a form of light. To distinguish from mortal human beings he is portrayed with six heads called as Aarumugan by his worshippers. Each face represents different attributes they are as follows: Face 1- removes ignorance and grand knowledge, Face 2- Fulfills the desires and needs of devotees, Face 3- Grants strength and inspiration, Face 4- Brings out the hidden and inner unknown secrets, Face 5- Protects the good and punishes the Wicked one, Face 6 - Ignites love and happiness to each Jivas. The idol of Lord Muruga is Ascetic. He as Dhandayuthapani resides at Palani (Tamil Nadu) stands with staff in his right hand and with Rudraksha bead over his neck. Ignoring all the desires and possessions, he chooses only a loin cloth around his hip that tells the world that nothing is permanent in this mortal world.

### Conclusion

Lord Muruga is a deity closely connected to the Tamil language thereby living among their cultural heritage which was mentioned a lot in Sangam Literature. He was worshipped by Tamil people by performing many rituals and fasting. Thus Lord Muruga is situated in various parts of Tamilnadu. Each of these temples has a unique history and different reasons to worship Lord Muruga. Though being Tamil God, Muruga is worshipped all over the world. His devotees all over the world worship him and festivals are being celebrated. Lord Muruga had lived and preached and the cause of his avatar is unimaginable. He is a Protector and a healer. Surrendering ourselves to Lord Muruga is the only way to relieve ourselves from ailments, and mental and physical worries and thus finally attain Mukthi.

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