

Ashta-Lakshmi

Narrator: Om Ashta Lakshmiyae Namaha.

Fairfieldans are looking forward to voting for the presidential elections. At the same time, in Devaloka, the Devas have organized an election to vote for the most powerful Trimurthi. They want to know who is the greatest among Brahma Vishnu and Shiva.

Scene 1:

The Trimurthi of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva are seated with their consorts. Three groups of Devas are also seen.

Varun Deva: Om Brahmaya Namaha. Brahma is the creator of all beings. So he is the greatest God. Brahmaji ki jai.

Agni Deva: Om Narayanaya Namaha. It is easy to create life. But to take care of it and protect it is the most important job.

Surya Deva: Lord Vishnu himself takes Avatars and protects all beings. So he is the greatest God. Bhagwan Vishnu ki Jai.

Vayu Deva: Om Namah Shivaya. All that is created and sustained should give way for new creation.

Indra: Shiva dissolves the old; if he didn't do that everything will become chaotic. So Shiva is the greatest God. Bhagavan Shivaji ki jai.

Aswini: Let us now cast our votes to see who gets the maximum count.

Scene 2:

Varun Deva: The election results are out!! Unfortunately, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva get equal votes and so we cannot declare the results.

Surya Deva: What shall we do? We need one more person to cast a vote and help us decide the results.

Vayu Deva: All our Devas have voted. We have no one with voting power left.

Narad Maharishi appears: Om Namo Narayana , Om Namo Narayana.

Surya Deva: Namaste Naradji, welcome to our abode.

Narad: Narayan, Narayan!! It is interesting to see all the Devas here. Are you celebrating something?

Agni Deva: Dev Rishi, we have conducted an election to determine the greatest God . We need just one vote to decide the result of the election.

Indra Deva: Naradji, I am sure you are a potential voter.

Varun Deva: Oh great Narad Maharishi! You are the son of Brahm. So you should see that your father wins the election. Come to our side and show our strength.

Naradji: Narayan, Narayan! Only in India have I seen that politics is taken as a family affair. You are asking me to cast an emotional vote!

Agni Deva: You are right, Narad Maharishi. Though you are the son of Brahma, you always chant the name of Lord Vishnu. So you should vote for him. Please come over to our side.

Vayu Deva: oh Dev Rishi, Please vote for Lord Shiva. Otherwise he will get angry and turn you into ashes. So come over to this side and save your life.

All Devas try to pull Naradji to their sides.

Narad: Stop this craziness Devas! You are all Devas and yet are ignorant of the highest Truth. There is only one God, the pure Consciousness. Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva are three manifestations of that same Consciousness. You look at the external form and are misguided. See only the Truth and you will not be ignorant.

Aswini Deva: Dhanyavaad, Maharishi for correcting our ignorance.

Varun Deva: Please forgive our foolishness and bless us all so that we seek the Truth.

Narrator: All these problems arise because of one fact. You are Devas and yet you fail to use your intellect wherever needed. Decisions should not be based on personal likes and dislikes. If an individual takes a decision on his emotional likes and dislikes, without using his intellect, he or she will suffer at all levels of materialistic and spiritual aspects of life. Decisions should be based on the welfare of everyone. This will indirectly help the very same individual also. One who does all actions with this simple Truth will prosper in all walks of life.

Agni Deva: Only the Guru can lead us from false to Truth. Narad Guruji ki jai.

Vayu Deva: Dhanyavaad, Maharishi for enlightening us with this Truth on this great Deepavali day.

Varun Deva: Let this Truth, like a light, fill our hearts and guide us everyday.

Indra Deva: Oh Lord Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, please bless everyone on this Deepavali day, especially the people of Fairfield who are celebrating Deepavali with great devotion to Lakshmi.

Narad: Celebrations of festivals are for bringing inner change. So I would like to narrate the story of Ashtalakshmi on this occasion to all of you. Understanding the essence of the story will bring blessings of Lakshmi to everyone.

Scene 3:

Narrator: The great sage Narad Maharishi narrated the story of the great king Bhoja and the Ashta Lakshmis, the eight forms of Lakshmi.

Raja Bhoja performed pooja daily to all the eight forms of Lakshmi.

Sumanasa vandhitha, madhavi chandra sahodhari hemamaye,

Munigana manditha, moksha pradhayini, manjula bhashini, veda nuthe,

Pankaja vasini deva supoojitha sadguna varshani, santhiyuthe,

Jaya jaya hey madhusoodhana kamini Adhilakshmi sada palaya maam.

Raja Bhoja: Om Aadhi Lakshmiyae Namaha.

Aadhi Lakshmi: I am Aadhi Lakshmi. Aadhi means primordial (primary). I represent the happiness in everyone. I am also known as Rama. I reside in the heart of Vishnu. I am portrayed as sitting in the lap of Vishnu. (Can hold a happy symbol in hand)

Raja Bhoja: Om Dhaanya Lakshmiyae Namaha.

Dhaanya Lakshmi: I am Dhaanya Lakshmi. I represent the nourishment in everyone. Dhaanya means grains, the source of nutrients. I am portrayed with all different types of foods. (Hold hay with grains)

Raja Bhoja: Om Dhairya Lakshmiyae Namaha.

Dhairya Lakshmi: I am Dhairya Lakshmi. I represent infinite courage and strength. I help overcoming hurdles in life. Those who worship me live and lead a life with tremendous patience and inner stability. (Hold trishul in hand).

Raja Bhoja: Om Gaja Lakshmiyae Namaha.

Gaja Lakshmi: I am Gaja Lakshmi. Gaja means elephant. I came out of the ocean during the churning of the ocean. I am also known as the daughter of the ocean. During the Deepavali festival, I am worshipped along with Ganesh. I represent a positive attitude and I remove negativities from everyone. (Hold elephant in hand)

Raja Bhoja: Om Santhaana Lakshmiyae Namaha.

Santhaana Lakshmi: I am Santhaana Lakshmi. Santhaana means children. I bestow wealth in the form of desirable children with good health & long life. (Hold a baby in hand).

Raja Bhoja: Om Vijaya Lakshmiyae Namaha.

Vijaya Lakshmi: I am Vijaya Lakshmi. Vijaya is victory. Vijay is to get success in all external and internal efforts we undertake. (Hold a red flag in hand).

Raja Bhoja: Om Dhana Lakshmiyae Namaha.

Dhana Lakshmi: I am Dhana Lakshmi. Dhana is wealth. I bless everyone with material abundance. I am portrayed in the form of Gold coins. (Hold Golden coin chain in hand).

Raja Bhoja: Om Vidya Lakshmiyae Namaha.

Vidya Lakshmi: I am Vidya Lakshmi. Vidya means knowledge. I represent material and spiritual knowledge. (Hold book in hand).

Raja Bhoja: Oh Great Mothers! I am blessed by your presence. Everyday you come with such bright happy faces, but why are you sad today?

Dhaanya Lakshmi: Yes, you are right Bhoja. Due to your past karmic actions, all of us have to leave you for some period of time.

Aadhi Lakshmi: But you have done a lot of good karmas now. So we would like to offer you a boon.

Vijaya Lakshmi: You can choose any one of us to stay back with you. Tell us which one of us would you like staying back with you?

Raja Bhoja: (meditates). I would like Dhairya Lakshmi to stay back with me.

(All the Lakshmis leave except Dhairya Lakshmi. Then immediately all of them come back).

Raja Bhoja: This is a surprise, O! Mothers, you are all back!

Gaja Lakshmi: You have won us by your intellect. You did not grieve emotionally when we left you. Instead, very intelligently, you chose Dhairya Lakshmi to be with you.

Dhana Lakshmi: Wherever Dhairya or courage and positive attitude is present, all eight Lakshmis will be there.

Raja Bhoja: Jai Ashta Lakshmi!

All Lakshmis: Mangalam Raja Bhoja!

Participants:

Narad:

Vayu Deva:

Agni Deva:

Varuna Deva:

Surya Deva:

Indra Deva

2-Aswini Devas

Lord Brahma:

Lord Vishnu:

Lord Shiva:

Devi Saraswati:

Devi Lakshmi:

Devi Parvati:

Rudra Deva

Mitra Deva

Usha Devi

Chaaya Devi

Raaja Bhoja:

Aadhi Lakshmi

Dhaanya Lakshmi

Dhairya Lakshmi

Gaja Lakshmi

Santhaana Lakshmi

Vijaya Lakshmi

Dhana Lakshmi

Vidya Lakshmi