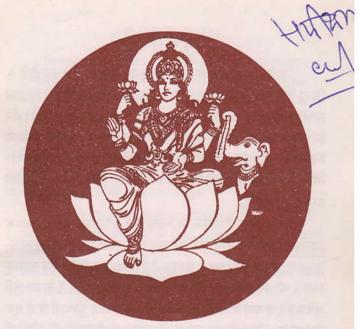




RELIGIOUS AND SCIENTIFIC BASE OF PROSPERITY AND PROPER USE OF WEALTH



महादेवी लक्ष्मी

समृद्धि एवं धन के सदुपयोग का धार्मिक एवं वैज्ञानिक आधार

GODDESS LAKSHMI

RELIGIOUS AND SCIENTIFIC BASE OF PROSPERITY AND PROPER USE OF WEALTH

शुभमस्तु

प्रत्येक मनुष्य के मन में सम्पन्न-समृद्ध होने की इच्छा होती है, किन्तु केवल इच्छा करने मात्र से ही समृद्धि कहाँ मिलती है? धन की उत्पति, उपभोग, उपयोग, वृद्धि का अपना दर्शन एवं विज्ञान है। मैंने इसी दर्शन और विज्ञान के कुछ मूल तत्त्वों को महादेवी लक्ष्मी के दिव्य स्वरूप में श्रद्धापूर्वक अपनी दृष्टि से ढूँढ़ने की चेष्टा की है। मेरे चिन्तन की छोटी-सी परिधि में जितनी बातें आ सकी हैं, उन्हें आपके सामने प्रस्तुत कर रहा हूँ।

मेरे विचार से प्रत्येक आस्तिक हिन्दू को अपने आराध्य अथवा आराध्या के दिव्य गुणों एवं कल्याणकारी मार्गदर्शन का अनुकरण-अनुसरण करना सभी प्रकार फलदायी है। लक्ष्मी के विराट् एवं व्यापक स्वरूप की व्याख्या ग्रंथ का विषय है। इस लघु पुस्तिका में केवल यही संकेत किया गया है कि अर्थ (धन) को, जिसे चार पुरुषार्थों में से एक पुरुषार्थ माना गया है, हम उसको श्रेष्ठतम रूप में ग्रहण करें और उसे अपने साथ ही जगत के कल्याणार्थ प्रयोग में लाने की बात सोचें।

मेरे प्रस्तुत चिन्तन को अधिक तर्कसम्मत और उपयोगी बनाने में यदि आपके अमूल्य विचार सहायक हों तो मैं उनका सहर्ष स्वागत करूँगा।

दीपावली

१५ नवम्बर, १९८२

पुष्कर लाल केडिय

FOREWORD

Every one wishes to be wealthy and prosperous. But wishes alone cannot bring prosperity. Wealth has its own philosophy and science for its generation, enjoyment and utility. I have tried to get it respectfully probing from this angle into the real significance of the image of Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth. And I humbly present before you whatever conclusions I could reach within the limitations of my mental range.

I think it would be quite profitable for devout Hindus to imitate or follow the divine virtues and good directions of the Gods and Goddesses they worship. The subject of this booklet is an interpretation of the great and wide significance of Lakshmi's real self. In its few small pages are given only a few suggestions on considering wealth in its best aspect as one of the four goals of manhood, set by the sages and utilising it for one's own as well as world's welfare.

I shall gladly welcome your helpful criticisms and suggetions towards making my offered views more reasonable and appropriate.

Deepawali 15th November, 1982

Pushkar Lal Kedia

THE SECRET OF PROSPERITY

The Goddess Lakshmi, consort of Lord Vishnu, is worshipped by the Hindus as the Bestower of Wealth and Prosperity. Why is Lakshmi so restless? In which situations wealth becomes a boon or a curse? How to recognise the good or the bad use of wealth? What are the virtues hidden in wealth and the symbol of Goddess Lakshmi? Why is the Owl Lakshmi's mount? What is the implication of Lakshmi's humble service at the feet of Vishnu?

The answer to all such questions are latent in the various symbols of Lakshmi's form and features. Let us view her thoughtfully and analyse the symbols.



THE LOTUS SEAT

The Lotus is Lakshmi's favourite seat. Its downward stem points towards the earth to indicate that all the world's wealth is really hidden in the depths of the earth. It is the earth which offers the riches from agriculture, minerals, oilwells etc.

Wealth and prosperity come to him who ever endeavours with sincere enterprise to get at the unlimited riches of the earth.



THE SERVING ELEPHANTS

The expansion of wealth and prosperity can be atained only by well-educated, efficient, sensitive, skillful and intelligent persons. For such persons to be engaged on high salaries is like keeping elephants at the gate, as the saying goes. Such persons are loyal and trustworthy and are ever alert to serve their masters well. Those who desire prosperity should avail themselves of the services of such executives and workers of high calibre. The two elephants on both sides of Goddess Lakshmi, serving her with water, points at this significance.



GESTURE OF ASSURANCE

The gesture of assurance in Lakshmi's hand points to a deep mystery of wealth. This has to be understood.

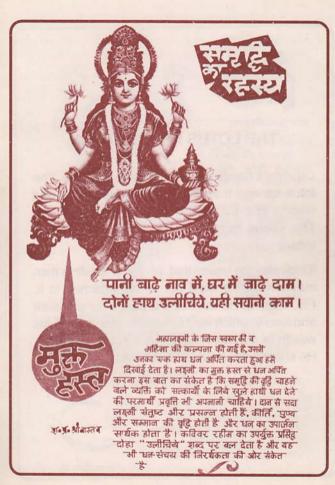
The meaning of the gesture of the assurance is that, for the sake of continued prosperity, a prosperous man should give protection, help, facilities, service and fellow-felling to all those who are dependent on his wealth and relieve them of sufferings, wants, doubts and anxieties. This can be avoided facing discontents, disorder, opposition and obstacles.



OPEN HAND

"Water wells up in the boat, costs rise at home, Turn out both your hands that is what shows wisdom."

The glorious image of Goddess Lakshmi shows one of the hands distributing wealth. This openhanded generosity of Lakshmi signifies that a person, desirous of increasing prosperity, should cultivate the generous attitude of freely donating towards good causes. Such charities pleasure Lakshmi; good deeds, virtues and honour enhance and the earning of wealth is justified. The quoted couplet from Poet Rahim puts stress on opening up of the hands, suggesting the futility of mere accumulation.



THE LOTUS IN THE HANDS

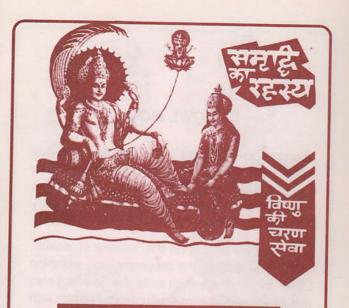
Lakshmi's hands are adorned with the lotus. The lotus springs from water but always rises and blooms above it, avoiding the sagging wetness. This shows its habit of detachment—an imitable virtue.

It indicates the lesson that, whatever wealth a man may amass, he must not be too attached to it. For, if he is, he develops a desire for pleasure and luxury, which lead to squandering and all his wealth is swallowed up in his thirst for pleasure. He should detached like the lotus.



AT THE FEET OF VISHNU

The devotees of Lakshmi are Charmed by the picture of the great Goddess pressing the feet of her husband, Lord Vishnu. Lakshmi here is a devoted wife, graceful in humble service. But this has also a secret message. To win the favour of Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth, one must also propitate the inseparable Vishnu, the Preserver of Creation and its welfare. Lakshmi can only stay if Vishnu is also invited and pleased with the efforts of human welfare.



लक्ष्मी के अक्तगण जब चित्रों में अगवान विद्यु के पाँव दबाती हुई लक्ष्मी को देखते हैं, तो वे महादेवी लक्ष्मी की असीम पतिमक्ति और अद्यक पतिसेवा का ध्यान करके भाव विमोर हो उठते हैं। मगर इसमें एक गृह संकेत भी दिपा हुआ है। संकेत यह है कि लक्ष्मी की कृपा प्राप्त करने के लिये श्रीनारायण के चरणों का आक्षय लेना अनिवार्य है, क्योंकि लक्ष्मी वहीं निवास करती हैं। लोग श्रीनारायण से विमुख होकर लक्ष्मी को अपने घर में बसाने की इच्छा रखते हैं, वे लक्ष्मी के कुपा-पात्र नहीं हो सकते। लक्ष्मी का अकेले आना शुभ नहीं है।

श्र प्र श्रीवास्तव

THE OWL MOUNT

You may have noticed that a danger signal has pictures of a human skull above a cross. Lakshmi's mount, the owl, similarly points to possible danger. Among the birds the owl is regarded as very inauspicious and ominous.

When a person forgets the welfare of wealth, desired by Vishnu, the preserver, and worships Lakshmi alone for selfish ends, the Goddess also comes along on her owl-mount to curse him with all sorts of evil desires and ideas. On the other hand, when he propitates the Goddess of Wealth alongwith God of Welfare, Lakshmi then visits him on Garura, the mount of Lord Vishnu. Garura, the Great bird, is endowed with all the auspicious signs of goodness and welfare.



आपने देखा होगा कि खतरे की चेतावजी देने के लिये जो निशान बनाया जाता है, उसमें गुणन-चिद्या के ऊपर खोपड़ी का चित्र होता है। लक्ष्मी-वाहन उल्लू भी किसी अमंग्राल की चेतावजी का ही चिह्न है। पित्रियों में उल्लू अत्यंत मनहूस और अशुअस्चक पष्ती माना जाता है •••





समृद्धि चाहनेवाले जब श्रीनारायण के सूलकर केवल लड़नी की उपासना करते हैं तो लड़नी उनके पास उल्लू पर सवार होकर अकेली ही आती हैं और अपने साब नाना प्रकार की बुरी प्रवृत्तियाँ, बुरे व्यसन और कुविचार लाती हैं। इसके विपरीत जब उनका आह्यान अग्रवान के साथ किया जाता है तो वे अपने पति के वाहन गरूड़ पर बैठकर आती हैं। गरुड़ मंगलकारी, सौभाग्यदायक और स्मी शर्म लक्षणों से यक्त है 🎍 • • • • •

Mo Wo Sharan

Manishika's Title No. 3
Original thinking & Presentation
Pushkar Lal Kedia

Art work & Typography : Shambhu Prasad Srivastava

Printed by:

Raj Process Printers

8, Brojodulal Street, Kolkata - 700 006

Thirteenth Edition, 2004

मूल चिन्तन एवं प्रस्तुति :

पुष्करलाल केडिया

चित्रांकन एवं लेखन :

शम्भू प्रसाद श्रीवास्तव

प्रकाशक :

मनीषिका

४३, कैलाश बोस स्ट्रीट, कोलकाता - ७०० ००६

मुद्रक :

राज प्रोसेस प्रिन्टर्स

८, ब्रजदुलाल स्ट्रीट, कोलकाता - ७०० ००६

COPYRIGHT RESERVED : PUSHKAR LAL KEDIA