

Why do we need astrology?

By Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

For some people, knowing and following their path is an easy thing to do and it comes naturally, while for others this can be a very difficult task as they get distracted by so many routines and as a result they may become very unhappy with themselves after a while, wishing to take a brake from this crazy world, trying to discover something meaningful that may add some sense to their mechanical life...

If you can find yourself under this category, you must know that astrology can always bring some light and insight into your life, making you aware of who you really are and what you can do to improve your life, but also helping you to find out if you've chosen the right path and most of all, it will keep you away from any disappointment...

I've known people that are very happy with themselves but still wanting others to approve what they are doing. They feel that there's a bit of mystery in anything one does in life, but the balance in life is fragile and if one doesn't pay attention it is very easy to be lead astray. At this point they are desperately looking for the astrology truth, as they want to keep that special spark into their life, not wanting to ruin any of their chances in life...

It all looks so complicated at first sight but actually it becomes very simple when you unfold the so-called astrology truth before their eyes.

The testimony of astrology is so powerful that it sends shivers up the spine. Soon after the first contact with the astrology, it becomes not only a way of life, but also a mission, as once one has discovered the benefits of becoming aware of what's happening into one's life and the keys to the future, one cannot keep this truth just for oneself but start spreading around astrological meanings for everyone else to benefit.

This is my invitation is for all of you who are taking astrology seriously: dare and ask for your share of truth and acknowledgement of what is most important in your life: the essence of human spirit!

Karmic Astrology

This is a special kind of reading of your natal chart which focuses on the astrological elements concerning your spiritual evolution and offers valuable information on the development of your karma helping you improve your destiny and approach life from a more spiritual angle.

Predictive Astrology

This reading will offer you insight on the astrological influences of a specific moment or time range helping you to understand the unfolding of your life and consequently make informed decisions in every moment.

Relational Astrology

This reading offers insight on relationships by the study of the natal charts of two persons on the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual level.

Relocation Astrology

This kind of astrological reading offers information on most auspicious places in the world or in a certain area for you to travel or relocate to, based on your natal chart. Read this article for details.

Relocation Astrology

What is relocation astrology?

Relocation astrology provides the opportunity to get a sense of what a place might be like for you, even though you may have never been there. That could be of a great help, if you are planning to move or take a longer trip.

There are two main techniques in relocation astrology:

Astrocartography

A primary approach is Astrocartography, which maps the world using your own birth chart in order to discover the best places on Earth to pursue your dreams, find spiritual growth, improve health, love and romance, live in prosperity or adventure...

Relocated birth chart

A relocated birth chart is mainly used to find the basic theme in a new location.

In the birth chart, the challenges in life are represented by hard aspects and there is no such thing as a chart with only easy, positive aspects. This is why we can often find ourselves dreaming of a better self....

A relocated birth chart is necessary to find out how to improve those patterns in the birth chart that make someone unhappy with oneself, by relocating.

Examples

My own experience tells that a person may be born with a certain unsettlement and discomfort at home, but by travelling and discovering new, exotic places never dreamed of, one can suddenly discover oneself as a new and improved person, much happier than ever... This is what happened to me, as I relocated to London, a place where the Sun is conjunct with the Ascendant of the relocated chart.

A friend of mine travelled to Paris in her honeymoon and got pregnant while there, as promised by the Moon conjunct the Ascendant in her relocated chart for Paris.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, born in Graz, Austria, became famous and enjoyed artistic and political success in California, where his relocation chart has Jupiter in the 10th house of career, conjunct with the Midheaven.

Relocation astrology readings

When looking forward to ordering a relocation astrology reading you should know what you really want, because some places are very favourable for settling, while some other places can be very auspicious for building a career. Some people can even find their soul mates on foreign grounds, but most people just want to be happy and feel good about themselves.

This is what the astrocartography can do for you: shedding some of those hard aspects in the natal chart by identifying the most auspicious place for relocating. Sometimes the patterns that cause such challenges can't be shed completely, but they can often become less prominent, while highlighting the more positive aspects, and this is the main goal of relocation astrology.

Natal Astrology

Your natal chart is your real identity card in this life.

It presents graphically the planetary positions at the moment of your birth and offers information on your personality, on your attitudes and abilities, on your emotional nature, but also on your relationships, family life, career, money, hobbies, health, religious and spiritual issues.

What is a natal astrology reading?

Starting from personal details provided by the client (birth date, time of birth, place of birth), an experienced Astrologer making use of specialized software can determine astral configuration at time of birth. The configuration shows the position held by every planet at the client's time of birth. This individual map contains information about the individual's basic personality, talents, abilities, as well as weak points that represent real challenges throughout the individual's existence.

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(Article by Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji , Spiritual Guru, Astrologer)

Introduction to Astrology Consulting

By Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

While finding out your sign of birth is reasonably easy, getting your detailed horoscope can be more of a daunting experience. With the wide variety of generalised information available on websites and other media, members of the public have been influenced to think that these generalised reports are astrological interpretations.

This form of generalized information is insufficient to give you any astrological interpretation. Such reports do not provide you with any guidance as even a basic horoscope should contain the implications of the positions of the sun, moon and other planets at the time of your birth and what sign was rising.

Calling yourself a Scorpio, Pisces, Gemini, Aries, or any of the 12 zodiac signs, is only stating what your Sun Sign is on your birthday. This is just one of many elements in astrology that comprise your chart, which is a blueprint about who you are and your destiny. Planets, houses, signs, and aspects make up over 50 of the basic structure of a chart

The word Horoscope has different meanings today but to the Greeks, horoscope was the Ascendant or Rising Sign and therefore to a very individual point, which is determined by the exact moment of birth. Later on, horoscope began to signify the entire birth chart, with all the zodiac signs and zodiac symbols, based on the time, place, and date of birth.

What a real astrologer used to do in the past (and some real astrologers can still do it today) was calculating your horoscope based on the time, place, and date of your birth. Even if you don't know your exact time of birth, you still receive much more information than Sun Sign astrological reports. That's because an astrologer is using all the zodiac signs and zodiac symbols but without the Ascendant and some other points. This is personalized information about yourself then you can ever get from a sun sign generated report that is used in most of astrology sites on the web.

Regarding love horoscopes and horoscope compatibility reports, you can receive more accurate astrological compatibility matches when using the full birth data of both you and the person who interests you. While a Scorpio horoscope (Sun Sign in Scorpio) may match well with an Pisces horoscope (Sun Sign in Pisces), there are many other factors that must be considered for love compatible horoscopes.

Only when an online astrology site uses the full birth data can you receive an accurate analysis of horoscope compatibility.

Astrological Services

by Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji , Spiritual Guru, Astrologer

Astrological services: hourly consultations and/or 25-30 page reports .

There are several types of astrological readings you can choose from :

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Fee: £30.

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Fee: £20.

Spiritual Reading Offer For YOU!

"Those who conquer the enemy within have nothing to fear from the enemy without...divination is rooted in the idea of conquering the enemy within."

-From Inner Peace by Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

Spiritual readings are a major tool that Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji use to guide and direct your life.Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji has written about divination and using it to obtain a road map for where to go in your life.

Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji says,"When I am in the midst of change, at the crossroads or confused in general, I divine to help me understand the energy with which I am working. I also seek guidance from the oracle to get clarity on what I need to do to move further in alignment with my Higher Purpose.

In the quote listed above, I have come to find that seeking to conquer the inner enemy is the main reason that I consult the oracle."

So today Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji offer you the same. He is available to do divination, which will help you understand what energy you are now working with to assist you with mastering yourself and living to your highest potential.

Listen to what Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji's disciples have to say about their experience with Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji's divining services:

The accuracy of your divinations never cease to amaze me especially since you did not personally know me. The divinations I have received from you have been accurate and on point with the issues that I was dealing with at the time of my divination request. One thing that will forever stand out in my mind is the message you channeled from my mother whom you did not know was deceased. Even now, three months later, when I read that letter I feel my mother's presence. As far as I am concerned, if I need clarity around an issue you are my first choice for divination.

-Fya Gbemi, Savannah, GA

I remember the first reading Priest Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji gave me. I was extremely anxious and in need of some serious spiritual guidance. He was very prompt, for one, in getting back to me with the reading, which that in itself was deeply meaningful for me, because it spoke of her integrity as a Diviner -that he respected my time and me as a person. Also, as always, when you speak with him, he is so full of love and earthiness, that you immediately feel " at home" and at-ease with him. Also, he told me some things that no one had told me before, and during our session, because he is such an "open sponge" for psychic energy, he also revealed other impressions that came up during that conversation. I instantly felt I had reconnected with a long lost friend, and every other reading he has given since has always been a reflection of my immediate needs at that time.

-Angel (Tennessee)

"I appreciate the readings. It has helped me to look at how I handle situations and challenges in a different way. Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji is caring and supportive."

-L.H.

Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji is a gifted intuitive who is well trained in the art of divination. Asking the oracle about the quality of each reading that he has given speaks volume of his humility and maturity. You will not be disappointed!

-PD

What Types of Readings does Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji Offer?

Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji primarily does intuitive readings based on his own inner guidance. However, Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji often times offer wisdom given through one or more of his oracles: Metu Neter (Ancient Egyptian), Mayan Oracle and ArchAngel Oracle. These readings also include some numerological information.

These are the readings that Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji can does for you:

Incarnation Reading (\$150 USD)

His personal opinion is that of all the divination that He does this is the most important. The Incarnation Reading provides information on what lessons you have come into this lifetime to learn. This divination is designed to help you see the BIG PICTURE of your life. It includes a career and love-relationship reading as well as how your name supports your incarnation objective.

This reading is comprehensive and He recommend that you keep it to use for the rest of your life.

Please include your name and birthday if you desire feedback using that info.

General Readings (\$60 USD)

Divination is done to give information about where you are right now and what it is that you need to focus on to experience more success.

I have had the honor and privilege to receive spiritual counsel from Goddess Maa Kali. It has ALWAYS been honest and in my best interest. I don't know which action takes the greatest strength... to come to the Oracle or to be the Oracle.

Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji, UK

Relationship-Love Reading (\$50 USD):

This divination provides information that will assist you in maximizing your intimate and interpersonal relationships. This reading has more to do with bigger picture issues in relationships although I can seek counsel from the oracle regarding specific relationships.

Career Reading (\$50 USD)

This reading assists you in finding the work that you most love and the lessons associated with that work. This reading is great for people seeking their highest purpose in life.

Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji possesses a phenomenal Oracle. The accuracy and depth of the guidance I have received has helped me with enormous family and career transitions... not to avoid challenges but to prepare for the gifts that await. Thank you Rupnathji for shining so brightly in the dark places, loving so strongly in the quiet places, and being true to your higher self. Your example and support always connects with my inner Oracle and shouts the guidance I can only whisper.

Davis, North Carolina

Solstice and Equinox Reading \$25 USD

If you are in need of guidance on how to maximize the solstice or equinox energy, then you will benefit from this reading.

Personal Divination for the New Year: \$50 USD

"This Sister's readings are intense, detailed and their accuracy is almost scary.. I received a New Year's reading from him and was blown away. Then as I re-read it a year later, I had found that everything mentioned in the reading had come true! -Z.O.

If you are truly interested in having an accurate road map to guide you in bettering your life from a holistic and nurturing standpoint, I highly recommend receiving a reading from Priest Dr.Rupnathji.”

2009 is set to be a time where we continue in this radically transformative energy. Our beliefs will be challenged and we are being called to walk more in alignment with the highest Truth.

Getting personal divination for 2012 will assist you in understanding the challenges and lessons that you are to learn. What is it that you need to do to step more fully onto your spiritual path and to walk in your destiny? This reading will assist you in answering this question.

Included in this reading is the Goddess energy that you will personally work with in 2012.

Honestly, if you have never had an incarnation reading, I recommend that you seriously consider getting one because all New Year's divination afterwards will make more sense. The incarnation reading is the BIG PICTURE of your life. New Year's readings help keep you moving on the straight and narrow toward your highest and greatest good.

Goddess Readings: \$25 USD

We are in a time when we are moving to a more heart-centered way of living, which is the way of the Great Mother. In order for us to live from the place of love, we must loose ourselves of conditionings and bring ourselves more fully in alignment with our purpose.

One way to live a heart-centered life is to work with the energy of the Goddess. She can be experienced in so many forms and depending on your issue we can determine which aspect of the Goddess with which you need to work.

Goddess Readings are designed to provide you with the guidance you need to connect you with your inner goddess or to better connect with the heart-centered energy of the time. This reading is appropriate for men and women.

Gods and Goddesses of Vedic Culture

A Quick Guide to the Primary Divinities of Sanatana-Dharma

Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji

One of the most confusing topics to people who are new or unfamiliar with the Vedic tradition is the number of Gods there seems to be within it. This is not really so difficult to understand. So here is a quick guide with brief descriptions that may help to bring some clarity to how they fit into the scheme of things. More elaborate explanations are available in my book "The Heart of Hinduism" and elsewhere on my website.

One point to understand is that some sages think the Absolute is an impersonal force, the great effulgent Brahman, and that all the Gods are but different manifestations of that Brahman. In this case, all the Vedic Gods are equal in that they are but various aspects of the same Brahman. Other sages see that the Absolute is indeed a personal but unfathomable Supreme Being who reigns above all, the source of all, and from whom everything else manifests. (For further insights into this you can read the article *God is Both Personal (Bhagavan) and Impersonal (Brahman)* on this website.)

In the latter case, all the Vedic Gods have specific positions and purposes in the administration and maintenance of the material creation, in which case they hold various powers from the Supreme and fulfill certain functions on behalf of the Supreme Being, similar to the way assorted executives in a company carry out the orders of the Chief Executive Officer. Thus, these demigods are worshiped for attaining particular results or facilities while we live and progress in this life. Thus, one can worship the Supreme Being, knowing full well that everything and all blessings ultimately come from Him, as well as respect the other demigods for assistance in living in this world. Therefore, here are the descriptions of the purposes and functions of the primary Divinities of the Dharmic tradition.

The descriptions are short excerpts from articles on this website, and from the book by Stephen Knapp called *The Heart of Hinduism*, which has a full elaboration on the pantheon of Divinities of the Vedic tradition.

Lord Sri Krishna



Lord Krishna is one of the most revered and honored of all the Dharmic Gods. As it is explained and concluded in a variety of Vedic texts, Lord Krishna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. In other words, as it is said in Sanskrit, *kṛṣṇas tu bhagavan svayam* (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 1.3.28) Krishna is the source of all other incarnations and forms of God. He is the ultimate and end of all Truth and philosophical enquiry, the goal or end result of Vedanta. He is the all-attractive personality and source of all pleasure for which we are always hankering. He is the origin from which everything else manifests. He is the unlimited source of all power, wealth, fame, beauty, wisdom, and renunciation. Thus, no one is greater than Him. Since Krishna is the source of all living beings, He is also considered the Supreme Father and source of all worlds. He is shown with a blue or blackish complexion. This represents absolute, pure consciousness, which also is unconditional love. Krishna is the embodiment of love. He is also *sat-chit-ananda vigraha*, which means the form of eternal knowledge and bliss. Thus, Krishna devotees make Him, along with His consort Srimati Radharani, their life and soul. [Much more can be learned about Lord Krishna in the ebook "[Sri Krishna](#)" on this website.

Lord Sri Vishnu



Lord Vishnu is the all-pervasive Lord who expands into everything. He is the maintainer of the universe and the complete cosmic creation. He is called Vishnu because He overcomes all. He represents *sattva-guna*, or the mode of goodness by which everything is sustained. He is also called Narayana, which means the shelter, resting place, or ultimate goal of all living entities. It also means the one whose abode is the causal waters (Karana Ocean), and one who lives in the hearts of all living beings. It is this *sattva* nature which gives the living beings the tendency to grow toward a higher truth, the light, a more cohesive and intense reality. In this sense, Lord Vishnu is also called Hari, or one who removes the darkness of illusion. This illusion ultimately means the idea that the living beings live separate from, or without connection to the Lord. Though many consider Vishnu the direct source of all avatars of the Lord who appear in this world, in such texts as *Bhagavad-gita*, *Mahabharata*, *Bhagavata Purana*, *Vishnu Purana* and others, He is considered an expansion from Lord Krishna who is the actual source of all avatars, and the doorway through whom all of the Lord's avatars appear in this material world. More can be understood about Him in the article "[Lord Vishnu](#)" on this website. You can also read about the various avatars of the Lord in our article [The Avatars of God](#).

Lord Satyanarayan



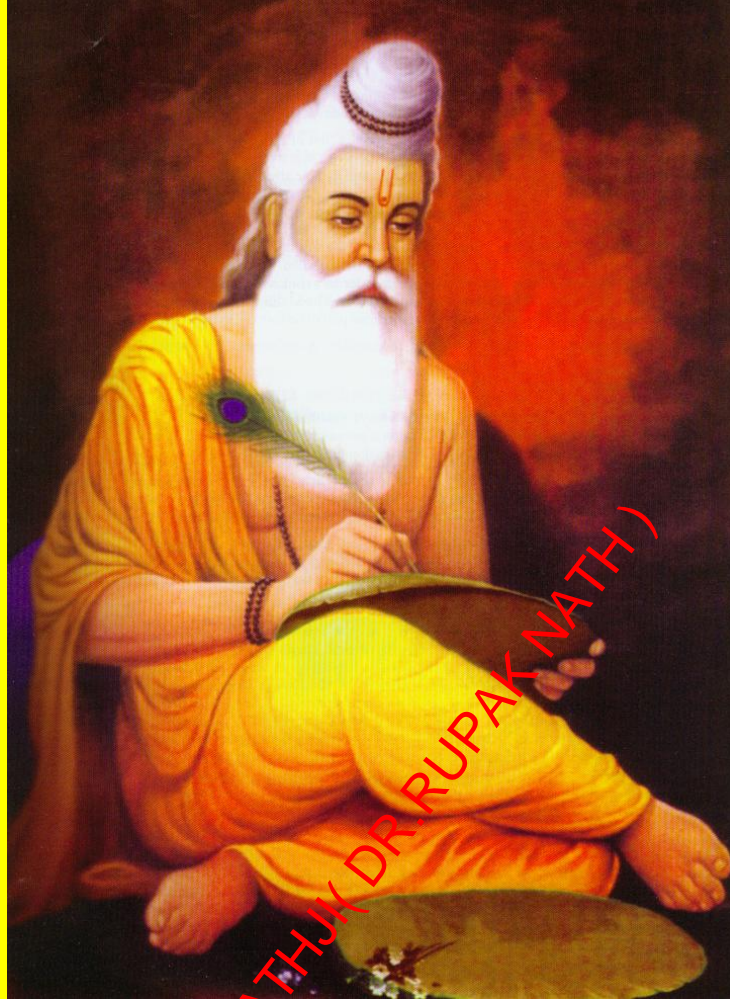
Lord Satyanarayana is Lord Vishnu Himself as the avatara of Satya (truth). He is worshiped especially by householders and friends in numerous temples, particularly on the full moon night of the month, and during the holy day known as Lakshmi puja, the worship of Goddess Lakshmi, Lord Vishnu's divine consort.

Lord Rama

Lord Rama, also known as Ramachandra, is one of the most popular of the Vedic Gods, and the central figure of the classic *Ramayana*. He is the 7th avatara and also known as Raghava, Rajarama, Raghupati, etc. The *Ramayana* has played a most significant part of the Vedic culture, and relates the story of Lord Rama and His wife Sita. You can read a shortened version of this in the article on our website, called [The Ramayana Summarized](#).

Srila Vyasadeva





Sri Yama Vyasa is an example of one of the expansions of the Lord, an avatara, who appeared as the great sage, also known as VedaVyasa, who divided the four Vedas into its many parts and divisions for the benefit of the people so they could study and understand it. You can read more about Him in the article [Sri Yama Vyasa](#) on this website.

Lord Brahma



Lord Brahma is the secondary engineer of the universe. He appeared from the expansion of Lord Vishnu who first appeared within this universe, known as Karanakashayi Vishnu, Vishnu who rests on the Karana Ocean within this universe. Brahma is also known as Svyambhu, or the self-manifested one, He has four heads which represent the four Vedas, the four Yugas of time, and the four directions. He is also part of the trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, who are the Gods of creation, maintenance and destruction.

Lord Shiva



We can find characteristics of Lord Shiva described in numerous texts. The *Srimad-Bhagavatam* (4.2.2), for example, states that Lord Shiva is the spiritual master of the entire world. He is a peaceful personality, free from enmity, always satisfied in himself. He is the greatest among all the demigods. He is the spiritual master of the world by showing how to worship the Supreme. He is considered the best of all devotees. Therefore, he has his own spiritual line or *sampradaya* called the Rudra-sampradaya that comes directly from him. These days it is also found in the Vishnusvami-sampradaya, or the Vallabha-sampradaya.

Shiva is also described as the most powerful, second only to Lord Vishnu. (*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 4.24.22-28) In this way, he is not the Supreme, but is almost as powerful. Although he has nothing to attain in this material world, he is always engaged for the benefit of everyone in this universe, and is accompanied by his material and dangerous energies like goddess Kali and goddess Durga. Sometimes we see pictures of a fierce form of Kali standing with one foot on the body of Shiva. This is because Shiva sometimes has to lie down in front of her to pacify her from killing all the demoniac people in the world. In this way, Shiva controls the material energy. Lord Shiva is also in control of the destructive energy, *tamo-guna*, the mode of darkness, and is assisted by Kali and Durga in this purpose.

It is also said that Shiva's drum represents *srishiti*, the creation; the *abhaya* hand (giving blessings) represents *sthiti*, or preservation; his foot that presses down symbolizes *tirobhava*, or the veiling effect; and the uplifted foot means blessings (*anugraha*), especially toward seeing through the veil of illusion caused by ego. When he is shown with an axe, it represents *samhara*, destruction. Shiva worshipers are Shaivites. Much more can be learned about Lord Shiva in our ebook on this website called, [Shiva and Durga: Their Real Identity](#).

Goddess Lakshmi



Goddess Lakshmi is the consort and *shakti*, or potency, of Lord Vishnu. Lakshmi, or Sri when she is especially known as the goddess of beauty (though sometimes considered to be separate entities), is the Goddess of fortune, wealth, power, and loveliness. Wealth means not only money, but also the higher values and qualities of life. The power of the mind and intellect is also a must if one wants to be truly wealthy, which includes spiritual wealth. These are prerequisites to attaining spiritual knowledge. This is why Lakshmi is worshiped in the second set of three days during the Navaratri festival before the worship of Sarasvati.

As the spouse of Lord Vishnu, she appears whenever He does in each of His appearances, such as Vamana, Parashurama, Rama, or Krishna. In each of these appearances, she appeared as Padma or Kamala, Dharani, Sita, and Rukmini respectively. They are inseparable.

Lakshmi is also known in Her other eight forms as Veera, Adhi, Gaja, Vijaya, Dhana, Aiswarya, Santhan, and Dhanya. The Goddess known as MahaLakshmi is actually an aspect of Durga and not Lakshmi. More can be learned about Lakshmi in our article [Lakshmi, The Goddess of Fortune.](#)

Goddess Sarasvati



The literal meaning of the name Sarasvati is the one who gives the essential knowledge (Sara) of our own Self (Sva). The goddess Sarasvati is also considered the Goddess of Learning, or of education, intelligence, crafts, arts, and skills. As she is the consort of Brahma, who is considered the source of all knowledge, Sarasvati is knowledge itself. Thus, many students or even scholars may worship her for her blessings. She is, therefore, depicted as white in complexion, and quite beautiful and graceful. She is also called Savitri (daughter of the Sun), Brahmi (wife of Brahma), Sharada (giver of

essence), Vagishvari (mistress of speech), Mahavidya (knowledge supreme), and Vach. You can learn more about Goddess Sarasvati in our article [Sarasvati, The Goddess of Learning](#).

Goddess Durga



Worship of the Goddess goes back at least 4000 years in India, and further back to the Vedic times. Durga is the Goddess of the universe, and Parvati, the wife of Lord Shiva, is a form of Durga. She is the power of knowledge, wisdom and memory. She has up to 64 different forms, with different names for each form. Each form represents a different pastime, power, or aspect of the Goddess. Some of the names of these forms of Durga are Amba or Ambika, Bhadra, Bhadrakali, Aryadurga, Vedagarbha, Kshemakshemakari, Naikabahu, Bhagavati, Katyayani, Meenakshi, Rajarajeshvari, Kali, Devi, and others, such as Sati, which means chastity. Thus, these are all different aspects of the same goddess. In her gentle aspects she is worshiped as Kanya, Kamakshi, or Mukamba. Uma (Parvati) is the maiden name for the consort of Lord Shiva. She represents matter (*prakriti*). Shiva is the god of destruction, which has no meaning without objects to destroy. Thus, he is paired with Uma.

Durga is often pictured as a beautiful woman in red cloth. She has either four, eight, ten, eighteen or twenty hands and three eyes. Items in her hands can include a conch, disc, trident, bow, arrow, sword, dagger, shield, rosary, wine cup, and bell, all of which represent her various powers. She may also be standing on a lotus or riding a lion. The lion represents power, but also the animal tendency of greed for food and other sensual objects. Her riding on the lion represents that she keeps all such tendencies under complete control. You can learn more about Durga and Parvati in the ebook [*Shiva and Durga: Their Real Identity.*](#)

Goddess Parvati



Parvati is also the wife of Lord Shiva, known as the daughter of Himavan and Mena. Durga is a different aspect of Parvati. She is also known as Lord Vishnu's sister. She was Dakshayani in her first incarnation as the daughter of the great sage Daksha and Prasuti. She is also called Haimavati, Girija, Rudrani (connected with Shiva as Rudra), Aparna, Sharvani, Uma, Mridani, and Gauri.

Lord Ganesh



Ganesh is known as the Lord of thresholds or entrances into new dimensions. So it is not unusual, especially in India, that as we enter a new space or house we may see an image of Ganesh above the door or nearby to give blessings to those who enter. Thus, he is also the guardian of the doorways. This is the case in many Vedic temples. As we enter the temple, we first see a deity of Ganesh to whom we pray for blessings and the removal of obstacles in our devotion or the rituals that we do inside the temple.

Ganesh is also considered the Lord of astrology. He is said to know the language of the stars and the destinies of every living being. Thus, astrologers also petition Ganesh to pen such knowledge to them.

Ganesh is also said to be the writer of the scriptures. (*Mahabharata* 1.1.77) He accepted the position of being Vyasadeva's scribe and wrote the *Mahabharata* and *Srimad-Bhagavatam* as it was dictated by Srila Vyasadeva, the compiler of the major portions of the Vedic texts. You can see the cave where this is said to have happened at Mana, near the holy place of Badrinatha (Badarikashrama). For this reason the ancient *Brahmana* texts also describe him as the god of learning.

His other names include Ganesh (related to the word *gana*), Vinayaka (a name familiar in South India, meaning great leader), Vighneshvara (the remover of obstacles), Gajanana (elephant-faced), Gajadhira (lord of elephants), and Jyeshtha-raja (King of the elders).

Ganesh is said to have two wives or Shaktis named Siddhi (success) and Riddhi (prosperity). Thus, if anyone pleases Lord Ganesh with nice prayers or worship, the person also attains the company or blessings of the wives of Lord Ganesh. However, if used improperly, success and prosperity can be distractions on the path toward the goal of spiritual wisdom.

The most prominent characteristic of Lord Ganesh is that he has the head of an elephant. How Lord Ganesh got an elephant's head is related in several places in the Vedic texts. There may be a few different versions, but the general way in which it is accepted relates as follows: Once when Lord Shiva's wife, Parvati, was going to bathe in the forest, she wanted someone to guard the area. Some references say she was going to bathe in her house. She then rubbed her skin so she was able to gather the substance from which she could form and cause the birth of a son. When he came to life, she ordered him to let no one into the area while she was bathing. However, Lord Shiva came after a long absence and wanted in, but was blocked by Ganesh. Lord Shiva did not recognize the boy as his son, nor did Ganesh realize Shiva was his father, and they began to fight. Ganesh lost the battle with his head being cut off. When Parvati entered the scene and saw what had happened, she was so upset that Shiva, after understanding the situation, devised the means to revive his son. He went to find the nearest living entity he saw, which happened to be an elephant. He took the head and attached it to his son's body, after which he was revived. Thus, Ganesh has the head of an elephant. (Much more information is supplied in the book *The Heart of Hinduism*.)

Lord Subrahmaniya (Murugan)



Lord Murugan is usually portrayed sitting on his carrier, which is a peacock called Paravani, with one head and two arms, or sometimes as Subramaniya with six heads and twelve arms. Dressed in red, he also holds his brilliant lance, which represents wisdom and intelligence, and destroys the darkness of ignorance, symbolized by the demons he kills. His additional hands hold a bow, arrows, a sword, thunderbolt, and ax, all which indicate his powers. His emblem is the fowl or rooster and his fiery banner flames high above his chariot. He is another son of Shiva and Parvati, and, thus, the brother of Ganesh.

The esoteric meaning behind the image of Murugan is that he represents the complete yogic control of preserving the semen. If this control is not attained, then the mind is always stifled by sensual desires, which means that the child, or the power of youth in the form of Kumara, is never born, and thus the demons take control over the gods. This signifies that only by allowing the seed to rise up through the yogic *sushumna* channel into the *vani-mukha* or fire center in the sixth *chakra*, can the yogi become master of his tendencies and impulses. (There is also an old Egyptian saying that only by preserving one's semen can one communicate with the gods.) Only then can Skanda, or the inner strength or power, be born. Such a master can use his sexual powers for mental clarity, discernment, stamina, and spiritual progress. Lasting youth is also connected with the practice of preserving one's seed, which is represented by Murugan's peacock, which is his carrier.

Subrahmaniya is also known as Skanda, Guha, Saktidhara, Tarakari, Kumara, Sanatkumara, Gangeya, Shanmukha, Shivakumara, and Karttikeya. His two consorts or Shaktis are Valli (power of Will) and Devasena. (Much more information is supplied in the book [*The Heart of Hinduism.*](#))

Lord Buddha



Buddha is considered the 9th avatara of Vishnu. His name means the enlightened one. He was Prince Siddhartha of the Shakya clan, born in Lumbini, now in Nepal. He is also known as Shakyamuni Buddha, Gautama, Buddha and Tathgata. You can read more about him in the article [*Buddhism and Its Vedic Connections.*](#)

Hanuman



Hanuman is not necessarily one of the Vedic gods, but is honored like one for having been the most dedicated devotee of Lord Rama. He is the son of the wind god, Vayu, and, thus, has superhuman powers which he uses for good and in his service to Lord Rama and Sita. He is also known as Maruti and Anjaneya after his mother, Anjana. Devotees pray to Hanuman for the blessings of increased devotion to the Lord. You can read more about him in [*The Ramayana Summarized*](#).

Goddess Gayatri



Gayatri is the goddess that is the personification of the sacred Gayatri mantra, which is chanted three times a day. She shares that with the goddesses Savitri and Sarasvati. Gayatri has four or five faces, and four or ten arms and rides a swan. She presides over the morning chanting of the prayer, and also over the *Rig-veda* and the sacred fires called the Garhapatya. These were the sacred fires that the three *varnas* known as the brahmanas, kshatriyas, and vaishyas were meant to keep in their homes for the performance of sacred rituals. Then Goddess Savitri presides over the noon chanting of the prayer. She has four faces with twelve eyes, four arms, and has a bull for a carrier. She also rules over the *Yajur-veda* and the Dakshina fire, while Sarasvati rules over the evening rendition of the prayer and the *Sama-veda*.

Gayatri is also known as Veda-Mata, or the mother of all the *Vedas*. She is also another consort of Lord Brahma, being given to him in the form of the mantra by Lord Vishnu to attain the wisdom he needed to understand how to begin his portion of the creation of the universe.

Other Divinities

The Adityas are the personifications or the embodiment of the universal laws. They regulate the behavior of humans among themselves in conjunction with the natural forces. The Adityas are the twelve sons of Aditi, wife of Kashyapa. Their dynasty is

described in the *Bhagavata Purana*, which includes descendants that were great personalities and additional minor demigods.

There are twelve Adityas listed in the later Vedic literature, such as the *Shatapatha Brahmana*, while the *Rig-veda* lists six, and eight are listed in other *Brahmanas*. The names are: Amsha (one who is munificent), Aryaman (one who eliminates foes), Bhaga (one who bestows), Daksha (one who is skilled in ritual and magic), Mitra (friend), Pushan (one who nurtures), Savitri (one who activates), Shakra (the forceful), Tvashtri (one who designs), Varuna (he who surrounds or restrains), Vishnu (the omniscient maintainer) and Vivasvat (or Vivsvan, the brilliant, or the sun, Surya). In the same order, these also refer to the universal principles known as: the share given by the gods, chivalry and honor, that which is inherited, skill in ritual, solidarity in friendship, prosperity, the potency in language, courage, skill in crafts, laws of providence as directed by the gods, universal law, and morality and social order.

The name Aditya also refers to the sun. And the Adityas together are considered the eternal gods of light, or the beings that manifest luminous life throughout the universe. They are also connected to the aspects of the sun divided into the annual twelve months, or the twelve spokes of the wheel of time.

Agni is the fire-god, referred in the *Rig-veda*. He is the god who accepts the offerings in the ancient fire *yajnas*, or rituals, and carries them to the appropriate gods. His two consorts, Svaha and Svadha, accompany him at his sides. The ram is his carrier, while smoke is his flag. At times he is viewed riding a chariot, in which case it is drawn by red horses, and the seven winds are the wheels. He is also called other names according to his qualities, such as: Jvalana (burning), Pavaka (purifier), Vibhvasu (abundant in light), Chitrabhanu (multicolored), Bhuritejas (resplendent), Shikhin (flaming), Plavanga (flickering), and others.

Indra is known as the King of Heaven, and thus the king of the celestial gods. Along with Agni, he is the main deity of the *Rig-veda* and is described in many exploits. Indra is considered the controller of rain and lightning, and is also worshiped when there is a need for such. Indra is the power of the thunderbolt, and is a friend to Vayu, the wind god. They work together. Also, it is Agni, Indra and Surya who represent the three forms of fire in its earthly state, its electrical charge, and the sun globe.

Varuna is an ancient Vedic deity. He is associated with the rivers and ocean, as well as the clouds and water in general. He is the lord of the oceans and aquatics. He rules over the rivers and their spirit beings, as well as the serpent gods called the nagas. It is considered that those who drown go to him. He also can ward off any bad effects related to water.

Vayu is known as the wind-god and is connected with the Prana (the life airs in the body). He is also considered a lord of the sky (*antariksha*). The name *Vayu* comes from the root, *va*, which means to blow. He is seen as riding a chariot, which roars as he travels, announcing his presence.

Yama, or Yamaraja, is the god of death and the spirits of the departed. The word *yama* means to arrest or restrain. He is also called Dharmaraja, or the king of Dharma, the

principles of duty and law upon which the world is supported. This law is what gives balance to society. Within the hall of judgment (*kalchi*) he sits on his throne (*vicharabhu*) and gives the judgment of rewards or punishments to all who have died, and sends them to the appropriate abodes for the results of their life's actions.

The Navagrahas are the nine planets. They are viewed as astrological influences that can be understood and even stilled or amplified with proper rituals, amulets, yantras, gemstones, etc. They are divided into two parts, the auspicious and inauspicious. The first group consists of Ravi or Surya (the sun), Soma or Chandra (moon), Budha (Mercury), Shukra (Venus), Mangala, Kuja or Angaraka (Mars), and Brihashpati or Guru (Jupiter). The inauspicious planets are Shani (Saturn), Rahu (the ascending node of the moon), and Ketu (the descending node of the moon). Planet Earth is called Bhumi.

Surya the sun-god. Among all the Navagrahas, Surya is the most important. He is always placed in the center of the other planets since he is like the center of creation. He is the nearest and most easily recognized form of divinity, the visible source and cause of life, and thus accepted as a form or representation of the Supreme God. He is also accepted as the all-seeing eye of the Supreme. It is through his rays that he puts life into all beings. However, he also gives death. He perpetually creates, supports and then destroys all life. He is also called Aditya since he is a source of the world. He has many other names that relate to his abilities and character. A few are Aharpati (lord of the day), Jagatchakshus (eye of the universe), Karmasakshin (witness of actions), Graharajan (king of planets), Sahasrakirana (one with a thousand rays), Dyumani (jewel of the sky), and others.

Ekadasi: The Appearance and Purpose of This Special Day

(This article was written in 1995 by **Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji**, a disciple of Shiva. There are many stories of Ekadasi in the *Puranas*, but most explain the material benefits and blessings one gets from observing Ekadasi. This article, based on the conversation between Srila Vyasadeva and Jaimini Rishi, gives the real spiritual reason for following the vow of Ekadasi as emphasized by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu in *Sri Caitanya-caritamrita* and later by **Maha Yogi Paramahansa Dr.Rupnathji**.)

Many devotees are very inquisitive about the appearance of Sri Ekadasi and about her special characteristics. Therefore I am presenting this description from the 14th chapter of the *Padma Purana*, from the section entitled "Kriya-sagara-sara".

Once the great sage Jaimini Rishi said to his spiritual master, "O Gurudeva! Previously, by your mercy, you described to me the history of the Ganga River, the benefits of worshipping Vishnu, the giving of grains in charity, the giving of water in charity, and the

magnanimity of drinking water that has been used to wash the feet of the brahmanas. O best of sages, Sri Gurudeva, now, with great enthusiasm, I desire to hear of the benefits of fasting on Ekadasi and of the appearance of Ekadasi.”

“O Gurudeva! When did Ekadasi take birth and from whom did she appear? What are the rules of fasting on the day of Ekadasi? Please describe the benefits of following this vow and when it should be followed. Who is the utmost worshipable presiding deity of Sri Ekadasi? What are the faults in not observing Ekadasi properly? Please bestow your mercy upon me and tell about these subjects, as you are the only personality able to do so.”

Srila Vyasadeva, upon hearing this inquiry from Jaimini Rishi, became situated in transcendental bliss. “O brahmana sage Jaimini! The results of following Ekadasi can be perfectly described by the Supreme Lord, Narayana, because Sri Narayana is the only personality capable of describing them in full. But I will give a very brief description in answer to your question.”

“At the beginning of the material creation, the Supreme Lord created the moving and non-moving living entities within this world made of five gross material elements. Simultaneously, for the purpose of punishing the evil human beings, He created a personality whose form was the embodiment of the worst kinds of sin (Papa-purusha). The different limbs of this personality were constructed of various sinful activities. His head was made of the sin of murdering a brahmana, his two eyes were the form of drinking intoxicants, his mouth was made from the sin of stealing gold, his ears were the form of the sin of having illicit connection with the spiritual master’s wife, his nose was of the sin of killing one’s wife, his arms the form of the sin of killing a cow, his neck was made of the sin of stealing accumulated wealth, his chest of the sin of abortion, his lower chest of the sin of having sex with another’s wife, his stomach of the sin of killings one’s relatives, his navel of the sin of killing those who are dependent on him, his waist of the sin of egotistical self-appraisal, his thighs of the sin of offending the guru, his genitals of the sin of selling one’s daughter, his buttocks of the sin of telling confidential matters, his feet of the sin of killing one’s father, and his hair was the form of all sorts of less severe sinful activities. In this way, a horrible personality embodying all sinful activities and vices was created. His bodily color is black, and his eyes are yellow. He inflicts extreme misery upon sinful persons.

“The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Vishnu, upon seeing this personality of sin began to think to Himself as follows: ‘I am the creator of the miseries and happiness for the living entities. I am their master because I have created this personality of sin, who gives distress to all dishonest, deceitful and sinful persons. Now I must create someone who will control this personality’. At this time Sri Bhagavan created the personality of Yamaraja and the different hellish planetary systems. Those living entities who are very sinful will be sent after death to Yamaraja, who will in turn, according to their sins, send them to an appropriate hellish region to suffer.

“After these adjustments had been made, the Supreme Lord, who is the giver of distress and happiness to the living entities, went to the house of Yamaraja, with the help of Garuda, the king of birds. When Yamaraja saw that Lord Vishnu had arrived, he immediately washed His feet and made an offering unto Him. He then had Him sit upon a golden throne. The Supreme Lord Vishnu became seated upon the throne, whereupon He heard very loud crying sounds from the southern direction. He became surprised by this and inquired of Yamaraja, ‘From where is this loud crying coming?’

“Yamaraja in reply said, ‘O Deva! The different living entities of the earthly planetary systems have fallen to the hellish regions. They are suffering extremely for their misdeeds. The horrible crying is because of suffering from the inflictions of their past bad actions.’

“After hearing this the Supreme Lord Vishnu went to the hellish region to the south. When the inhabitants saw who had come they began to cry even louder. The heart of the Supreme Lord Vishnu became filled with compassion. Lord Vishnu thought to Himself, ‘I have created all this progeny, and it is because of Me that they are suffering.’”

Vyasadeva continued: “O Jaimini, just listen to what the Supreme Lord did next. After the merciful Supreme Lord thought over what He had previously considered, He suddenly manifested from His own form the city of the lunar day Ekadasi. Afterward, the different sinful living entities began to follow the vow of Ekadasi and were then elevated quickly to the abode of Vaikuntha. O my child Jaimini, therefore the lunar day of Ekadasi is the selfsame form of the Supreme Lord, Vishnu, and the Supersoul within the heart of the living entities. Sri Ekadasi is the utmost pious activity and is situated as the head among all vows.

“Following the ascension of Sri Ekadasi, that personality who is the form of sinful activity gradually saw the influence that she, Ekadasi, had. Thus, he approached Lord Vishnu with doubts in his heart and began offering many prayers, whereupon Lord Vishnu became very pleased and said, ‘I have become very pleased by your nice offerings. What boon is it that you want?’

“The Papa-purusha replied, “I am Your created progeny, and it is through me that you wanted distress given to the living entities who are very sinful. But now, by the influence of Sri Ekadasi, I have become all but destroyed. O Prabhu! After I die all of Your parts and parcels who have accepted material bodies will become liberated and return to the abode of Vaikuntha (the spiritual domain). If this liberation of all living entities takes place, then who will carry on Your activities? There will be no one to enact the pastimes in the earthly planetary systems! O Keshava! If you want these eternal pastimes to carry on, then You please save me from the fear of Ekadasi. No type of pious activity can bind me. But Ekadasi only, being Your own manifested form, can impede me. Out of fear of Sri Ekadasi I have fled and taken shelter of men; animals; insects; hills; trees; moving and non-moving living entities; rivers; oceans; forests; heavenly, earthly and hellish planetary systems; demigods; and the Gandharvas. I cannot find a place where I

can be free from the fear of Sri Ekadasi. O my Master! I am a product of Your creation, so therefore very mercifully direct me to a place where I can reside fearlessly.”

Vyasadeva then said to Jaimini, “After saying this, the embodiment of all sinful activities (Papa-purusha) fell down at the feet of the Supreme Lord Vishnu, who is the destroyer of all miseries and began to cry.

“After this, Lord Vishnu, observing the condition of the Papa-purusha, with laughter began to speak thus: ‘O Papa-purusha, rise up! Don’t lament any longer. Just listen, and I’ll tell you where you can stay on the lunar day of Ekadasi. On the date of Sri Ekadasi, which is the benefactor of the three planetary systems, you can take shelter of foodstuffs in the form of grains. There is no reason to worry about this any more, because My form as Sri Ekadasi will no longer impede you.’ After giving direction to the Papa-purusha, the Supreme Lord Vishnu disappeared and the Papa-purusha returned to the performance of his own activities.

“Therefore, those persons who are serious about the ultimate benefit of the soul will never eat grains on Ekadasi. According to the instructions of Lord Vishnu, every kind of sinful activity that can be found in the material world takes its residence in this place of (grains) foodstuff. Whoever follows Ekadasi is freed from all sins and never enters into the hellish regions. If one doesn’t follow Ekadasi because of illusion, he is still considered the utmost sinner. For every mouthful of grain that is eaten by a resident of the earthly region (on Ekadasi), one receives the effect of killing millions of brahmanas. It is definitely necessary that one give up eating grains on Ekadasi. I very strongly say again and again, ‘On Ekadasi, do not eat grains, do not eat grains, do not eat grains!’ Whether one be a kshatriya, vaishya, shudra, or of any family, he should follow the lunar day of Ekadasi. From this the perfection of varna and ashrama will be attained. Especially since if one (even) by trickery follows Ekadasi, all his sins become destroyed and he very easily attains the supreme goal, the abode of Vaikuntha.”

Additional Information

From the above article and story we can understand that Ekadasi is a form of Lord Vishnu, and by observing the Ekadasi vow, it not only decreases the amount of sin (bad karma) we imbibe, but it also eats up sinful reactions to help pave our way back to the abode of Lord Vishnu, Vaikuntha. This is also why Ekadasi is called “The mother of devotion”. It helps remove the obstacles on our path of devotional service to the Lord.

Ekadasi generally falls on the 11th day after the new moon, and the 11th day after the full moon. *Eka* means one and *dasi* is the feminine form of *dasa*, which means ten. Together it means eleven. Only occasionally may it fall on a different day. So it is on these days that devotees and devout Hindus will follow the vow of Ekadasi and not eat any beans or grains, or products with such substances in them. Thus, the diet is expected to be simple and plain as part of the mood of renunciation, and preferably only once in the day if possible. Other recommendations include that the food should be made of vegetables, fruit, water, milk products, nuts, sugar, and roots that are grown

underground (except beet roots). Restrictions include spinach, eggplant, asafetida, and sea salt, but rock salt is alright.

Since there are 12 months in a year, with two Ekadasis in each month, there are 24 Ekadasis in each year. Each Ekadasi has a name, that are Utpanna, Mokshada, Saphala, Putrada, Shat-tila, Jaya, Vijaya, Amalaki, Papamocani, Kamada, Varuthini, Mohini, Aparā, Nirjala, Yogini, Padma (Devashayani), Kamika, Putrada, Aja, Parivartini, Indira, Papankusha, Rama, and Haribodhini (Devotthani). Occasionally there are two extra Ekadasis that happen in a lunar leap year, which are Padmini and Parama.

Each Ekadasi day has particular benefits and blessings that one can attain by the performance of specific activities done on that day. By engaging in the extra study to learn what these are, one can derive even more benefit from each particular Ekadasi. Books devoted to Ekadasi are available that contain such information, so we will not include it here. However, reading the glories of each Ekadasi day, along with all the names of these days, will also achieve a similar goal of observing the Ekadasi vow. This also means that we are encouraged to increase our spiritual activities that day, which are centered around the chanting of the holy names of the Lord. Charity, especially to advanced devotees and preachers of the dharma, or directly engaging in activities of Krishna consciousness, Deity worship, chanting the *purusha-sukta* hymns, or other spiritual activities on Ekadasi are also highly recommended and brings great spiritual benefits to the performer.

It is said that even if one mistakenly misses the observance of an Ekadasi, he or she may make up for it by observing it the very next day on Dvadasi, and then break one's fast from grain on the next day, Trayodasi. One may also observe the special fast on Nirjala Ekadasi. This is also called Bhima Ekadasi. This is because the Pandava brother known as Bhima was so strong and had such a voracious appetite that he could not observe Ekadasis twice a month. He could not fast because he was too hungry. So Lord Krishna told him to merely observe one Ekadasi a year, which is the Nirjala Ekadasi. *Nirjala* means no water. So he had to observe at least one Ekadasi a year, and on that day he had to abstain from not only beans and grains, but from all foods, even water. So devotees who miss an Ekadasi day often observe a complete fast from all food and liquids on the Nirjala Ekadasi, which is usually sometime in June, and thus make up for whatever was missed. However, this is a very potent Ekadasi, so a complete fast on this day gives one who observes this many pious credits.

Sometimes there is a day called Mahadvadasi. This is when Ekadasi is astronomically combined with Dvadasi, or the twelfth day of the full moon or new moon lunar cycle. This is called a pure Ekadasi and the observance is often started the evening before Mahadvadasi and through the next day with the basic Ekadasi fast.

Breaking the Ekadasi fast on the next day with some foodstuffs made from grains is usually done two-and-a-half hours or shortly thereafter from the time of the sunrise.

In the *Caitanya-caritamrita* (Adi-lila, 15-9-10), Sri Caitanya begs his mother to follow Ekadasi, as was expected of all His followers. And in the purport to this verse Srila Prabhupada explains that even though devotees eat food cooked for and offered to Lord Vishnu, *prasada*, which is spiritually potent and free from all karma, even on Ekadasi a devotee does not eat even *maha-prasada* that has grains in it, even though it can be saved for the next day.

In this way, by the observance of the special Ekadasi day and its special fast, a person can accelerate their spiritual growth and awareness, and free themselves from negative karma that will only further bind them to the continuous rounds of birth and death.

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