

# Kedareswara Vratha Katha PDF in English

Once Lord Shiva was sitting, and smiling kindly upon his subjects and other Gods. In this court, along with the Sun, Agni, Moon, stars, Indra and his deities, Vasishtha and other Rishis, Brahmi and other Shaktis, Nandi, Bhringi and other Ganas, - Sage Narada and other singers sang to please the Lord; Rambha danced gracefully to divine tunes. Due to momentary fatigue, Bhringi started performing a humorous dance, which made everyone in the court laugh and caused a great commotion on the mountain tops. Seeing this, Lord Shiva was pleased and praised Bhringi for this entertainment.

Bhringi, pleased to receive his master's blessings, bowed to Lord Shiva ignoring Mother Parvati. Seeing this, Parvati smilingly asked her husband, "O Lord! Why did Bhringi forget to bow to me? There must be some reason, which is worth knowing. Please tell me". Shankar replied, "Devi! Listen. Yogis want ultimate salvation, so what do they have to do with you?" Parvati became angry with this answer and she withdrew her powers from Lord Shiva. The Lord did not answer her, due to which her powers were destroyed. This further increased her anger and she left Kailash and went to Gautam Rishi's ashram to do penance. Gautam's ashram was a holy place, where all the wild animals like lions, tigers, elephants lived peacefully, where enemies like eagles and snakes lived together; it was full of various trees, creepers and bushes.

At such a place, Gautam, at his altar, saw the beautiful Parvati and told her thus, "O Bhagawati! Why have you come to my place?" To this Parvati replied sadly, "O Rishi! Tell me some penance by which I again become a part of Lord Shiva." The Rishi advised her to perform Kedareshwar Vrat, which is supposed to grant all boons and desires. The Goddess asked him to tell her how to do this fast, the sage told her that from the day of Bhadrapada Shukla, with a pure mind, the Goddess

should worship Lord Kedar with 21 leaves, keep a fast. Then Goddess Katyayani did the fast as told by the sage, which pleased Lord Shankar and he appeared before her and gave her a place in his body. Parvati was very pleased with this and prayed to the Lord to bless the one who does this penance. The Lord agreed to this and disappeared with the Goddess.

After some time, Shiva devotee Gandharva Chitrangadh comes to know about the fast from Nandi. With the desire to tell people about this, he goes to Ujjain city and tells the king Vajradant about this fast. Vajradant performed this fast and as a result he becomes the emperor. After some time, two daughters named Punyavati and Bhagyavati are born in the house of a Vaishya in the same city. The daughters asked their father for permission to observe the fast.

The merchant gave them permission, but said that he did not have enough money, so he could not buy the necessary items. Taking permission from their father, both the daughters performed penance of Shiva. Pleased with this, Shiva appeared and provided them with the necessary items to complete the fast. After this, the girls observed the fast with full faith. God gave them good luck, health and beauty. Due to this good luck, the king of Ujjain married Punyavati and the Chola king married Bhagyavati. The merchant also became happy and rich with his grandchildren. In some time Bhagyavati became arrogant due to her wealth and she stopped performing the Kedar Vrat. Due to this she was expelled from the kingdom along with her son and she wandered from forest to forest in misery.

She reached the house of a hunter and said to her son, "O son! Go to my elder sister's house and tell her our plight. Bring enough money for our living." When Punyavati heard their situation she was moved and gave a lot of money to the boy, with which he went back to his mother. On the way the Lord came in the form of a robber and snatched all the money from the boy. Then the Lord appeared to him and said that one who gives up performing a great fast is not entitled to get wealth. On hearing this the boy, surprised, went to his aunt and told her the whole story.

Punyavati then advised the boy to ask his mother to continue the fast and gave her some money.

On the way the boy also finds the lost money. Surprised at this turn of events the boy returns to his mother and both perform the fast. Due to its good effects, they return to their father in the Chola kingdom. Since then Bhagyavati and the king used to perform this fast every year on the banks of the river in their kingdom. Thereafter they lived in great prosperity and health. Thus whoever performs this fast, or listens to the story with faith and devotion, will be blessed by the Lord, enjoy good health and prosperity in this world and finally merge into the Lord.

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