

On which wrist should the red string be tied on?

DIPIKA has received numerous emails regarding on which wrist should the red Lakshmi string be tied on.

ANSWER:- In the Sarva Deva Pratishthaa Paddhati by Gopaladatta Shastri page 54 it's explained that the raksha sutra (red string) is tied on the left wrist for a female and on the right wrist of males. It is universal practice in India that Raksha Sutra is tied on the LEFT hand of FEMALES and on the RIGHT of MALES. This is born out by the instruction given by the above mentioned book.

The Sarva Deva Pratishthaa Paddhati does not elaborate further than the above so DIPIKA shall expound further on this subject matter...

The Ardhanarishvara form of Durga-Shiva



The Ardhanarishvara form is a composite androgynous form of Lord Shiva and his consort Parvati devi. This Ardhanarishvara form is depicted as half male and half female, split down the middle. The right half is the male Shiva and the left half is Parvati devi. The Ardhanarishvara form represents the synthesis of masculine and feminine energies of the universe. The name Ardhanarishvara means "the Lord who is half woman."

In the Mahabharata, book XIII, Upamanyu praises Shiva rhetorically asking "if there is anyone else whose half-body is shared by his spouse, and adds that the universe had risen from the union of sexes, as represented by Shiva's half-female form".

In the Skanda Purana, Parvati devi requests Lord Shiva to allow her to reside with him, embracing "limb-to-limb", and so the Ardhanarishvara form is formed. In other Puranas like the Linga Purana, Vayu Purana, Vishnu Purana, Skanda Purana, Kurma Purana, and Markandeya Purana, Rudra (identified with Shiva) appears as the Ardhanarishvara form.

The right half of the Ardhanarishvara form is male and the left is female. The left side is the location of the heart and is associated with feminine characteristics like intuition and creativity, while the right is associated with the brain and masculine traits – logic, valour and systematic thought.

The custom of tying the string originated from the time of Bali Maharaja. After the puja is completed the Guru or pundit traditionally "charges" the red string with the power of the following raksha (protection) mantra:-

"Om yena baddho balee raajaa daana
vendro mahaa balah tenatvaa mabhi-
badhnaami, rakshe maachala maachala".

and then ties the red string on the right wrist of a male (married, unmarried and widowers) and left wrist for female (married, unmarried and widows).

The meaning of this mantra is as follow:- "I am tying on your hand this Raksha, with which the most powerful and generous King Bali himself was bound; O Raksha, don't go away; don't go away."

The power of this mantra protects the wearer from any evil influences, wards off dangers, diseases and enemies

Question:- What does one do when the red string is old and worn out?

Answer:- You may cut the old string and either dispose of in a river or keep in a clean place in your yard.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:- Kalava is the sacred Hindu thread also called mauli or charadu in Hindi. It is tied by a Guru or priest or an older family member, typically grandparents or parents on the wrists of all the people attending a prayer ceremony.

Cotton strings in form of yarn in full red are most common as is red with small bits of yellow, however, other dye combination exist. It sometimes has knots (7) which are tied up while reciting sacred mantras to invoke Sattvik (more of goodness) state of human nature and is worn to ward off evil, dangers, diseases and enemies from the person who wears this red thread.

According to Bhagavad Gita, no one on Earth is free from three Gunas (tendencies, qualities, attributes) of nature: Rajas (passion), Tamas (darkness or destruction) and Sattva (purity). These gunas deeply affect our state of mind, our moods, nature and our behaviour. The thread on the wrist helps one control mood swings that one experiences time and again in their daily life and gets them into the Sattvik state, which is pure and placid.

By tying the red string (Mauli/Kalava), the blessings of Saraswati-Brahma, Lakshmi-Narayana and Durga-Shiva are received. From the blessings of Saraswati-Brahma one receives fame and knowledge, from the blessings of Lakshmi-Narayana one gets protection power from evils and wealth and finally by the blessings of Durga-Shiva one is able to destroy one's negative qualities and gain power.



Lord Krishna and Draupadi devi:- In the great epic Mahabharata this katha is mentioned that concerns Lord Krishna and Draupadi, the wife of the Pandavas. Draupadi devi had torn a strip of silk off her sari and tied it around Lord Krishna's wrist to stop the flow of blood. Lord Krishna was so touched by her action that He found Himself bound to her by pure sisterly love. The Lord promised to repay the debt and then spent the next 25 years doing just that. Draupadi devi in spite of being married to 5 great Pandava warriors and being a daughter of a powerful monarch only trusted and depended wholly on Lord Krishna. Lord Krishna repaid the debt of love during Vastra haran (disrobing of her sari) of Draupadi devi. Draupadi's Vastra Haran was done in the assembly of King Dhritarashtra, when Yudhishtira her husband lost her in gamble. At that time Lord Krishna gave her unlimited saree to save her from dishonour. This is how He paid His debt Draupadi devi because she tied a cloth (rakhee) on His wrist.

Yama and the Yamuna:- The twins (their father is Suryadeva), Yama (Lord Yamaraja) and his sister Yami (Yamuna). Yamuna tied rakhee on her brother Yamaraja's wrist and bestowed immortality. Yamaraja was so moved by the serenity of the occasion that he declared that whoever receives a rakhee tied from his sister will receive protection and become long lived..

DISCLAIMER:- Do note that Dipika is not affiliated to any Hindu group or organization. We at Dipika choose to remain an independent repository of spiritual advice. We appreciate that there are variances between organisations and humbly request that if our views differ from yours that you respect our decision not to conform to the prescripts of your particular organisation. We remain committed to spiritual advice which is based on scripture.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this article. We pray that this article will assist you in some way and we also pray that it helps you to appreciate the beauty and remarkable foresight of our ancient Hindu culture. We wish to educate all readers and demystify the path of Hinduism (Sanatan Dharma). Please feel free to share these articles with friends and family who do not have direct access to our website or articles. If you use the articles in any form including blogs and/or as part of other articles kindly credit our website as a source. We hope that the articles serve as a reference to you and your family when you need clarification of certain topics. Jai Hind... Jai Shree Radha Krsna.



Please do visit our Website to receive more
free information about our beautiful culture

www.dipika.org.za

Compiled for the upliftment of Sanathan Dharma

Narottam das & Arjun Nandlal

Email info@dipika.org.za

#Team-Dipika