

## वरलक्ष्मीव्रतकथा

कैलासशिखरे रम्ये नानागणनिषेविते ।  
मन्दारविटपिप्रान्ते नानामणिविभूषिते ॥१॥

पाटलाशोकपुन्नागखर्जूरवकुलान्विते ।  
कुबेरवरुणेन्द्रादिदिक्पालैश्च समावृते ॥२॥

नारदागस्त्यवाल्मीकिपराशरसमावृते ।  
रत्नपीठे सुखासीनं शङ्खरं लोकशङ्करम् ।  
पप्रच्छ गौरी सन्तुष्टा लोकानुग्रहकाम्यया ॥३॥

भगवन् सर्वलोकेश सर्वभूतहिते रत ।  
यद्रहस्यमिदं पुण्यं तदाचक्ष्व ममानघ ॥४॥

Once, a content Parvati asked Shiva the following out of a desire to help mankind. He – who created auspiciousness – was seated on the peaks of the beautiful Kailasa mountain, on the edge of a forest of Mandara trees.

The mountain was adorned by many gemstones, and was where the various Ganas lived. It was full of Patala, Ashoka, Punnaga, Kharjura and Vakula trees. Devatas like Kubera, Varuna, Indra and the dikpalakas were there. Rishis like Narada, Agastya, Valmiki and Parashara were also there.

Parvati asked – “O Bhagavan! O Lord of all beings! You are devoted to the welfare of all beings. Please tell me something new which is worth knowing.”

ईश्वर उवाच –

व्रतानामुत्तमं नाम सर्वसौभाग्यकारणम् ।  
सर्वसम्पत्प्रदं शीघ्रं पुत्रपौत्रप्रवर्धनम् ।  
वरलक्ष्मीव्रतं नाम व्रतमस्ति मनोहरम् ॥५॥

शुक्ले श्रावणिके मासे पूर्णिमोपान्त्यभागवि ।  
यदा तु नारी वर्तेत व्रते तस्याः फलं शृणु ॥६॥

Ishvara replied – There is a great vrata which quickly gives all kinds of prosperity, wealth, children and grand-children. It is the nice Varalakshmi vrata.

It is performed in the Shukla fortnight of the Shravana Masa, on the closest Friday before the new moon. Listen to the results obtained when a woman performs it.

पार्वत्युवाच –

विधिना केन कर्तव्यं तत्र ना काम देवता ।  
कया चाराधिता पूर्वं साऽभूत् सन्तुष्टमानसा ॥७॥

Parvati replied: How is it to be performed, and who is the devata for the vrata? How has done it in the past, and were they happy (were all their mental troubles resolved as a result)?

ईश्वर उवाच –

वरलक्ष्मीव्रतं पुण्यं वक्ष्यामि शृणु पार्वति ॥८॥

Ishvara replied – O Parvati! Listen to the details of the great Varalakshmi vrata.

कुण्डिनं नाम नगरं सर्वमण्डनमण्डितम् ।  
हेमप्राकारसंयुक्तं सामीकरगृहोज्ज्वलम् ॥९॥

There was an opulent city named Kundina decorated in every way. Gold was used to make the city walls, and all the houses glistened of it as well.

तत्राभूत् ब्राह्मणी काचिन्नाम्ना चारुमती श्रुता ।  
पतिभक्तिमती साध्वी श्वश्रुश्वशुरयोर्मता ॥१०॥

कलावती सा विदुषी सततं मञ्जुभाषिणी ।  
तस्याः प्रसन्नचित्ताया लक्ष्मीः स्वप्नगता तदा ॥११॥

In that city, a Brahmani (wife of a Brahmin) named Charumati was well known. She was devoted to her husband, and took good care of her in-laws. She was talented in the arts, well-read, and spoke sweetly. Being happy with her, Lakshmi came to her in a dream.

एहि कल्याणि भद्रं ते वरलक्ष्मीः समागता ।  
नभोर्मासे पूर्णिमायां नातिक्रान्ते भृगोर्दिने ।  
मत्पूजा तत्र कर्तव्या वरं दास्यामि काङ्क्षितम् ॥१२॥

Lakshmi approached her and said – O fortunate lady, may you be happy. Worship me in the month of Shravana, on a Friday before the full moon. I will give you what you desire.

इत्युक्त्वा वरलक्ष्मीं सा तुष्टाव परया मुदा ।  
नमस्ते सर्वलोकानां जनन्यै पुण्यमूर्तये ।  
शरण्ये त्रिजगद्वन्द्ये विष्णुवक्षःस्थलालये ॥१३॥

Having heard this, Charumati praised Varalakshmi: Salutations to you, who are the mother of all the worlds, and are virtue incarnate. Everyone takes refuge in you, and the

worlds bow to you who place is in Vishnu's chest.

त्वयावलोकितः सद्यः स धन्यः स गुणान्वितः ।  
स श्लाघ्यः स कुटुम्बी च स शूरः स च पण्डितः ॥१४॥

One who is seen by you is immediately lucky.  
He is endowed with all the Gunas; he is praised;  
he has a good family; he is brave; and he is  
learned ... [all by a mere glance from you].

जन्मान्तरसहस्रेषु किं मया सुकृतं कृतम् ।  
अतस्त्वत्पादयुगलं पश्यामि हरिवल्लभे ।  
एवं स्तुता सा कमला प्रादात् तस्यै बहून् वरान् ॥१५॥

O consort of Hari! I don't know what good  
deeds I have done in all my previous births to  
be able to see your feet now. Upon hearing this  
stotra, Lakshmi gave her many boons.

ततश्चारुमती साध्वी स्वप्नादुत्थाय संभ्रमात् ।  
तत्सर्वं कथयामास बन्धूनां पुरतस्तदा ॥१६॥

श्रुत्वा तु बान्धवाः सर्वे साधु साध्विति चाब्रुवन् ।  
तथैव करवामेति तदागमनकाङ्क्षिणः ॥१७॥

Charumati woke up from her dream and  
recounted her dream to her relatives. The  
relatives listened to her, and praised her. They all  
resolved to do the same thing, and impatiently  
waited for that day.

भागोदयेन सम्प्राप्ते वरलक्ष्मीदिने तथा ।  
स्त्रियः प्रसन्नहृदया निर्मलाश्चित्रवाससः ॥१८॥

नूतनैः तण्डुलैः पूर्णे कुम्भे च वटपल्लवैः ।  
सायं चारुमतीमुख्यश्चक्रुः पूजां प्रयत्नतः ॥१९॥

Because of their good fortune, the Varalakshmi day finally came. All the women were happy and wore many new clothes after bathing. With new rice and a full pot of water with shoots of the banyan tree, they did the puja in the evening with Charumati leading them.

पद्मासने पद्मकरे सर्वलोकैकपूजिते ।  
नारायणप्रिये देवि सुप्रीता भव सर्वदा ॥२०॥

इत्यादिमन्त्रैः सकलानुपचारान् यथाक्रमात् ।  
कृत्वा तु दक्षिणे हस्ते नवसूत्रं दधुः स्त्रियः ।  
हविष्यं सघृतं चैव वरलक्ष्म्यै व्यवेदयन् ॥२१॥

With mantras such as the one in the sloka above (O devi ! You are seated on a lotus, and you have lotus-hands. You are worshipped by all the worlds, and are dear to Narayana. Please always be please) and other appropriate mantras, they performed all the upacharas (offerings). Then, they tied a new string around the right hand, and then offered naivedya with ghee to Varalakshmi.

गन्धादिभिरलङ्कृत्य सुशीलं वृद्धभूसुरम् ।  
तस्मै दत्त्वा वायनं च द्वादशापूपसंयुतम् ।  
ततो देवीसमीपे तु हविष्यं चक्षुरङ्गनाः ॥२३॥

With gandha and other offerings, they gave 12 sweet pieces to a Brahmana of good conduct, as well as some of the naivedya in the presence of Devi.

अथ लक्ष्मीप्रसादेन मुक्तामाणिक्यभूषिताः ।  
नूपुराक्रान्तचरणा मणिकाञ्चनभूषणाः ॥२४॥

पुत्रपौत्रैः परिवृता धनधान्यसमृद्धिभिः ।  
अन्नदानरता नित्यं बन्धुपोषणतत्पराः ।  
स्वं स्वं सद्म समाजगमुर्हस्त्यश्वरथसंकुलाः ॥२५॥

अन्योन्यं कथयामासुः श्रुतं चारुमतीमुखात् ।  
इदं सत्यमिदं सत्यं नरो भद्राणि पश्यति ॥२६॥

Due to the prasada of Lakshmi, they then wore ornaments and anklets made of pearls, gold and precious stones; were surrounded by children and grandchildren; and increased their wealth and security. They become well-off enough to perform annadana to others, and to take care of their relatives.

Charumati's relatives all went back to their own houses riding elephants, horses and chariots. They told each other how everything that Charumati related to them had come true, and how one sees fortune by this vrata.

वयं चरुमतीमुख्या उपलब्धमनोरथाः ।  
पुण्या चारुमती धन्या भूयो भाग्यवती चिरम् ॥२७॥  
स्वयं यस्मात् महालक्ष्म्या बोधितं हि व्रतोत्तमम् ।  
इति चारुमतीं साध्वीं तुष्टुवुस्तत्र योषितः ॥२८॥

They continued, “With Charumati leading us, all our wishes have been fulfilled. Charumati is fortunate to have received this knowledge directly from Mahalakshmi.” They repeatedly praised the virtuous Charumati.

वरलक्ष्मीव्रतं नाम तदादि भुवि विश्रुतम् ।  
एतत्ते सर्वमाख्यातं व्रतानामुत्तमं व्रतम् ॥२९॥

य इदं श्रुणुयाद्वापि श्रावयेद्वा समाहितः ।  
सिद्ध्यन्ति सर्वकार्याणि वरलक्ष्मीप्रसादतः ॥३०॥

This is the Varalakshmi vrata which has become famous. I have said everything that needs to be said about this vrata. Whoever listens to it, or by related it to another with a focused mind has all of her needs fulfilled, due to the prasada of Varalakshmi.

॥ इति भविष्योत्तरपुराणे पार्वतीपरमेश्वरसंवादे  
वरलक्ष्मीव्रतकथा सम्पूर्णा ॥