

Mata Brhamacharini



Devi Brahmacharini is second beautiful form of Goddess Durga who is worshipped on the second day of Navratri. As her name denotes 'Brahmacharini', she addresses 'Brahma' (penance) or strong influencing tapasya. She is symbolized as the Goddess who performs Tapa or hard penance. She holds Kamandal in her left hand and Japari (Rosary) in right. She wears white Saree of bright-orange border and Rudraksh as ornament. When Shail Putri awoke about her essence love toward Lord Shiva, she decided to perform the strict Tapasya or Yoga Sadhna to delight Mahadev. She is the Goddess of wisdom and knowledge. Admiring Goddess Brahmacharini, the Rishi-Muni, disciples and devotees of Durga accomplishes their Yog-Sadhna, Pooja and penance. Solar radiations behind her head glorify

her luster.

It is believed that Brahmacharini is the true example of a goddess who performed extreme hard penance to obtain Lord Shiva. When Parvati realized about her divine love toward Mahadev, she was advised by Rishi Narad to follow customs and rituals of rigid Tapasya of long eras. While performing Tapasya, she suffered painful torments of nature like extremely biting cold, intense flames of Sun, and hammering of rain. It is also believed that she continued that of her hard penance till thousands of years and ate only bilva leaves to survive. It is as a result of her practices that 'belpatra' leaves began to be used in the worship of Lord Shiva ever after till many hundreds of years, she abstained from water and food. And this way, she devoted herself completely in worship of Lord Shiva. This great Tapa made her

glorified with name 'Brahmacharini' and pleased Lord Shiva to be her divine consort.