
THE NINE AVATARS OF
MAA DURGA



AVATAR

04

MAA KUSHMANDA

THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE

MAA KUSHMANDA

The word Kushmanda is made of three words 'ku', meaning 'little'; 'usma' meaning warmth and 'anda' meaning 'egg'. She is the mother who bore the little great cosmic egg of all creation. She is also known as the 'smiling' mother as all she had to do was smile.



Maa Kushmanda is magnificently seated on a tiger. She is eight armed, holding a kamandala, a lotus, Rudraksha mala, bow, arrow, chakra, mace and a jar of eternal nectar.

Seated in the Sun's blazing core, She dispels the darkness of ignorance with the power of Her dazzling smile.

THE STORY OF MAA KUSHMANDA


At the end of a Kalpa, when the cosmos was nothing more than an infinite dark nothingness, a sublime light emerged slowly. Gradually, the source of this light crystallised into a magnificent female form – that of the Divine Mother, Maa Kushmanda.

Maa Kushmanda smiled and the suffused light began sprouting with life. Galaxies, planets, plants, animals, insects, humans – everything began coming to life. It was Adi Parashakti, the primordial Shakti who took the form of Maa Kushmanda to re-initiate life in the cosmos.


Later, She created all of the Universe and settled her Shakti in the Surya mandala powering the Sun to provide light and warmth to the Universe. As the source of light, Maa Kushmanda is said to direct the Sun God, Lord Surya. She lives in the Sun's core, and it is Her luminosity that brightens the Sun. She is the source of all energy, all light, all warmth and all life.

TEACHINGS FROM MAA KUSHMANDA

Maa Kushmanda illuminated the large void with Her light. Similarly, Her benevolent gaze upon us illuminates our shadows and creates harmony in our lives. She is the One who cleanses. She is the nurturer.



With Maa Kushmanda's blessings, we set forth on the path of continuous inner purification. Everything becomes an offering for Her. She removes conflict in our hearts and minds until there is no distinction between spiritual acts and worldly acts. With Her blessings, we experience the highest levels of illumination, satisfaction and calm.



Grace comes to us in the form of Maa Kushmanda as we are motivated to pursue the sacred studies and dedicate ourselves to performing our chosen sadhana. This illuminated Goddess of Purification lifts us on our path by making everything we do into an act of worship.