



The Divine Commander

Lord Muruga is also known as Saravanabhava, Kartikeya, Subrahmanya, Shanmukha. Shanmukha means one who is six faced. Esoterically we may regard He has six phases or aspects in which He manifests Himself, namely protection, benediction, encouragement, auspiciousness, benign compassion and the Light of Wisdom. All of them represent some sublime qualities of the Supreme.

The individual soul, when awakened knows that the end of the journey is not death, but it is spiritual perfection, Liberation, attainment of immortality. This is the birthright of each individual soul precisely because it is a part of the Universal Soul, which is the ever-present, one and the only Eternal Reality. Therefore our being is beyond time, eternal, imperishable, indestructible and immortal. The body is mortal, but the light that shines within the body is endless and immortal, “*Vinashyatswavinashyantam* – The imperishable within the perishable”. [Gita 13.28] It is “*Ajo Nityah Shaashwato’yam Puraano* – Unborn, eternal, permanent, ancient” [Gita 2.20] *anadi, sanatana* (beginning-less and eternal). So death holds no meaning for the immortal Being that you are. The sages and seers proclaimed the great declaration “*Amritasya putrah* [children of immortality]”. The divine destination of man is to regain once again the full experience of his perfect nature.

We invoke all grace-filled manifestation of the Supreme the *anugraha* (grace) of Bhagvan Sankara which was bestowed upon the celestial beings to lead them to victory in their confrontation and conflict with the powers of darkness. Lord Muruga says; “Come, follow me. I will lead you to victory”. There is only one thing to be done, to work, with hope and courage, “Heart within and God overhead” Be sure, the great Presence will grant you victory. ‘Heart within’ means be courageous, be of brave heart, be heroic in the struggle towards your coveted Destiny. Do not miss it.

The Upnishads say: “*Utishthat* – Arise, arise”. That is the call of Subrahmanya too; “Why are you running away cowardly? O Ye Celestials, come follow me! I shall take you to victory!” And he led them to victory. He is the Divine Commander of celestial forces, *deva senapati*. He dwells within you as the power of determination, resolute thought, concentration, dedication to the chosen ideal. He dwells within you as endless hope and courage, as *daivi sampada*, as all that represents divine within you. He dwells within you as all that is positive, creative.

May God Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*