



## eYogi Gurukul

### **Navaratri Stories: Day 5**

### **Skandmata**

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The fifth day of the Hindu Festival Navratri is celebrated in honor of Goddess Skandamata, who is the Fifth avatar of Durga. Goddess Skandamata, is another name for Parvati, who is originally Sati. Sati was Lord Shiva's first spouse. After Sati's death, Lord Shiva had gone into a deep meditation. At the time, the Gods were being attacked by demons that were being led by demons Tarakasura and Surapadman. Tarakasura and Surapadman had asked Bramha for a boon, that only the son of Lord Shiva could defeat them, so they had to bring Sati back as Parvati and make Lord Shiva fall in love with her, for their son to be born, and kill the demons Surapadman and Tarakasura. When Sati had been reborn as Parvati, Sage Narada had come to Parvati to tell her about her previous life as Sati, and told her the purpose of her rebirth. But to get Lord Shiva to notice her, and recognize she was Sati, Parvati had to perform severe penance. Years had gone by, but Lord Shiva did not take notice of Parvati, and the demons were getting stronger by the day. The gods were troubled by this, so they decided to get God Manmat, (God of Love) to use his powers and get Lord Shiva to fall in love with Parvati again, and Manmat agreed. When Lord Shiva awoke from his deep meditation, he saw that Manmat had disturbed him, and burnt him to ashes. But his powers had worked, and he had noticed Parvati performing Penance for him. Soon after, Lord Shiva had fallen in love with Parvati, and married her, and that was when their energies had combined to create the seed of their son. Agni, god of fire, was entrusted to carry it to a lake in Forest Saravana, (which means 'Forest of Reeds') but could not bear any longer, so he passed it on to Ganga, who securely brought it to Forest Saravana. There, he handed the seed to six sisters known as 'Krittikas', and soon enough, became a baby boy, son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. As he was cared for by 'Krittikas' he had been named 'Kartikeya'. Kartikeya had another name, 'Skand', which has a lot of meanings, including 'effuse'. Therefore, Parvati was given the name 'Skandamata', meaning the 'mother of Skand'. And so, Kartikeya or Skand went

on and eliminated Tarakasura and Surapadman, along with all the demons that followed, and bring peace to the Gods. On the fifth day of Navratri, the Goddess is worshipped in the form of Skandmata, as she proved essential in the process of restoring the peace.