

## **“Kuldevi Shri Siddhambika Matahe Namah!!!”**

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### **How Vaishya /Vainik Communities did came into existence:**

The name *Vaishyo* appeared from the term *Shri Vishnu*. It means people who do Business. The word *Jaati* came from the Sanskrit word *Jaat*, which means to Know (*Jaanvu*). In this way people's species were known from the kind of business or work they did one group started to know the other from their profession. Surname of people depended on the kind of work they were performing.

Primary objective of *Vaishyo* is to give. The term *Vaishyo* is also referred to Lord *Vishnu*. Lord *Vishnu*'s beloved is *Goddess Laxmi* so it is estimated that *Goddess Laxmi* have soft corner for the *Vaishyo*'s. Amongst all *Vaishyos* some of them were doing local business, as there were no such modern transportation services in those periods, local people used bullock carts, camel cart they used animals as their means of transport. Majorly business was carried on waters only; water transport was used for doing international business. In this way National & International business activities were carried out. So those peoples who earn through transportation i.e. Vehicle (*vahan*) were known as *Vahaniya*. Later on while pronouncing this term people use to say *Vaniya* instead of *Vahaniya*. Even now it is known as *Vaniya*. *Vaniya*'s worked in Ports. As evidence we can see *Vanakbara* port near *Diu*. The old name of this was *Vanakbara*. Sometimes *Vaniya*'s are also termed as a Business-Trader. In *Janpad* village *Vaniyas* were known as *Mahajan*. Thus *Soni*'s (Goldsmiths) were also included in *Mahajans*. Hence forth it was called as *Soni Mahajan*'s. As it is always said that where *Goddess Laxmi* is blessed in form of gold in goldsmiths house. Then why can't they be called as *Mahajan*, *Vaniya*, *Vanik*. So let's see how they came to existence. With the blessings of Lord *Brahma Darshanpur* is an ancient and holy place which is currently called as *Deesa*. In the foundation of this *Darshanpur* 18,000 Brahmins, were called and for each Brahmin 2 *Vaishyos* were called to take care of them. So accordingly for 18,000 *brahmins* 36,000 *Vaishyos* were risen. To carry on one's worldly affair heavenly

women (*devangana*) was called and termed as *Brahmins* wife. But the nymphs (*devgana*) have one condition that they (Brahman's) will not be begging. Later on when *Vaishyos* offered them charity, which was accepted by some Brahman's, when this was known to *devangana* they returned to their places & left Brahman's. So those Brahmins which were without wife were angrier to the *Vaishyos*. According to them *Vaishyos* have knowingly given charity & broke their family affair. Brahmins were very angry, seeing this condition *Vaishyos* left away *Deesa* got saved from their curse. Thus they ran away in different places. So those left *vaishyos* were called as *Dasha*. Some of them went in place called Village *Dashaad*.

Those who went in group of 10 were also called as *Dasha*. Those who came from *Deesa* where called *dishawala*. People termed them as *Dishawal*. Some went in *godha, nagher-sorath*. Thus these castes of people are spread all across. Many of the places are named & known from our caste people *Dasha Dishawal Samaaj*, which is currently active.

### **How *Shri Siddheswari* manifested (*pragatya*) & splendid (*Birajman*) as *kuldevi* and the mystery behind her name:**

According to Goddess *Bhagwati* all over the universe The great *Adhishthatri* Mata *Shri Bhuvaneshwari Mataji* stays permanently in *Manidweep*. *Mataji* is always present in the form of Goddess *Parvati* with Lord of the Lords *Shankardada* on Mount *Kailash*. Goddess *Jagadamba* who can create, maintain, and destroy the world. Amongst Goddesses, one stands above all: *Parvati*. In certain texts she is even called the Goddess of Wealth, *Lakshmi*, and the Goddess of Learning, *Saraswati*, in addition to being idolized as the Goddess of power. Daughter of Snowclad Mountains, wife of *Shiva*. The one who is incarnation of all energy, she is *Parvati*, also called *Uma, Gauri, Durga, Kali* and so on. As a deity *Parvati* has the unique distinction of being thought of as the only goddess. All other goddesses are referred to as incarnations or manifestations of *Parvati*. As a woman *Parvati* has the distinction of one who had the most devoted husband and as a form of energy, *Parvati*, also called *Shakti*, is the embodiment of the total energy in the universe. As a mother, *Parvati* is looked upon as the mother, *Parvati* is looked upon as the mother of all creation; the Mother Goddess. She, *Sati, Parvati, Gauri* is the consort of the magnificent *Shiva*. She, *Kali*, is also the consort of Time, as *Shiva* himself is the embodiment of time in his form as *Mahakal*. For a deity with such a profile, *Parvati* is rather unassuming. Of course as *Durga* or *Kali* she is portrayed as ferocious, but therein too lays a story painted in the live colors of the indignation of the wronged.

A long, long time ago, *Brahma* created a beautiful maiden called *Sati* who was born to a king called *Daksh*. *Siva* married her. Years of conjugal bliss followed. One day, however, *Sati* heard that a major religious function was being celebrated in her father's house. She was a little upset that her parents had not invited her or her husband. After tossing and turning in bed for many a night, one morning she decided she would go even if she were uninvited. After all it was only to her father's house, *Siva*, however, cautioned her. He did not want her to go uninvited. *Sati* thought a while, but eventually left because she just wanted to go to her parents. There, as *Siva*

had predicted, Sati was insulted. She jumped into the sacred fire burning for the ceremony for she could not bear to go back and tell her husband her parents had insulted her.

Siva was enraged. He was deeply grieved. He just could not bear the loss. As he carried her body across the country, different parts of her body are believed to have fallen off in many places and even today these places are sacred in Hindu mythology. The Gods were, however, anguished. Siva had been mourning too long and his grief and wrath was almost harming the people. So Sati was reincarnated as *Parvati* and born to the King of the Himalayas, *Himavat*.

As *Parvati* grew into a young woman, her subconscious guided her towards penance. She had to reunite with Siva. Years and years of penance finally brought Siva before her one day, just for a second. *Parvati* was only more besotted afterwards. Very soon afterwards, Siva came to *Parvati* in the guise of an old man and asked why a beautiful woman such as her should waste her time dreaming of a man who wore leopard skin and smeared his body with ashes. Surely there are more handsome men in the world! Was *Parvati* offended! She blew up the old man for saying such things about her beloved. Her objection convinced Siva of her love for him and he showed her his true form.

A happy marriage lasted many years, and guess where the problem came when it did? Siva and *Parvati* were playing around when Siva called her, “Kali, Kali”. Now Kali means black and *Parvati* was very dark complexioned. Brahma had in fact made a deliberate decision to make her so because he did not want the world to know that Sati was being reincarnated. Now *Parvati* was deeply offended that her husband should think of the color of her skin to hail her with. He could have called her any number of endearing words instead. So she told him that she was going. That she would not meet him again till she becomes of fair complexioned. Bewildered Siva was left ruing his tongue while *Parvati* went into the forests to do severe penance.

Another thousand years of penance, and Brahma appeared before *Parvati*. She asked for golden colored skin. Brahma granted her the boon. Thereon *Parvati* came to be called *Gauri* or the one with skin the color of gold. Thereafter she was called *Gauri*. Worship of Sati varies because when pieces of Sati's body fall to earth they create *pithas*, or holy sites where it is believed the goddess shows her powers. Even in modern times these sites are visited by pilgrims and are worshiped. The number of sati *pithas* varies between accounts, 51 sites are recorded. Till then when ever there was demon troubling the people on earth then the goddess was always present to help them from those evil powers in the earth. Then on goddess defeated those evil powers and Mataji was named after the kind of demon she defeated just like *Mahishasur Mardini Ambika*, *Tadkasur*, *Raktveej*, *Chand-Mund*, *Shubh-Ashubh*, etc and many more. Once she defeated a demon called *Bhandasur*, after his defeat the peoples have achieved peace & prosperity in their life (*Sidhi*). So was the name called *Siddhambika*, *Siddheswari*, and *Siddhi*, *Sidhidata-Sidheshwari*. This Goddess is also one amongst the nine great forms of Mata *Ambaji*.

### ***Kuldevi Shri Siddhambika Mataji is amongst the nine forms of the Goddess Durga:***

According to Goddess Bhagwati the *Navdurga* the different forms of Devi worshiped over the nine days. These are the most popular forms under which she is worshiped:

1. *Durga Shailputri* (Daughter of Mountain)
2. *Brahmcharini*
3. *Chandraghanta*
4. *Kushmandadurga*
5. *Skanda Mata*
6. *Katyayani*
7. *Kalratri*
8. *Maha Gauri*
9. *Siddhidatri*

In many of our Vedas we can see this kind of information. Our *Purans*, great *Granth*s have not only this information but they also speak about Myths & the Different places which have different stories, which are named after the god/ goddess. Many great devotees like *Vallabh dhola* had abundantly studied & panegyric about the Goddess in this own way. These Nine *Navdurga* forms are the most preached goddess in India. In Bengal people say *Durga* for *Mataji*, the term *Durga* refers to *Durg*, which means mountain or fort. Old name of the place was *Darshanpur*. So it is assumed that *mataji* might be leaving in those forts in with eternal powers. Whenever she sees her devotees in trouble Goddess is always present to help the devotees, she has soft corner for them because of her our ancestors might be having a sight of assurance for safety, & protection. She killed demons with her *katari* & frightfully defeated them. In this way she has destroyed *Bhandasur*, with the *katari*. Later on those *katari*s symbolizes Goddess & were also worshipped.

Amongst one Muslim attacker *Allauddin Khilji*, aimed at the Hindu Holy Temple of lord Shiva's temple. Prince *Solanki* was one of the devotees of Shiva. So aiming this *Allauddin Sim*, started moving thru & harassed the people of *vagda*. He came near *Deesa*, Kutch & passing thru the small Sandy region comes *Darshanpur* (now it's *Deesa*) where there is small *shiv Mandir*. He would have tried to destroy the temple but though the temple was too small that he had not have seen it. So where there is *Shiv* there always is *Shakti*, as *shakti* is part of *shiv*, wife of *shiv*, in this way lord *shiv* splendid as *Sidheswar Mahadev*. In this way a small *Sidheswar* is saved by *shivbaan*. Earlier there were no such banks like we have it now in 21<sup>st</sup> century, so in those days plentiful of temples wealth was buried in ground in fear of those thief's this was the tradition. The *Yuvano's* tried to dig & find *katari* thru this act Goddess got angry & *Allauddin* got shocked & returned living hopes for search of *katari*. *Vaishanvs* have left *Deesa* so the *Katari* was in safe hands of Muslims. But due to the fear of loss for *katari* the Muslims handed over the *Katari* to *Vaniyas* ancestors. The *Kataris* was ancestor's responsibility as it is mark of Goddess *Siddheswari*. But in those days our community had insistence over customs & the *katari* became

signature of Muslims. Then the statue of goddess was departure from that small temple with all custom & celebrations, & was landed in *Vadnagar*. Many people's were called along with the *Vishwakarma*'s sons, the *Salato* (Stone Cutter), & *Shilpkaro* (Artisan) the lovely temple was ready which resembled *Solanki* style of temples. Now temple was ready, with all the customs, traditions, celebration ceremonial arrival of Goddess was made & statue was installed in temple. Thus *Kuldevi Shri Siddhambika Mataji* resides in the temple forever. When we relate History of Gujarat to the history of Goddess it says that *Patan* was established in A.D. 892. The first ever King of Forest was *Chavada* in A.D. 1308. The great holy *Somnath* Temple was theft by *Allaudin Khilji Zalavad* in A.D. 1288 & in A.D. 1308 *Chavad* won over the war & it is also said that the *Chavada*'s seven kings ruled for 196 years, whereas 13 *Solanki*'s king ruled over 300 years & in leadership of 13<sup>th</sup> king our state came to be known as Gujarat. So 800 years ago *Allaudin* came in the picture.

As narrated in the *Devi Mahatmya* story which says that before the foundation of this Earth, *Mataji* use residing in Water and than in *Manidweep* it has its permanent residence. In this way as the time passed by and naturally Goddess *Sidheshwari* became *Kuldevi* of *Vanik Samaj*. We the *Dasha Dishawal* peoples have many of our divisions, & sub-caste which are now doing Jobs or Business.

### **Myths of *Juna Deesa*:**

The old name of this place is *Darshanpur* which is named after the great Lord Brahma- the Creator. In this place 18,000 Brahmins, 18,000 *Devangans* and 36,000 *Vaishyos* reside here and *the kuldevi Shri Siddhambika* Mata was most worshipped by peoples of this area.

### **Old appearance of the temple:**

It is said that the portico (*gokh*) in the temple symbolizes Mata's presence in form of *Katari* which is near the *Banas*'s seashore & hillock.

### **Foundation & architecture of temple:**

This ancient Temple is enriched with lots of & handicraft art & its fascinating beauty it is constructed in such a way that peoples are amazed on its beauty & architecture. The things which are belonging to ancient times are very much the responsibility of government to give protection. One can see the beautiful pillars, the peak of temple; outside the temple there are small recess in walls, the *gaumukhi*, *kankanakruti kamano*, small idols & statues which are fine art in inch differences are engraved beautifully. The whole temple is constructed in these arts. To build this kind of temple now it's impossible & very difficult task. Every devotee of *kuldevi* Mata *Siddhambika* should visit the temple at least once. There are arrangements of *dharmashala* & kitchen or food facility is also provided by temples trust. They have also arranged for good quality of food, daily activity utensils, bed sheets, & permanent water facility. Currently other *dharmashala* is also under construction which will be having all the modern facilities.

### ***Dishawal Samaj and Current Kuldevis places:***

Peoples of *Dasha, Dishawal Samaj* are spread all over Gujarat & Mumbai. This can be known by registering in our caste's community. You can find places where *Siddhambika mata's* temple is build by peoples of our community in areas where they live it can be known thru writing letter to *Shri Siddhambika Mandir, Juna Deesa, and District Banaskata.*

### **Caste Compilation:**

We can unite our caste thru *Kuldevi's* medium of promotion & thinking. We can organize one committee & grant *lapasi* Prasad in temple so that we can have social gathering at least once a year. In fact in olden days people couldn't visit temple due to fear of thieves & other transport facility which was not available. But now "*it's never too late to mend*".

### **Thinking matters:**

We can engage our self in *Mataji's* activities like *Garba, Mataji's Aangi, Lapasi Prasad, Bhojan,* etc & turn by turn everyone will report the status of funds. *Havan, Puja,* can be conducted in temple. Every individual should cherish this activity. As our caste people live in different places so we can arrange such activity & have the feeling of unity amongst our self. This are our social responsibilities, we can promote our monthly magazine & collect small amount of fund to run this committee. We can daily memorize & perform Mata's *puja's,* & be blessed by doing such activity. These kinds of feelings should be there within us.

### **Conclusion:**

We accept Mata *Siddhambika* as our *Kuldevi* because there is one reason behind this, firstly being our caste's *devi* from the birth itself. Secondly according to Indian sage or saint's its custom to give importance to the caste. So the origin of caste is not possible without our ancestors. Thus *kuldev & kuldevi* appeared. Lord *Shri Krishna's kuldevi* was Mata *Shri Harsiddhi,* which we know. Our *kuldevi's* old establishment was is *Juna Deesa,* which is situated in North Gujarat, *Palanpur.* We can reach *Palanpur,* from *Palanpur* to *Deesa & Deesa* to *Juna Deesa.* Temple has all kind of facilities, one can reach there thru Bus or Train *Deesa* has all kind of transport facilities. From *Ahmedabad* it takes 5 hrs only to reach *Juna Deesa.* From the story it is said that Mata appeared to defeat the *asur* named *Bhundasur* which troubled people. She saved our ancestors from problems thru this our ancestors faith in Mata increased. Everyone that had trust in her & they started preaching her even more due to this all their wishes were complete & proficient (*siddha*). In this way she was named as *Siddhidata (Siddhi giver)* she also proved this by accomplishment of the desired object of the devotees. Hence the name *Sidh + Ishwari* means *Sidheshwari.* It is one of the forms of *Goddess Parvati.* *Parvati Mata* is also known as *Siddhambika.* To make it easy to pronounce people called her as *Sidhmata.* We can see temples of Mata in *Godha & Diu.* In Bengal Mata is known as *Durga,* the term *Durga* came from the

word *Durg* which means Mountain that means Guard of Mountains, like Mount Abu which is guarded by *Devi Abuda*.

*Devi Bhagwati* is one of the holy books which speak us greatness stories of Mata. Worshipping *Shakti* is as old as the *Shiv Sampradhan*. From *shiv tatva shatriyas* came into existence, mainly they were rulers i.e. kings so they used to worship Mata *Durga* they have build many temples e.g. in one of the fort in *Junagadh* we can see *Shri Varuni Mataa's* Temple. In this way, *Solanki's* which were kings & ruling almost all over Gujarat, one of amongst those *Solanki's* have build the temple in *Darshanpura (juna deesa)* They were our ancestors which have build the beautiful & fascinating temple of our *kuldevi*, we can accept this because the *Mandir's* architect & its fine art is very much challenging job, which was build with keeping in mind the *Vastushashtra*. This temple resembles the period of *Solanki's*.

The place where temple is build now, earlier at that venue there use to be *gokh* of Mata on height. The *gokh* custom is being followed since the past, history is proof for this. As buildings & constructions were not developed, people use to build *gokh* on height. They build *gokh* by just arranging stones, we can see *gokh's* or *gokhla's* in walls of some old houses & villages. Normally we can see it on walls where they light diva in it. Temples are other forms of *gokh*, in temples we can see *Gants* (bell) which resembles to *Brahmanand*. The word *Aarti* is also meant for *Aart* which means *Dukh hanan...* carries away *Dukh*, keeping this thing in mind *devoteed* perform *Aarti's*. In this way Devi takes away our unhappiness, brings down sadness. They also decorate *Mata's*, *Mala*, *Shankh*, *Katari*, *khadag*, & many more. Devi is always preached with her Lion. The *Ruskimunis* perform *puja's*, *Devi Mantra*, *Devi Sukato*, *Chandipaath*, memorize & glorify Mata with other different kinds of *Stuti's*. *Garba* is form of singing praises description & appearance of Mata. Thus *Garba's* came in form of dance, which is being performed with all customs of religion. In those periods of darkness the *vaniyas* which have left *Deesa* & settled in faraway places, due to no such transport facility & fear of thieves, only the near places peoples visited *Deesa* those who stay far they rarely visit, But the case is totally different. We believe in *Nathjibava wala's* & *Shri Yamunashriji's* as god of our faiths... *Shri Harsiddhi* Mata is also the *Kuldevi* of Lord Krishna. So *Natijibavawala* also resembles Lord Krishna. If it's *Kuldevi* of our presiding deity of the family's so it became our *Kuldevi*. The one who doesn't accept our *Kuldevi* can be called as uneducated or illiterate; our family begins with our *Kuldevi* just like mother loves her child & child loves her mother, in this way we all preach Mata & Mata also have soft corner for our peoples. In grace of Mata our community is also succeeding forward. We have one custom of releasing Bride & Broom's *Chheda-Chhedi* in our *kuldevi's* temple, this custom is being practiced from past. We can note that whenever we perform any kind of *puja* or *havan* or any good thing in our place, the *Brahmins* always say to memorize our *Kuldevi's* name in heart. Why we do all these things? We have to clear the debts which are on us, the three debts (*Roons*) are *Devroon*, *Pitruroon* & *Matruroon*, amongst these *roons* (debts) we get release from *Matruroon* by preaching our *Devi's*, performing *Puja's*, worship, *bhajan's* & by doing all those things which are liked by her, in this way Mata will be glad & satisfied with us & we will get

released from *Matruoon* & we will be blessed by her forever. *Dev's* are loving whereas *Devi's* are charming, so *Devi's* are invocated. While investing life in idols part of *Mataji* is always present in the form of idol, which brightens. For performing any kind of good work there is always need of *Shiv-Shakti* it accomplishes the desired objectives. It is said that the Deepak of cow's ghee is very much effective because cow is worshipped as Goddess in Hindu religion & it abodes of the 330 million gods and goddesses. This kind of Deepak is being lightened in gokh; Temple is a place where multitude peoples perform puja's together. It is holy place where we celebrate & enjoy customs of performing *Yaitri*, *Navratri*, & *Aaso Navratri*. In addition to these there is *Savari*, *Rathyatra*, *Janmotsav*, *Prasadotsav*, *Patotsav*, etc. We can assemble together & organize fair of Mata by praise her names her activities, perform *garba's* & *bhajan's* together & forget our worries & feel good. May Blessings & of Mata *Siddhambika* be always with us.

*Jai Shri Siddhambika Maa!!*