



## Story Related to Varalakshmi Vratam

Suta Maharshi addresses Shaunaka and other rishis and said: "Let me tell you a story which gives all the benefits and pleasure of this world to women. This was once narrated by Lord Parameshwara to Parvathi Devi".

One day Parvati Devi approaches Lord Parameshwara who is seated in a golden throne studded with jewels. She prostrates and asks him, "Lord, is there any way by which women in Bhuloka can attain wealth, property, progeny and be happy? Please tell me by worshipping whom, by performing what Vratam and if that Vratam was performed by anybody in the past". Lord Parameshwar replies: "Manohari, yes there is a Shri Varalaxmi Vratam which should be performed by women in Shravana Maasaa on the Friday before the full moon day of Shukla Paksha". He further narrates the details of Shri Varalaxmi Vratam.

In the past there is city named Kundina in Magadha Desha. In that city, there are golden buildings and houses built of golden walls. There lived a pativratha, saadvi by name Charumati. Every day she woke up early in the morning, worshipped her husband with devotion, served her in-laws with respect and she remained pleasant in her manners all through the day. Goddess Laxmi was pleased by her and one night in her dream, Charumati saw Goddess Laxmi who said "I'm Varalaxmi Devi and I've appeared before you as I'm extremely pleased with you. If you worship me on the Friday before Shravana Shukla Poornima, I will grant all your wishes". In her dream itself, Charumati praised Shri Varalaxmi Devi through various stotras like

Namasathe sarva lokanaam, jananyai punya murthaye,  
Sharanye trijaga dwandye, Vishnu vakshasthalalaye

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and says,

“O Jagajjani, only with your blessings people can become scholars, affluent and contented. It is my ‘poorva janma sukrita’ to have you appear in my dream’. Pleased by Charumati’s humility, Goddess Laxmi showered boons on her and disappeared.

Charumati immediately woke up and explained her dream to her husband, in-laws and companions and all of them encouraged her to perform the pooja as told by the Goddess. All of them eagerly waited for the day.

On that Friday, they woke up early in the morning, took bath and wore silk sarees and then cleaned the whole house with ‘gomaya’, decorated the altar, placed the kalasham on the newly harvested rice and decorated the kalasham with Mango leaves, flower garlands. All the companions along with Charumathi invited Goddess Varalaxmi and performed the pooja with all shraddha and bhakti and also worshipped her with so many slokams.

Padmaasane Padmakare Sarvalokaika Pujithe |  
Narayana Priye Devi Supreetha Bhavasavada ||

They tied the holy thread with 9 knots around their right wrist, offered various food items to the Goddess and did ‘pradakshina namaskaras’. Once they completed the first pradakshina namaskara, they heard the noise of anklets and to their surprise when they saw their feet, they were decked with anklets around their feet. They all felt very happy and started doing the second pradakshina namaskara. By the time, the second pradakshina was completed, their hands were decked with the golden bangles and such other ornaments studded with nine precious stones.

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By the time, they did third pradakshina namaskara, by Goddess Laxmi's blessings, their houses turned gold and they possessed horses, elephants, and chariots.

Charumati and her companions honoured brahmins with 'dakshina tambula', gandham(sandal), flowers, prasadam (12 Laddus made of rice flour), received their blessings. They all ate the prasadam with reverence offered to Goddess Lakshmi and left to their own houses (turned golden walls) on the horses and elephants they were blessed with.

On their way, they praised "Charumathi is very lucky to see the Goddess Lakshmi in her dream and share the devotional method with them and making them do the vratham along with her. They all are blessed with Goddess Laxmi's krupa. Ever since, Charumati and other ladies performed this Vratham regularly and lived happily.

Lord Parameshwar concludes saying, 'Parvati, this supreme Vratham can be performed by anybody (without the barrier of the varnas) and the performer will get all their wishes fulfilled. One who reads this story and one who listens to this story will attain success and benevolence with the blessings of Shri Varamahalaxmi".

Suta Maharshi addresses Shaunaka and other rishis and says "Rishis, as you have heard "Charumathi, not being selfish shared the details with her companions and thought about others well-being". If we are good with others and think about others well-being, Goddess Lakshmi will bless them."

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