



eYogi Gurukul

Navaratri Stories: Day 8

Mahaguari

On the eighth day of Navratri we worship the form of Goddess Shakti called Mahagauri. Mahagauri translates to extremely white or fair. This story begins after Sati threw herself in the sacrificial fire and was reborn as Parvati. When Parvati was young, Sage Narada visited her and reminded her of her quest to marry Shiva. He advised her to perform a penance. With her parents' permission, 16-year-old Parvati set off to start her penance.

Parvati slept on the forest floor under the open sky for thousands of years. She was exposed to harsh sun rays, rain and storms. On top of that, Parvati's diet consisted of nothing. Due to this, Parvati became so skinny she resembled a twig. Her once fair complexion had turned dark and dirty.



Shiva disguised himself and appeared before Parvati. He was pleased with her and agreed to marry her. Shiva used the water from the Ganges stored in the locks of his hair to bathe Parvati in it. He washed her until her complexion and clothes glowed radiantly.

In this form, Mahagauri rides a white bull and dressed in white. Therefore, she is called Mahagauri.