



# PARSHVA EKADASHI 2024 || पार्श्व एकादशी पर वामन भगवान की पूजा क्यों की जाती है? ||

## Parshva Ekadashi 2024

Parshva Ekadashi, also known as Vaman Ekadashi or Jayanti Ekadashi, is an important fasting day in Hinduism dedicated to the worship of Lord Vishnu. It falls on the Ekadashi (the eleventh day of the waxing moon) of the Shukla Paksha (bright fortnight) in the month of Bhadrapada (August–September). This Ekadashi marks a significant event during the four sacred months of Chaturmas.

## Dates and Timing for Parshva Ekadashi 2024:

- **Ekadashi Tithi Begins:** September 14, 2024, at 05:07 AM
- **Ekadashi Tithi Ends:** September 15, 2024, at 03:45 AM
- **Paran (Ending the Fast):** After sunrise on September 15, 2024, and before the end of Dwadasi Tithi.

## Significance of Parshva Ekadashi:

- **Vishnu's Turn:** According to Hindu belief, during Chaturmas, Lord Vishnu lies in a state of yoga nidra on the serpent Sheshnag. This state begins on Devshayani Ekadashi in the month of Ashadha (June–July). On Parshva Ekadashi, Lord Vishnu changes His position, which is why this day is called "Parshva," meaning "turn." This turning symbolizes the beginning of the second half of Chaturmas.
- **Vaman Avatar:** This Ekadashi is also associated with Lord Vishnu's Vaman Avatar, which He took to defeat the demon king Bali. Observing the fast on this day is believed to bring prosperity and liberation from life's hardships.

- **Spiritual Benefits:** Observing this Ekadashi is said to cleanse one from sins, bring family prosperity, and lead to liberation. Devotees believe that fasting with devotion and faith leads to spiritual upliftment.

## The Story of Parshva Ekadashi:

The story of Parshva Ekadashi is connected to Lord Vishnu's Vaman Avatar and the demon king Mahabali. Mahabali, a pious and generous king, had gained control over the three worlds with his devotion and power. The gods felt threatened by Mahabali's power and prayed to Lord Vishnu for help. To test Mahabali, Lord Vishnu took the form of a dwarf Brahmin named Vaman.

When Vaman Brahmin appeared at Mahabali's Yajna and asked for three paces of land, Mahabali agreed, even though his *mentor*, Shukracharya, had warned him that Vaman was extraordinary. As soon as Mahabali agreed, Vaman expanded to a giant form, taking one step to cover the heavens, another to cover the earth, and asked where to place the third step. Mahabali offered his head for the third step, showing his complete surrender and devotion.

Pleased with Mahabali's devotion, Lord Vishnu made him the ruler of the netherworld (Patala Lok) and granted him the blessing to visit his subjects once a year. This event is celebrated as Onam in Kerala. Parshva Ekadashi symbolizes this Vaman Avatar of Lord Vishnu, and observing the fast on this day is believed to provide liberation and cleanse one from sins. The story teaches that true devotion and surrender lead to a close connection with God.

## Lord Vishnu's Dashavatara

- **Fasting:** Devotees abstain from grains, pulses, and other foods. The fast can be partial or complete. Some people consume only fruits, milk, and water, while others keep a dry fast (Nirjala).
- **Worship of Lord Vishnu:** Special worship of Lord Vishnu, especially in His Vaman Avatar, is performed. Offerings include fruits, flowers, Tulsi leaves, and sweets. Recitation of Vishnu Sahasranama and devotional songs are also done.
- **Recitation of Sacred Texts:** Devotees listen to or recite Bhagavata Purana and the story of Vaman Avatar, which emphasize the importance of devotion, humility, and complete surrender to God.
- **Vigil:** Some devotees keep an all-night vigil, singing hymns and meditating on Lord Vishnu.
- **Charity and Donations:** Special significance is given to charity on this day. Devotees feed the needy people, donate clothes, or give to temples.

## **Benefits of Observing Parshva Ekadashi:**

- Liberation from sins.
- Attainment of peace, prosperity, and spiritual advancement.
- Protection, happiness, and success through the grace of Lord Vishnu.
- Inspiration to stay on the path of righteousness.

Parshva Ekadashi is a day for spiritual self-reflection, fasting, and devotion to Lord Vishnu. Observing this fast not only brings blessings but also establishes a deeper connection with God through prayer, meditation, and self-discipline.

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