

Laxmi

The Goddess of Peace, Prosperity and Plenty

Excerpts from recently published book

AWAKEN THE SLUMBERING GODDESS

The Latent Code of the Hindu Goddess Archetypes

By Ashok Bedi, M.D.

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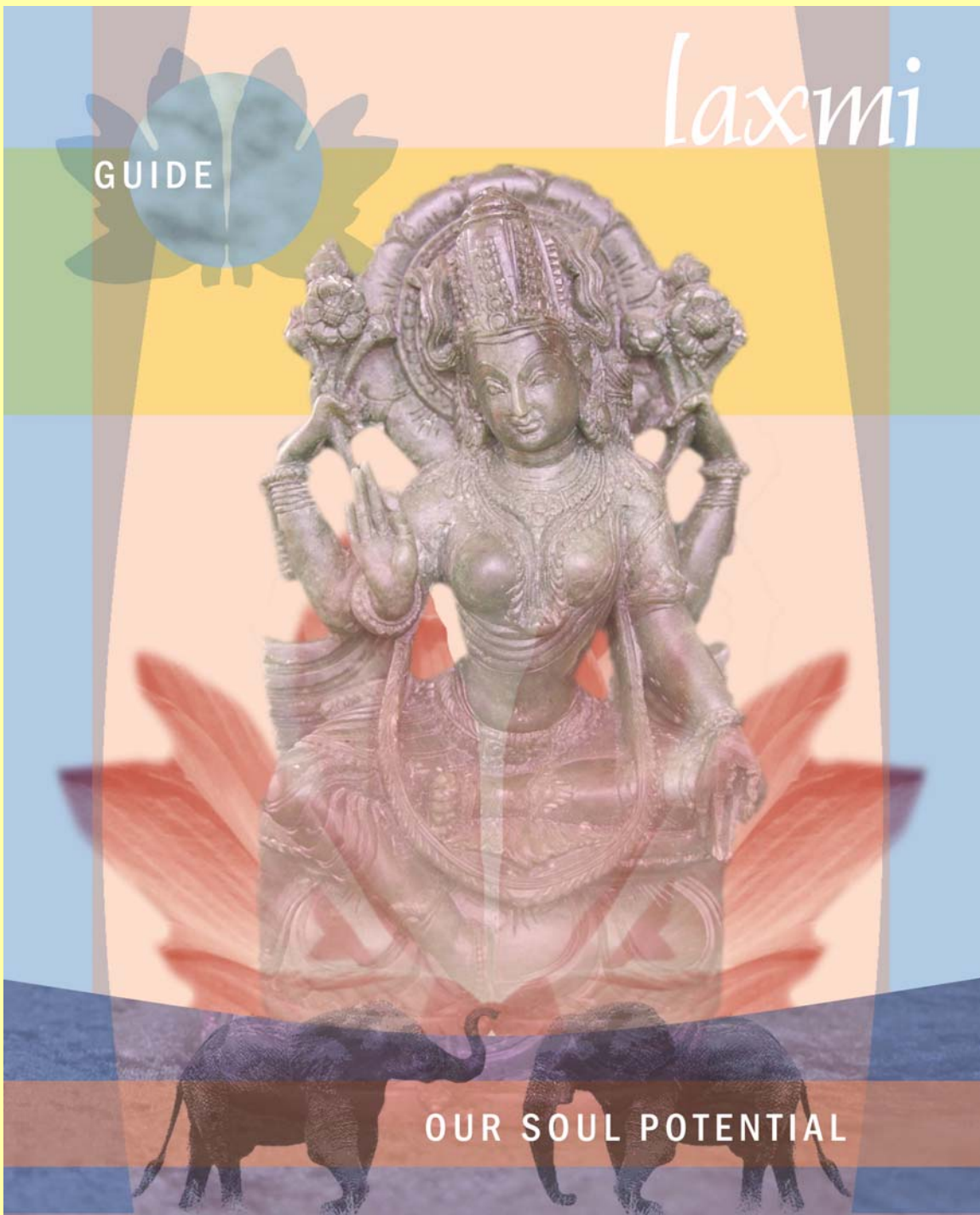


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Laxmi

The Goddess of Peace, Prosperity and Plenty

Laxmi is the most revered of Hindu goddesses and unlocks our potential for peace, prosperity and plenty in our inner and outer life. She is the consort of Vishnu, the preserver of moral order in our personality and in the world. Laxmi facilitates the maintenance of a soulful life. She is invoked by simplicity and purity of life and purpose. She provides our psyche with the necessary symbols and motivation to persevere in our goals to achieve our soul potential. She is the patron goddess of midlife transition. She ushers in our Vishnu nature – our psychic tendency to maintain order, focus, and soul purpose in our life in general and our mid-life in particular. Let us now meet the most revered of the three goddesses of the Trinity.

The Myth of Laxmi

When the kingdom of gods lost its prosperity and energy, they consulted Brahma for advice. Brahma counseled them to churn the cosmic ocean to extract the ambrosia, the elixir of eternal life. In this process a radiant beauty emerged from the ocean, seated on a lotus, holding a lily in her hand. Laxmi was ambrosia, the quintessence of the magnum opus of the gods, who grants peace, prosperity and life energy.

The power of all-pervading Vishnu is represented in the goddess of fortune and beauty. As the goddess of fortune, she is Sri and as the goddess of beauty she is Uma. Beauty (Uma) and Fortune (Sri) are the two wives of Vishnu. Both Laxmi and Sri are found in the Vedas associated with Fortune. Beauty is also the mother of Pleasure (Kama). She is known for her fidelity in her wife aspect but as fortune she is known to be fickle.

Mythologically, Laxmi's association with Vishnu comes about in the context of the churning of the ocean of milk jointly by the gods and the demons that seek the elixir of immortality. Ancient Hindu tradition asserts

that creation proceeds from the womb of the primordial waters when it is agitated or churned. This is akin to individuation, when transformation and growth in an individual occurs, when the primordial waters of one's unconscious are churned either by life experiences. This transforms the junk of the human psyche into the gold of our potential. When the waters of the unconscious are churned like the cosmic ocean, Laxmi is distilled from the depths of the psyche, crystallizing our creative nature. She then marries Vishnu, who is the master of ceremonies of the churning of the ocean. The spoils of the enterprise fall to the victor. A pilgrimage on the path to the soul leads to the gift of the laxmi's code. The Laxmi archetype in turn provides a template for marital harmony, domestic order, and a model of mutuality between partners and between the Masculine and the Feminine aspects of our psyche.

Laxmi's appearance as a result of this cosmic oceanic disturbance symbolizes the alchemic process where purity, patience, practice and enterprise transform the base substance, the prima materia, of one's personality into a precious substance, the ambrosia of one's potential. The fruit of such an enterprise can be inner peace, creative prosperity, the

experience of beauty and grace. This is the goal of every individual who undertakes the transformation of the personality into the higher soul potential and wholeness. A new order of the positive static feminine, the realm of Sri Laxmi, is thus established.

To learn more about the Archetype of Laxmi and her guidance on your path to Peace, Prosperity and Plenty, read on the book

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By
Ashok Bedi, M.D.

The book is available at

www.amazon.com

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Dr Bedi is a Diplomat Jungian psychoanalyst and a board certified psychiatrist. He is a member of the Royal College of psychiatrists of Great Britain, a diplomat in Psychological Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of England, a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. He is a Clinical Professor in Psychiatry at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and a Training Analyst and a faculty member at the Analyst Training Program at the Carl G. Jung Institute of Chicago. He is Honorary Psychiatrist at the Aurora Psychiatric Hospital and the Aurora Health Care Network. He has been a psychiatric consultant to several agencies in Metro Milwaukee. Presently he is the consultant for the Sexual Assault treatment center at the Aurora Sinai Samaritan Hospital, Dewey Center at the Aurora Psychiatric Hospital for treatment of Addictions and the Pastoral Counseling Service of Greater Milwaukee.

Trained in India, Great Britain and the US, he is interested in the emerging frontiers of Spirituality and Healing and the synapses of the Mind, Body, Soul and Spirit. He is author of the book, Path to the Soul, Weiser Books, 2000, Awaken the Slumbering Goddess: The Latent Code of the Hindu Goddess Archetypes, Booksurge Publishers, 2007 and the coauthor of Retire Your Family Karma, Nicholas-Hays, Inc. 2003, These and his other upcoming presentations can be previewed at his website www.pathtothesoul.com

Ashok Bedi has been in practice in Milwaukee for over twenty-five years and specializes in Adult Psychotherapy and Jungian Psychoanalysis. He regularly presents lectures and seminars in India, Great Britain, Ireland and USA on the topic of the Spiritual and analytic dimensions of treatment, healing and personal growth. Over the last several years, he has been the International Association of Analytical Psychologists liaison person for developing Jungian training programs in India and travels annually to India to teach, train the consult with the Jungian Developing groups at several centers in India including Ahmedabad & Bangalore. He leads the annual "In the Footsteps of Carl Jung in India" study group to several centers in India under the auspices of the New York Jung Foundation.

