## HOLISTIC CENTRE FOR YOGA AND VEDANTA, AMBOLI

Announces a Camp On the Topic of UNDERSTANDING 'DEVI' THROUGH VEDANTA TEXTS. BY NILOOFER AND SHRIBANTA GIRI Disciples of Pujya Sri SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI From- 7TH TO 11TH of OCTOBER 2011.

## ABOUT THE TOPIC

When one plays the game called "life", awareness of unity is lost in the obsession (fascination) of play. The one becomes many , to play a cosmic game of hide-and-seek with itself. The veiling power of 'consciousness' is called" may a shakti".

Maya takes the form of the Great Goddess, who is Prakriti, Shakti and Maya, who is motherhood, battle queen and wife , golden and also black, universal creatrix, benevolent yet dangerous, creator and annihilator, Shakti of Siva.

The Great Goddess who is Vac and Apah, Pruthvi and Sri, who is lotus eyed, flanked by water sprinkling elephants, the symbol of wealth and power yet seated as an obedient wife pressing her husband's feet, Shakti of Vishnu.

In any of these forms or combinations, she encompasses and transcends notions of duality, thereby defying our ability to quantify, qualify or explain her existence in terms we might easily understand. Devi, it would appear, is beyond succinct and simple explanation.

We will try and understand "Devi" through Vedic mythology and texts by Acharyas of Advaita.

The texts we will be looking into are-"Maya Panchakam", and portions of "Kanakadhara Stotram" and (time permitting) "Devi Aparadhakshamapana stotram."

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