

## **Title: Lord Muruga: The Divine Warrior**

**Introduction** Lord Muruga, also known as Kartikeya, Skanda, or Subramanya, is a revered deity in Hinduism, particularly in South India. He is the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati and is known as the god of war and victory.

**Birth and Mythology** According to Hindu mythology, Muruga was born from the divine sparks that emerged from Lord Shiva's third eye. He was born to vanquish the demon Surapadman and restore peace in the heavens. His birth is celebrated during the festival of Thaipusam, where devotees express their devotion through various rituals.

### **Attributes and Symbols**

- **Weapon:** Lord Muruga wields a spear called "Vel," symbolizing strength and knowledge.
- **Mount:** He rides a peacock, which represents beauty and grace.
- **Family:** He is often depicted with his two wives, Valli and Deivayanai.

**Temples** Muruga is worshipped at numerous temples across India, with notable ones being:

- **Thiruparankundram:** One of the six abodes of Muruga.
- **Palani:** Famous for its hilltop temple and the festival of Thaipusam.
- **Tiruchendur:** Known for its coastal temple where he is worshipped as the deity who defeated Surapadman.

**Significance** Lord Muruga is considered a protector and a guide for devotees. He is often invoked for strength, courage, and success in endeavors, particularly in academic and professional pursuits. His followers engage in various forms of worship, including prayer, fasting, and pilgrimage.

**Conclusion** Lord Muruga holds a significant place in Hindu spirituality and culture. His stories and teachings inspire millions, and his festivals are celebrated with great fervor and devotion.