

Why We Need Lord Skanda

There are many people in this world who claim that they have no need of God. They say, “I know the difference between right and wrong. I don’t need God in my life in order to live a good and full life.”

One of the purposes of all the Purāṇas is to point out the falseness of this position. The reason is that the power of evil in this world, of *avidyā māyā*, is so overwhelming that sooner or later our efforts to be good are defeated. Sometimes defeated so disastrously that we have no alternative, whether we want to or not, but to appeal to a higher power. It is, in fact, rather interesting that in the Purāṇas the celestials always seem to have to come to a point of being totally defeated before they appeal to the Lord. Up until that point they somehow think they can win the battle themselves.

Finally the Lord comes to the rescue. The Lord as direct incarnations—and especially Lord Skanda, directly out of the third eye of Lord Śiva—are above both good and evil. They support the entire universe. But when the better part of us—that which wants to be good—appeals to the Lord, then like Lord Skanda, they appear to us with everything that is auspicious.

Lord Skanda has six faces or facets, all to benefit us, such as wisdom, compassion, encouragement. Sometimes, as in the Gītā, the Lord will be our charioteer and we must do all the fighting. Sometimes the Lord will do the fighting for us, as in the Devī Māhātmyam. In the case of Lord Skanda, He is our leader. We cannot defeat the evil within ourselves. So we appeal to Him for His leadership, and that comes in the form of day by day guidance.

This is one of the fundamental lessons that we all need to learn, even those of us who believe in God, who pray to God. Perhaps we’re still relying on ourselves more than we should. Perhaps if we are having difficulties it is because a final surrender is not there; we’re not really depending upon the Lord entirely. We haven’t fully taken refuge; we’re still depending upon our own judgment. But finally that will not work.

The reason that it won’t work is that we are not separate from the Whole, and, therefore, if we try to go our own way it is likely that we are an offence to the Whole and the Whole will force its correction on us.

Therefore, to bring Lord Skanda into our life as our daily leader, to follow Him, is the only sure path to victory.