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Shree Shaligram Shila – Lord MahaVishnu

Sila, (in Devanagari, *śīla* in IAST refers to a Vaishnava (Hindu) murti in the form of a spherical, usually black-colored stone found in the sacred river Gandaki.

They are more often referred to as **Shaligram Shilas**, with shila being the shortened version. The word Sila translates simply to 'stone' and Shaligram is a less well-known name of Vishnu. The origin of the name is traced to a remote village in Nepal where Vishnu is known by the name of Shaligram.

Worship

The Silas (Ammonite fossils) are worshipped as manifestations of Vishnu Himself, identifiable from other stones by special markings, believed to resemble Vishnu's paraphernalia such as mace, conch, lotus and disc (chakra). Narsimhadeva, Varahadeva and Vamanadeva are popular forms of worship. They are either black, red, or mixed in color and are usually kept closed in a box and are only brought out for daily worship (puja).

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