

## **Kartikeya**



On the North side wall is the idol of Kartikeya and companions Valli and Devasena. Kartikeya is the son of Shiva and Parvati. He is also known by many names - Subramanya, Shanmukha, Skanda, Murugan and Kumara.

The Deities were troubled by Tarakasura who had a boon from Brahma that nobody other than Shiva's son could kill him and the son should not be an adult! Hence the Deities prayed to Shiva. As soon as born, Kartikeya was tended by six Krittikas at the same time and that is how he came to be known as Kartikeya and Shanmukha. As a child, he went to the war with Tarakasura and killed him. Hence the name 'Kumara''. At the spiritual level, he is one of the Deities who controls the mind just like his father Shiva does. Their blessings are necessary for the mental health.

Tanno Shanmukha Prachodayat!