

# Kritimukha Face: The Symbol of Divine Protection and Destruction

The [Kritimukha face](#) is among the most interesting and lesser-understood symbols of ancient Hindu and Buddhist iconography. Frequently depicted carved above temple doorways, gates, or holy entrances, Kritimukha (literally translates to "face of glory") is rich with spiritual significance. Beyond a mere ornament, this intimidating-looking face is a guardian emblem said to repel evil and negativity.



## Origin and Mythology Behind Kritimukha:

The myth of Kritimukha originates in ancient Hindu scriptures, especially the Shiva Purana. In mythology, a demon named Rahu, who was extremely powerful, had created a giant creature to kill Lord Shiva. But when the creature came face to face with Shiva, it immediately prostrated before the divine power. Impressed by the humility of the creature, Lord Shiva instructed it to eat its own body as penance. The beast complied willingly, leaving behind only its face. This face was then blessed and renamed Kritimukha by Shiva, representing total surrender, defense, and self-cleansing.

This face was subsequently installed at the entrance of temples and holy places as a sentinel figure to safeguard that only pure-hearted ones can enter.



6 INCH (15 CM)

3.5 INCH (8 CM)

Weight -150 GM

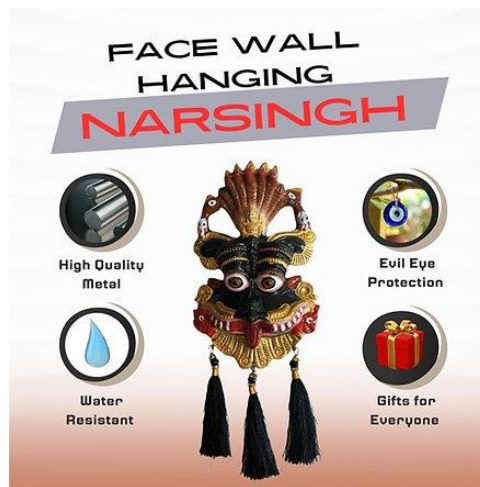
### The symbolism of the Kritimukha Face:

The Kritimukha face is generally shown with wide staring eyes, flared nostrils, bared fangs, and a fierce expression—inspiring awe and reverence. Though horrific to look at, it does not represent fear but fierce protection and spiritual transformation.

**Protector of Sacred Space:** Kritimukha works as a metaphysical bouncer, preventing evil spirits or unclean energies from invading sacred spaces.

**Symbol of Destruction of the Ego:** The mythology behind Kritimukha also symbolizes ego destruction, which must be achieved to have inner peace and spiritual evolution.

**Spiritual Enlightenment:** Similar to the sacrifice of its physical body by Kritimukha, only sincere seekers must be prepared to surrender outer-level identities in order to achieve divine consciousness.



## **Kritimukha in Architecture and Art:**

Across South Asia, especially in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia, you'll find the Kritimukha face integrated into ancient temple architecture. It is usually placed above the door lintels or in the decorative stonework of gateways and ceilings.



Artisans over the centuries have stylized this fierce face into many forms—from stone carvings and wooden motifs to brass masks and wall hangings used in modern home décor.

## **Kritimukha in Modern Context:**

Presently, numerous spiritual practitioners, Vastu professionals, and sacred art enthusiasts use Kritimukha faces in their meditation rooms and homes. As a representation of divine protection, hanging a Kritimukha face at the entrance is thought to repel negative energies while creating a spiritually positive environment.



## **Conclusion:**

The Kritimukha face is a design that serves more than beauty—it's an emblem of mighty significance rooted deeply in spirituality and mythology. Whatever your journey to ancient temple decor or the pursuit of safeguarding your home through sacred symbolism, the Kritimukha is a universal symbol of might, surrender, and spiritual watchfulness.

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**Address:** 34/35 Mathura Vihar,

Vijay Nagar, Jabalpur (M.P.)

**Pin:** 482002

**Phone:** +919713099668

**Email:** salvusestore@gmail.com