



Diwali Article : Message & True Significance

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Introduction: Diwali, or Deepawali, as said by tradition is an age-old and a significant festival recognised and celebrated in India by almost all of its religions (Hindu, Sikh, Jain, SwamiNarayan, South culture, etc). Deepawali marks the beginning of a new time (New Year) and it marks the final victory of good over evil forces, of light (knowledge) over darkness (ignorance); and therefore we do light up Diya (a small lamp) to remind ourselves of our own inner light of peace, purity, love, and spiritual joy. Some also celebrate this festival as a remembrance day of lord Rama's return to his kingdom.

Festival of Lights!

The image of light holds a very deep meaning in many faiths. It is the symbol of the image of God and also the image of one's true identity- the spirit or the soul. Just as the sea of lights guided Rama back to his kingdom, so too we have the ability to walk towards the ultimate light- that of God's through following a spiritual path of self-discovery.

What does a Diya represent?

A diya is lighted up in all houses. It is a symbol of soul's diya (light or consciousness) being lighted up in the presence of the supreme soul. Diya also translates into 'given' or 'donated'. Diya would mean: "I give all my weaknesses to God", and in return, we do receive his pure energies. With his powers, we can transform ourselves. This festival also reminds us "To Give" whatever we have in excess. This is the way of living in which we not only provide for others who are in need, but also bring benefit our own self by doing such good deeds.

Soul & the Supreme Soul

Raja Yoga - which means "intellectual connection with God (Supreme Soul)" is a form of meditation which focuses the attention of the mind on one's true identity as a light, a point of spiritual conscious energy- the soul. Me the soul is residing at the centre of the forehead and using the brain and senses to write this article. The "Tilak" marked on the forehead is to remind us that the self is a pure divine soul.

The light – the soul – is the core of our being. One of the greatest spiritual truths mentioned in the Gita is the understanding that every human soul consists of several original qualities – like the genetic make-up of the soul. They are: Peace, Purity, Love, Happiness and Wisdom. Just by turning my awareness within and releasing these original qualities, I will be able to experience them. That is what gives us the power of Hanuman, the wisdom of Krishna, or the courage of Rama.

Diwali brings Cleanliness

In India, as a child as well, we all would have observed that our parents operate the cleaning of entire house during the time of Diwali; and we also helped them in cleaning. But what is the purpose of this only during the time of Deewali? What does cleanliness signify?

The real purpose is to clean our thoughts, clean our impure sanskaras, to find out our weakness and throw it away, and in all to clean our inner self and reflect upon our life.

"This body in which I the soul live is also my home, which I should keep pure and clean."

This is the true significance of cleanliness observed during the new year (and Diwali). Such introvert and spiritual aspects are forgotten with time as we become extrovert. Now is the time when God (Supreme Soul) himself explains what we have forgotten.

Diwali brings Newness

New clothes, new accounts, presents, sweets, colourful decorations, lightings everywhere, traditional dances- these are all pretty common experiences in the time of Diwali! They all add to the joyous nature of the festival- and it is indeed a "glorious" festival, which also unites families as they gather during its 10 to 18 days long national holiday which is one reason it is loved by so many.

Shri Lakshmi visits our Home

The belief is widespread in India, that Shri Lakshmi (goddess of wealth) visits our home during the time of Deepawali. And therefore we do cleaning in our house and at workplace. There is a spiritual meaning behind this belief as well. Till now, we learn that this festival reminds us to become soul conscious, to clean our thoughts and heart, to donate whatever we have in excess, and to spread happiness to everyone. And when we do all this, we become a great soul, after whom all prosperity follows.

"Prosperity of peace, wealth, health and happiness comes to those who adopt divine values and virtues."

Key Takeaway: Plant and cherish divine virtues of purity, peace, selfless love, truth, mercy, kindness, and knowledge in your life; and all prosperity will follow you.

◆ Essence of Diwali Article

- Festival of Lights' is the remembrance day of our victory against evil forces (5 vices- lust, anger, greed, ego, attachment)
- We clean the house (which signifies the cleaning of our thoughts, words and karma)
- We light a Diya to signify the 'awakening' of soul, that God comes and makes us conscious of our own self- a divine point of light (soul)
- As we become 'soul-conscious', we attain innate inner peace, joy and happiness.
- As we attain a victory over these vices, then Shri Lakshmi (symbol of wealth and prosperity) comes in our life.

- Diwali marks the beginning of a new way of living - every-thing is new. Hence a 'New Year' is celebrated the day after Deepawali.

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* This Article on Diwali on our Blog →



(video) Significance of Diya ~ BK Shivani →



(video) Diwali significance by explained BK Shivani →



(video) Deepawali Greetings and Message by BK Suraj bhai →



◆ Original Virtues of the Soul →



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