

## THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SHIVRATRI

The festival of Mahashivaratri is celebrated every year in India. On this day, devotees visit Shiva temples to offer leaves of bel upon the Shivalinga, observe fast and keep awake all night as a mark of their devotion to God Shiva. In order to celebrate this festival in its true spirit, it is essential to know who is God Shiva and why is Shivaratri (Shiva's Night) commemorated by the devotees.

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### Godly Message on the occasion of Auspicious festival of Shiv-Jayanti

Shiv Jayanti or Shiv-Ratri is the most auspicious festival of the world which is celebrated to commemorate the reincarnation of incorporeal, point of light, supreme Father, Supreme Soul Shiva. Supreme Father of all souls, God Shiva, by giving the true knowledge of Gita at the time of extreme decay of religion, gets re-established the original Adi Sanatan Deity religion and gets destroyed the irreligious, unrighteous and corrupt old iron-aged world. He alone is the Liberator and Guide of all souls and is the Bestower of happiness and fruition.

Now, the auspicious time for the destruction of impure, corrupt and irreligious iron-aged world - Kaliyuga - and establishment of the holy, completely pure, new golden-aged world- satyuga -has come, when the supreme Father, Supreme Soul Shiva is getting His divine task of purifying and divinising the human world done through the medium of Prajapita Brahma and Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa - Vidyalaya by teaching the Easy Rajyoga.

Trimurti God Shiva says: O! My most beloved children, obtain your God-Fatherly birthright of world - sovereignty for 21 successive generations from your Incorporeal Father in the new heavenly golden-aged world in the near future by becoming holy and Rajyogi before the forthcoming huge destruction (world transformation). Very little time left for the huge destruction to take place all too suddenly. Remember, Now or Never.

This, in essence, is the auspicious Godly Message for the divine celebration of Shiva Jayanti.

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### INTRODUCTION OF SHIVA

There are innumerable temples to God Shiva all over India, where He is symbolised in the image of a linga. Some of the famed memorials to Shiva are Amarnath in Kashmir, Somnath in Gujarat, Vishwanath in Varanasi, Mahakaleshwar in Ujjain

and Pashupatinath in Nepal. The names of these Shiva temples define His divine functions, which also indicate that He is the Supreme Soul.

Legends tell us that Shri Rama invoked the Almighty Shiva at Rameshwaram and Shri Krishna offered his prayers to Him at Gopeshwar in Vrindavan. The memorials of these stands even today at these two places as famous Shiva temples. These legends are also indicators of the truth that Shiva is worshipped as the Supreme Father of all deities even as the Supreme Father of Shri Rama and Shri Krishna.

The image of Shiva is shown as a *linga*, which proves that He is incorporeal, He does not have any male or female human form like the deities, but He is conceit point of Light. That is why, the 12 famous Shiva temples in India are also known as Jyotirlinga Math signifying His form of Light. Incorporeal God Shiva is also known as Trimurti which depicts His role as the creator of the three subtle deities—Brahma, Vishnu and Shankar.

The three marked on the Shivalinga symbolize His triple characteristics of Trimurti, Trinetri (one who has the third eye of wisdom), Trikaldarshi (one who sees the tree aspects of time) and trilokinath (the Lord of three worlds). Shiva is also known as Shambhu or Swayambhu meaning that Shiva is the Supreme Soul who has no creator above Him.

The literal meaning of the word Shiva is benefactor. Supreme Soul Shiva brings benefit to all souls by performing the divine functions of creating and sustaining a new pure world and destroying all vices and evil from the old impure world, i.e., He gives liberation and salvation to all human beings. Thus He is truly the Supreme Soul.

### WHY SHIVA'S NIGHT

It is a subject to be pondered that when the birth of all corporeal deities, saints etc. are celebrated as birthdays, why is the night of Shiva remembered? For instance, the birth of Shri Krishna is believed to have been at midnight, yet Janmashtmi is celebrated as his birthday. It is only for Shiva that His night is celebrated. What is its real significance?

In fact, the festival of Shivaratri symbolises the divine incarnation of God Shiva on this earth. The night indicates the moral degradation that sets in due to the darkness of ignorance in this world. Shiva is the Ocean of knowledge who leads humankind from darkness to light, i.e. from untruth to truth by imparting true knowledge. God Himself says, “When religion is defamed on earth, I come to re-establish the true religion and thus transform the impure devilish world into a pure divine world.”

But when and how does God Shiva perform this divine function? If we reflect upon it, it will be clear that God performs His triple functions of creation, sustenance and destruction at the Confluence Age—the Age between end of kaliyuga and beginning of Satyuga because this is the period of rejuvenation or renewal of the Old World in the whole time-cycle. At this time, Supreme Soul Shiva incarnated in the corporeal human medium of Brahma to impart true godly knowledge in order to establish the divine heavenly world. The Supreme Soul does not take birth through a mother's womb but as per His divine versions, He subjugates matter and enters the body of Brahma to take a divine birth or incarnation.

Today, when corruption, unrighteousness and immorality have spread all over the world, when ethical and moral values have declined drastically, Supreme Soul Shiva is once again imparting the Godly message of “Be Yogi and Be Pure” by teaching true spiritual knowledge and Rajyoga through the spiritual children of Brahma (Brahma kumars and Brahma Kumaris).

### WHICH FAST IS NEEDED?

The true fasting (upvaas) on Shivaratri is that we link our intellect with God Shiva and stay in His Company. *Upavaas* (up + vass) means to stay close. The true Jagaran or awakening means to awaken from the slumber of ignorance and to protect the self from the evil influence of vices such as lust, anger, greed, etc. Let us celebrate Shivaratri in the true spirit by knowing its real spiritual significance.

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**Maha Shivratri** is celebrated in Bharat every year with profound devotion. Among all the festivals, Shivratri seems to be the only one that symbolizes the re-incarnation of the incorporeal, God Shiva. We celebrate birthdays of other deities, but Shivratri is commemorative of God's descent on earth to remove darkness of ignorance, vices and violence; this is why His descent is linked with 'night'. The period of 'night' definitely refers to the ending decades of the Iron Age, where irreligiousness, unrighteousness, violence, sorrow and suffering reign all over the world. God, being the World Benefactor and Purifier of the Sinful, grants all souls liberation from sufferings and guides humanity on the path to Jeevan Mukti (liberation -in-life).

God being always in His Incorporeal form of divine light, possesses neither the angelic nor the human form; constantly existing in the original and natural form of light. He descends on earth to bestow Mukti and Jeevan-Mukti-the God-Fatherly birthright. He teaches us the highest knowledge about Himself \_the Creator-and the

three aspects of time of His Creation-the World Drama. His Supreme Guidance for liberation and fruition through Raja Yoga Meditation, proves Him to be the Unique Satguru. To play His role as Supreme Father, Supreme Teacher and Supreme Satguru, He descends and takes on loan the medium of Prajapita Brahma, the Father of Humanity. Brahma's forehead is His worthy seat of the living temple of God Shiva at the time of His re-incarnation.

Supreme Father Shiva's Supreme Advice (or Shrimat) for every human soul's benefit is, "Be Holy (be free from vices and negativity) and Be Yogi (become soul conscious and remember God from deep within your heart)." This magic word (mantra is also called "Man Manabhav" .The message of Maha Shivratri, if practiced sincerely and honestly, assures us the enjoyment of a lotus-like jeevan-mukti life now and claim to the double crowned deity world \_sovereignty of Golden-Age for 21 generations -the God Fatherly inheritance from Shiva Baba.