

HOLI FESTIVAL

Holi festival falls on Falgun Sudi Purnima (that is on full moon day). This is an auspicious festival for all but some people used to think that it's celebrated more by the working class, labour class or the farmers. The reality is that this festival falls after winter finishes and new grain of wheat and barley, pulses etc (means the agricultural produce) is ripe. This festival is also called 'Nav-Sasyesthi'. Sasya means grain, Nav means new. All the farmers and the other labour, working in the agricultural industry, are happy so naturally they celebrate this festival with high spirits. But that doesn't mean that this festival is only of the labour class. We can say that this festival is celebrated by one & all to value the hard work of the farmers.

Grain is the Base of Life, You know; everyone needs the Grain for support And We get it by the efforts of the farmers. This festival has been celebrated since the beginning of the creation as the agricultural activities started right with the advent of the human species. The farmers would perform 'Yajna' and make oblations of new grain and of the sweets made from new produce. Through the Yajna people would worship and thank God Almighty. In fact HE is the bestower of this new grain which is the life-strength. All groups of society should take part in celebrating this festival with Yajna offering new grain and by respecting the hard labour of the farmers.

Some people tried to divide our festivals- as Shravani for Brahmions, Dussehra for Kshitriyas, Diwali for Vaishyas, and Holi for Sudras. This is not fair. All the festivals are to enjoy and value life and are an inspiration to develop our physical, social and Spiritual personalities. This is why All should celebrate all the festivals together.

This festival is also known as Holika-Dahan. As you all know that Holika was the sister of the King Hirnyakshayp. Hirnyakshayp had no belief in the Existence of God and was so arrogant that he proclaimed himself to be the God. On the other hand his only son Prahlad was a staunch believer in the God Almighty who used to worship God through Yajna. He was, undoubtedly, a man of righteousness. Hirnyakshayp was so annoyed with Prahlad that he wanted to kill him. See, the father was so wicked that he wanted to kill his only son just because he believed in God Almighty. Story is that Holika, the sister of Hirnyakshayp, putting on a fire proof sheet on

her body took nephew Prahlad in her arms and sat in the fire by the order of the cruel brother. But by the grace of all protector God , the fire proof sheet slipped on to Prahlad and instead of him Hoilka got burnt. So due to this reason also people celebrate this festival with great joy. From this story, we need to learn that this is a celebration of the victory of Spirituality over non-belief in God.

On this day, people enjoy Holi with colours. At some places they play it as LATH_HOLI means that sister –in-laws mockingly beat their brother in laws with Lathi and Koras. This done in joke with love and affection.. In Varsane' and Mathura this is very famous. People sing Holi songs which shows the cultural strength, purity, love and affection for each other. We should follow the songs full of such teachings and make our society strong. This festival gives us a message to forget jealousy, hatred and other disputes. Forgive and forget And live together with love and affection. This is the purpose of this festival.