

Om Sri Sai Ram



SAI DHARMAM

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Cooksville

WHAT IS DIWALI?

Festival of lights, or more commonly known as Diwali. It is the event where we acknowledge the return of Sri Rama (seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu) from the Dhandaka forest. The reason why we light candles or “Divas” is because we live in a world where good triumphs evil. In ancient history, many events like Diwali is celebrated. For instance, Ramayana is a perfect example of how good triumphed over evil. This occurrence takes place in Ayodhya. Rama is exiled into the Dhandaka forest for 14 years. According to prophecy, Rama’s wife was carried away by a demon named Ravana. Rama searched around and with allies, learned about what happened to his wife. This eventually led to war, where Rama triumphed over Ravana. Another event that created this holy day is the killing of Narakasura. Once there lived an evil king named Narakasura. He made his subjects just as evil as him. The loving Lord Krishna saw the need for

intervention and so, he attacked the land of the asuras repeatedly. Not to hurt, but anger the demon king. The demon king became weak and feeble due to the fact he was angered every time Krishna attacked his land. Soon the asura was too weak to fight back, and Lord Krishna did not think that the demon deserved to die at God's hands. So, Lord Krishna took his consort Sathyabhama, and asked her to kill the asura. Sathyabhama easily vanquished the demon due to the fact that the Lord had destroyed 3 quarters of the asura’s power. We celebrate Diwali with bhajans and divas around the altar. In India, Swami gave many talks on the true reason why we celebrate Diwali. with fireworks, traditional sweets and by cleaning their home and setting up for puja. People put Rangoli in front of their house. This is because when visitors arrive, the drawing calms their mind and makes them happy. There are many legends & practices that caused this occasion to come into practice. We are fortunate to have such a happy life. Let us all thank God for his love.

DEVOTEE SPEAKS

To declare to the world, the Divine all-powerful form (*sarva sakthi swaroopini*) aspect of the Mother, the *Dasara or Navaratri* festival is celebrated. In these ten days (nine nights) we adore and worship the three forms of the mother namely, Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswathi. Durga is in the form of energy *Sakthi Swaroopini*—the physical, mental and spiritual powers are conferred by her; Lakshmi endows us with all types of prosperity (*Aishwarya*). Saraswathi gives us the power of intellect, the power of discrimination, the power of word. Our physical mother is truly an embodiment of these three aspects Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswathi. She confers on us all types of energy and power. She provides us with all manner of wealth and helps us grow and prosper. She also aspires for her children to earn fame and name through their education.

All these three Divine principles come and merge in our own mother. Navaratri festival is intended to make us realize the importance of the mother, to love our mother and to go on the path that will please our mother. On the other hand, people buy some flowers and offer worship to the idols of Durga Lakshmi and Saraswathi, ignoring the divine aspects of their own mother. Mother who has given birth to you is the very embodiment of Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswathi. *Navaratri* is also celebrated in honor of the victory that the *Para-sakthi* (the Goddess of Energy, immanent in the Microcosm and Macrocosm) achieved over the *Asura* (demon) of evil forces. The *Navaratri* is the festival to commemorate the victory of good over evil. The Embodiment of Divine Power (*of Para-sakthi*), in its various manifestations: *Sathwic, as Mahasaraswathi, Rajasic* as

Mahalakshmi, Tamasic, as *Mahakali*, was able to overcome the forces of vice, wickedness and egoism, during the nine Days' struggle and finally, on *Vijaya Dashami* Day (the Tenth Day commemorating Victory), the Valedictory Worship is done. In 1946, Swami gave His fortunate devotees another wonderful event. He performed abhishekam (sacred cleansing ceremony) to the statue of Shirdi Sai Baba while large crowds of devotees watched in bliss. The purpose of this cleansing was to reduce the anger and powers of evil in this world. Swami grace, our sisters at Cooksville Sai Centre celebrate Navaratri (Dasara) Festival by chanting goddess stotram and special bhajans between 7:30pm to 8:45pm followed by prasadam from Sunday Sept 29th to Tuesday Oct 7th, 2019. All are requested to come and be blessed by our mother Sai.

DEVOTEE SPEAKS: GOOD OVER EVIL

I'm sure that all of us have experienced a time in our life where "good over evil" or "victory of light over darkness" has come into play and whether we realized it or not, we have encountered it. Today I will share my most recent personal experience of good triumphing evil, to hopefully prove to you how "good over evil" and, Swami's own words "do good, be good, see good" have shown their way into my life. It was quite a regular week for me and I decided to go to the mall to shop at the end of the week. All was well, until I was leaving the mall and had realized that I lost my debit card. I panicked and did not know what exactly to do in that moment. Thoughts of my parents disappointment and my own self disappointment crossed my head. More importantly the thought of how I had just lost almost all of my money stressed me out more than anything. I quickly made my way home after explaining the situation to my parents and called the bank, only to

find out while looking at my transactions that various purchases had already been made before I could cancel my card. I was very upset but I knew there was not much I could do about the situation. Nevertheless, the bank ended up cancelling my card and the transactions stopped there. The person who had found my card had spent \$100 dollars simply on clothes in that 1 hour period. Although I knew I could earn my money back, I was more disappointed in myself for losing the responsibility that I usually live up to. I was, and am a huge believer in good and bad karma. I have always been a genuine person. Upon finding money randomly in various places, I was always someone who would donate the money to a charity or return a debit/credit card back to the store it was nearest to. Thankfully, the bank understood my situation and I ended up receiving the full \$100 back to card. I have no one to thank but God and my parents for raising me with



teachings that incorporate being genuine. Swami's teachings have always played a huge role in my life and have never failed to teach me a lesson. I will never stop believing that good will always overrule evil, as there have been various other incidences that I have encountered that have proved this statement 100% true.

TO LIGHT A LAMP

On November 9th, 1988, our dear Bhagawan gave a beautiful discourse. In that discourse, He explained that like the light of the lamp that is used to remove the darkness outside, the light of wisdom (Jnana Jyothi) must be used to remove the darkness within the heart. To light the Jnana Jyothi, detachment (Vairagya) must be the container, devotion (Bhakti) must be the oil, one-pointed concentration (Ekragata) must be the wick, and knowledge of the Supreme Truth (Jnana) must be the match. This helps with any task done in life, whether it is for work, school, home, or the organization. Regardless of the task, the Jnana Jyothi must be lit first, so that the task can be done with a pure heart, and optimal performance can be delivered. One must first develop detachment from their own pride and worries. This allows people to become selfless, focusing on the receiver or

beneficiary of the task, rather than themselves. Then, people must show their devotion to God by either offering the task to the Lord, reciting His/Her name before doing the task, or thinking of the divine while doing the task. Surrendering out work to God indicates Love for the Lord. When one surrenders to the Lord, He guides that person in the right direction, especially when there are doubts. This automatically translates to one-pointed concentration, or absolute focus. In today's world, there are so many distractions to deter from work. Social media, emergencies, e-mails, video games, bad companionship, and the list goes on and on. In addition, the monkey mind will provide an endless amount of thoughts unrelated to the task. Having one point to always focus on and prioritize over all else helps overcome all distractions. There are different options. Some choose to focus on God, some

choose to focus on the receiver or beneficiary of the task, and some choose to focus by keeping the end goal in mind. When there is one-pointed concentration, the task gets completed quicker, smoother, and with a higher quality. Finally, once the task is completed, to be satisfied with the result, one requires the knowledge of the Supreme Truth. The Supreme Truth, is that all are one and divine, and the aim of everyone in the physical world is to reach God and merge with Him. When the Supreme Truth is realized, the other attributes of the Jnana Jyothi come together. The result becomes satisfying, regardless of what it is, because it is known that the task and the result are all part of the Lord's cosmic play. Whatever happens is for the good of the individual, and all of society, so that all may reach God and merge with him

BHAJAN

Akhanda Jyothi Jalaavo Sai Mana Mandir Mey

Akhanda Jyothi Jalaavo

Koti Soorya Samey Theja Swaroopa

Sai Thum Ho Divya Swaroopa

Akhanda Jyothi Jalaavo, Akhanda Jyothi Jalaavo

Divya Jyothi Jnana Jyothi Prema Jyothi Jalaavo

Akhanda Jyothi Jalaavo

Meaning:

O Lord Sai! Illumine the temple of my mind so that the flame of knowledge may glow continuously. O Sai, the one with the effulgence of ten million suns, kindle the infinite flame of divinity, wisdom and Divine Love in my mind.



GAME

D	I	W	A	L	I	M	E	D	S	P	E	R	T	V	F	Diwali
A	N	L	I	L	M	L	G	F	A	I	T	M	D	P	E	Cards
S	M	K	K	O	D	P	Q	G	F	K	F	A	K	J	W	Lakshmi
D	V	J	U	P	H	O	M	H	I	F	G	N	Z	A	Q	Rangoli
F	C	L	J	Q	T	K	J	J	R	A	N	G	O	L	I	Fireworks
G	X	H	I	W	G	P	Q	E	E	K	H	T	O	C	T	Jewellery
H	Z	G	M	G	B	A	G	U	W	C	F	G	H	F	G	Food
K	P	F	Y	E	H	R	U	I	O	E	Z	J	Y	T	H	Festival
J	O	D	H	R	G	T	C	F	R	A	L	P	R	H	J	Light
L	I	S	N	T	Z	Y	J	V	K	S	P	L	T	U	K	Sweets
Z	U	A	T	Y	V	M	K	H	S	I	F	V	E	D	L	Lamp
X	Y	Z	G	U	B	I	L	A	Q	U	E	O	V	R	M	Rama
C	T	X	B	I	C	J	H	R	W	M	S	F	O	G	Y	Sita
V	S	W	E	E	T	S	U	U	E	I	T	G	K	D	N	Party
B	I	C	R	O	N	N	R	A	R	H	I	A	H	Q	B	
N	T	V	L	P	X	U	G	E	H	B	V	R	N	W	V	
R	A	M	A	L	M	H	E	C	K	T	A	G	H	E	C	
M	R	B	M	K	Z	B	F	A	L	I	L	K	G	I	X	
L	E	N	P	J	G	Y	D	R	A	A	V	J	D	A	Z	
K	W	M	F	H	U	G	S	D	K	G	E	N	J	K	J	
P	Q	Q	V	G	B	V	A	S	T	D	H	B	F	Q	L	
O	A	W	E	F	Y	T	H	K	Y	H	I	K	L	W	I	
I	S	E	D	D	F	M	O	L	U	T	F	A	R	E	H	
U	D	R	C	S	I	F	B	M	I	O	S	T	N	R	G	
Y	F	T	W	A	G	C	E	N	P	F	Q	I	M	T	F	
T	G	U	S	M	A	R	F	B	S	G	L	Y	F	A	Z	
R	H	Y	X	N	Q	D	Q	V	F	X	F	F	T	O	S	
E	J	O	Q	H	X	X	A	C	Z	W	K	I	G	D	A	
W	K	P	A	B	Z	E	W	X	X	Z	E	V	N	M	I	
Q	L	L	Z	V	C	S	Z	Z	D	S	D	N	E	V	L	