

Om Sri Sai Ram

Maha Shivaratri

SAI DHARMAM

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Cooksville

SWAMI'S DISCOURSE

Some ascribe the holiness of the Day to the fact of its being the Birthday of Shiva, as if Shiva has birth and death, like any mortal. The story that it commemorates the salvation attained by a hunter who sat on a *bilva* tree on the look-out for animals to kill, and without any intention to worship, unknowingly dropped some of its leaves on a *Linga* that lay beneath, does not make clear why this Day is especially sacred. Another story is that this is the Day on which Shiva danced the *Taandava* (Cosmic dance) in the ecstasy of His Innate Nature, with all the Gods and Sages sharing and witnessing that Cosmic Consummation.

When He consumed the *Haalahala* poison that emerged from the churning of Ocean and that

threatened to destroy the Universe, the heat of the fumes was well-nigh unbearable, even for Him. So, Ganga flowed uninterruptedly on His matted locks; but, that gave Him only partial relief.

The Moon was placed on the head. That was of great help. Then, Shiva danced the *Taandava* with all the Gods and Sages. All this they say, happened on the same day and so, *Shivaraatri*, was held in commemoration of this occasion.

SPIRITUAL SYMBOLISM THROUGH SHIVA

Regarding the article on RadioSai titled spiritual symbolism through Shiva, it depicts that all the names and forms ascribed by man to God, are manifest. There were many theories and stories brought up in this article, and as fascinating as all of them were, there were specific ones that really stood out to me. The story of Pedda Bottu amma for example; the devotee who was blessed by the two avatars, Shiridi and Parthi, wrote a fabulous book, which she stored and took out again after some time. When she opened it, she noticed Bhagavan had corrected a line in her book, where he had revealed himself as an avatar that transcends the magnificent forms of divine. He named himself as; Sarva Devata Athitha Swarupa. In a theory based on symbolism, it is said that in every culture, there are many experiences that show symbolism. Even in

science, art and technology, there are many miracles and experiences that show something significant, but as humans, when it comes to God, we become uncomfortable seeing the symbolism or believing them! In science, we write chemical formulas. For example, salt is NaCl. It does not show the letters on the salt itself, but we are taught that we have symbols to portray it. Similarly, in God's teachings, we are taught that Lord Shiva is referred to as Yogeshwara, the master of all Yogis. This is something that really stood out to me, as it never really occurred to me. Another incident that was brought up in the article discussed how in one of the puranas, Shiva also has an appellation. The devotee Maayasuraa, had constructed a Tripura which would be constantly in motion. It was said that, when all three were aligned together, an occasion would occur for a few



moments in a 1000 years, which can be destroyed by one arrow! So, despite all the tremendous cities, the asuras began to trouble the innocent. All gods and Pious in this case rush to Lord Shiva for his protection. Even though the Gods had helped him makes weapons to attack the trouble, Shiva had simply given a smile and then the three cities went up in flames. That is when the Gods all realized their folly and vanity. Baba himself revealed that he is Shiva-Shakti on Guru Poornima day in 1963. With all the theories and stories brought up in this article, it has really shown the powers, strength and symbolism of Shiva himself and Baba.

Source: http://media.radiosai.org/journals/vol_13/01FEB15/Spiritual-Symbolism-in-the-Worship-of-the-Supreme-as-Shiva.htm

DEVOTEE SPEAKS: SIGNIFICANCE OF SHIVARATHRI

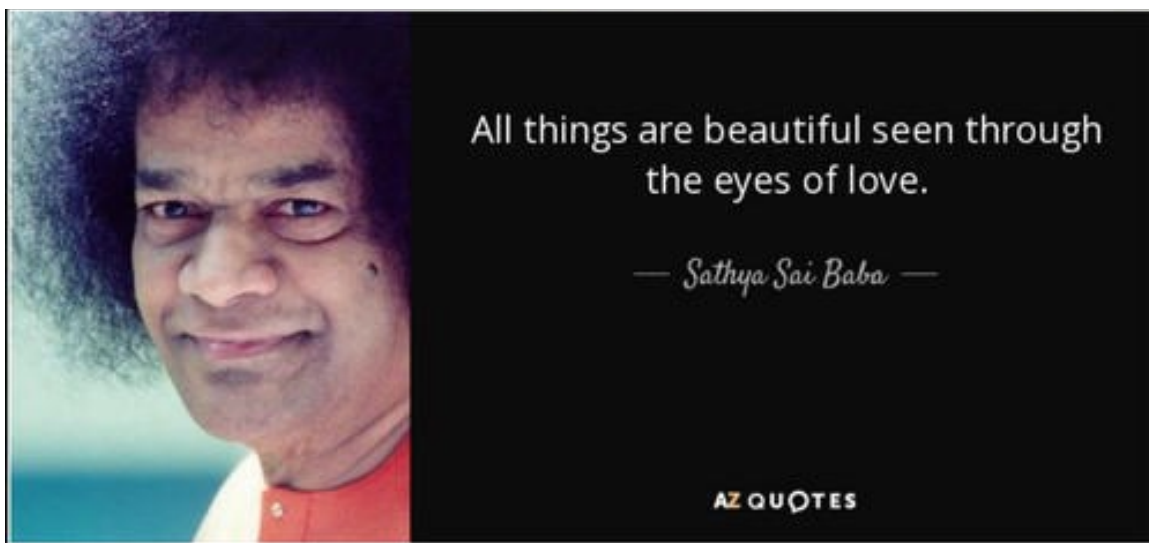
Shivarathri occurs on the darkest night of the month. Does this mean it is a celebration of darkness? Naturally, any mind would resist the idea of darkness for light. However, as we look deeply into creation, existence, and the universe, it can be seen that many people typically don't pay attention to the vast emptiness that holds every human being from the moment of creation. The time of Shivarathri allows us to experience the unboundness of the source of creation. The greatest source of light we as humans know is the sun.

But even this sun has limited possibility: it happens and ends. Darkness, however, is everywhere and it is all-pervading. It is omnipresent. It is in this darkness of emptiness that creation has happened; hence why we call this emptiness as Shiva. Shivarathri is a time to experience this unboundness of the source of creation. It is a time of awakening and a perfect time to dissolve our limitedness.



Source: <https://isha.sadhguru.org/mahashivratri/significance-of-mahashivratri/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Aum Shree Sairam respected elders, dear sisters, brothers and children,

Happy New Year to all of you! This is the time we reflect on our past and make new resolutions, setting up new goals to accomplish and seeking fulfilment of success. It is indeed a new beginning for many of us. So, let us remind ourselves of the valuable message that our dear Lord have given us through many of His discourses.

“Regard every second as a new year and act on that basis. You need not wait for the passing of twelve months to embark on any enterprise. Transform yourselves every moment. Get rid of the bad old ideas; that will herald the birth of the new year. Take part in service activities to sanctify your lives. Adhere to righteous conduct. Live up to the motto: Help ever, Hurt never. This is the essence of the message of Vyaasa’s eighteen puranas.” - Divine Discourse: 1 January 1993

“On this New Year Day, you should make resolve that you will start every day with Love, spend the day with Love, fill the day with Love and end the day with Love. There should be no difference of caste, creed, color, religion or nationality. Love knows no distinction of any kind. You must wish everyone to be happy. Fill the heart with Love. The country will prosper, and the world will prosper, and everyone will be happy. Cultivate good thoughts, speak good words and do good deeds with the broad view that everyone in the world should be happy. Give up your evil thoughts and evil qualities as they are the cause for all sufferings in the world.” - Divine Discourse: 1 January 1994

“Every second is the birth of a New Year. Seconds add up to minutes, minutes to hours, and so on to years. Every second of your life is new.” - Divine Discourse: 1 January 2000

“The New Year does not bring anything new with it. The day when fresh and sacred thoughts originate in your heart is the real New Year day. As you all consider this day as New Year day and welcome it with enthusiasm, I bless you all so that you may cultivate fresh, sacred and ideal feelings. I desire that you share with others all that you consider as good. I want you to lead a peaceful and blissful life and become role models for the rest of the country.” - Divine Discourse: 1 January 2001

The spiritual significance of all festivals, including Sankranti, is especially important. As the Sun moves towards the north, what does the north signify? The north signifies the direction our minds have to go to reach realization or liberation from this cycle of birth and death. This Uttarayana is the key for spiritual progress. Sathya Sai Baba has repeatedly told us in many discourses that the true northward journey occurs inside each of us. The intellect has to turn inward, toward the heart, and then bliss is experience. May Bhagawan continue to shower his love and guidance upon all of us.

-Bhavini Amalsadia

GAME

MAHA SHIVARATRI

PARVATI	I U A Y	I W E I
THRISHUL	Q K T H Z T	T Q Q P Y Y
NANDY	L A Y Y A Q F A	A B M C B N L G
KAILASH	K Q P T E L A I I V V X M C P C U D G V	
DAMARU	S C H H V O A F M F R A H Q Q F S R T R K G	
MAAGHA	P M R F H F P H J V A M L M B F T H R I S H U L	
BAEL	S L B U R A M A D P S E U A V J T I X F K L Y G	
HALAHAL	L A Y X J A U L D I A V M H T R X W E E W K Y U	
MAHADEV	F I Q A I G X M U B N N E A U I Z B G G D Y F Z	
SHIVA	B W N I Z Y O D T Y H O I D M T R C J O D I Q O	
HINDUISM	H T D G T A N S V L I U N E P U Q R Y N K K M N	
FEBRUARY	D C K A I L A S H K M E V A A N Q A O X R C	
LINGAM	E F Q H M J O L A A K T R L L P N O K J Z F	
RITUALS	A K M Y P O H A F L Y A K S G D I A K I	
TEMPLE	J Y C O Z G G Q P J N B C O X U V D	
PUJA	Z Q O H Z Q Y U E U J P E P O N	
	F A T E M P L E L P W S F T	
	P L V N G K X A V I H S	
	F N S C L L N L S Z	
	K X Y S T F Y H	
	A V S F X E	
	X C R B	
	K J	

BHAJAN

MEANING

Shambho Shankara Thaandava Priya Kara
 Hara Hara Shankara Jaya Dev (3X)
 Om Shivaaya Om Shivaaya Om Shivaaya
 Dama Dama Dama Dama Damaru Bhole
 Ghana Ghana Ghana Ghana Ghantha Bhajey
 Janaka Janaka Taka Payale Paaye
 Kailasa Vaasa Uma Pathey
 Hara Trishoola Uma Pathey
 Hara Trinethra Gauri Pathey
 Om Shivaaya Om Shivaaya Om Shivaaya

As Shambho You dance the cosmic Dance, Which You rejoice and enjoy to perfection. Glory to Shankara, Glory to Shankara, Glory to the Lord of victories Om Shivaaya Om Shivaya Om Shivaya! The drums are reverberating the Dham-Dham beats. The bells are peeling out the resounding music of Ghana Ghana. The anklet-bells are resonant with the rhythmic dance beats. You reside in he Kailas Mountains and You are the beloved Consort of Uma. You carry the universal trident, Glory to You, Gouri's dearest Consort. You dwell in the three worlds! Glory to You!



MAHASHIVARATRI CELEBRATION

We cordially invite you all to join us at the centre for our Mahashivaratri Celebration as we sing the Glory of God and worship Lord Shiva.

Date:

Friday, February 21st, 2020

6PM—12AM

Centre Address:

5359 Timberlea Blvd., Unit 62

Mississauga, Ontario L4W 4N5