

|| From the mighty pen of Sanjay ||



THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF HOLI



The festival of Holi is one of the major festivals of India. This festival covers in it many spiritual mysteries, but these days many people set aside morality and spirituality while celebrating it. They resort to such a manner that encourages eve-teasing and disorder because of which both in India and abroad, many civilized people have started even hating it. We must know the real and spiritual significance of Holi and celebrate it in a dignified manner, so that it may give a new direction to mankind.

The method of Celebrating Holi

The festival of Holi which follows the festival of Shiv Jayanti, falls on the full moon night of the Phagun month of Hindu calendar year. The people celebrate it in four ways: 1. They colour each other, i.e., inspire one and all to synchronize their *sanskars* and nature. 2. They burn the bonfire of Holika, which symbolises the burning of their vices and negative tendencies, habits and attitudes. 3. On this day, they meet and greet each other in ecstatic manner which inspire us to make the feeling of jealousy and enmity vanish from within, from its root, 4. Many people depict Shri Krishna swinging in the swing, which symbolically teaches that like Shri Krishna, we should also keep swinging in the swing of super-sensuous joy. Now, let us concentrate on the date and above-mentioned rituals of this festival.

In India, the month of Phagun ends on the full moon night. The burning of bonfire of Holika in the full moon night of Phagun month stands for burning of mistakes and bad thoughts of the past year in the fire and a firm resolve to remain happy and joyous from the first month of the forthcoming year, and follow purity/celebrity because everything gets purified when it is immersed into the fire.

In addition to this, celebrating this festival at the end of every year hints at the fact that this festival was celebrated at the fag-end of the Kalpa, in Kaliyuga, after which Golden-Aged World of Peace and Happiness ensued and the sorrows, disease, disquiet and poverty also came to an end. **But we**

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Draft (*In the name of 'The World
Renewal'*) may be sent to:

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Shantivan-307510,**

Abu Road, Rajasthan, INDIA.

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must ponder here: Has the burning of wood or dung in the bonfire of Holika finished everyone's miseries and pains and will it finish them ever? It is clear that it is not the fire of dung etc. but the fire of Godly remembrance in which our bad resolves, thoughts and words will be finished and through which we will be able to attain complete peace and prosperity in the new world or Paradise. Thus, this festival inspires us to connect our mind and intellect with the Supreme Soul God Shiva who is called the Ocean of Purity, Peace, and Prosperity. That is why Holi follows Shivratri (Shiv Jayanti), which symbolizes the very fact that God Shiva descends on this earth at the end of the world cycle and then only the human souls who connect their mind and intellect with Him, receive complete Peace, Prosperity and Purity.

The meaning of Holika

On the occasion of Holika, people roast the fur of wheat and barley. In the spiritual parlance, penance has been likened to Knowledge (Gyan) and Meditation (Yoga) – as a roasted seed cannot produce new fruit, similarly, any deed

performed in knowledgeable state cannot take the form of misdeed/wrong deed. Hence, Holika also symbolizes that Supreme Soul God Shiva gives the most benevolent advice for emancipation of all souls of the world, at the end of Kaliyuga. That advice is to roast the seed of Karma in the fire of Knowledge and Remembrance. All of us must follow this advice and we shouldn't consider Holi merely as the burning of some woods and dung, but a reminder to burn the old and polluted resolves in the fire of yoga and perform *karmas* in the state of soul-consciousness (*yog-yukt*).

In other words, Holi connotes: **1. Past is past**, i.e., one shouldn't be worried about what has already happened, but should pay attention on future, by doing everything in the divine remembrance of God, i.e., *yogyukt*. **2. 'Ho-li' means what has already happened**, in Hindi. I, the soul, have now surrendered myself to God Shiva; therefore, from now onward I will perform all my deeds as per God's directions or advice. **3. Holi** is pronounced similar to the word Holy in English, which means to be pure; therefore, the

Karmas performed by us should not be influenced by any vice. Thus, the festival of Holi inspires us in many ways.

Colours on Holi

Knowledge also symbolizes colour. A knowledgeable person colours those who are in his company, i.e., he gives the spiritual knowledge to other souls and tells them the method of forging their mental and intellectual link with God and receiving powers from Him.

Human beings can't be blissful unless they colour themselves as well as others with the colour of Knowledge. It is only through one's blissful communion with God that we can experience divine delights. How can a human soul experience communion with God? Nowadays, ignorant or vicious human beings, influenced by Sex-Lust, Anger, Greed, Attachment and Ego, become a cause of misery and misfortune for others. One can experience the delightful communion only when the Ocean of Knowledge cleanses the soul, i.e., burns the vices—negativity or polluted traits of the soul—in the fire of Knowledge and Godly Remembrance. This is the true Holi. ●

Edited and published by B.K. Atam Prakash for Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mount Abu and printed at: **Om Shanti Printing Press, Gyanamrit Bhawan, Shantivan - 307 510, Abu Road (Rajasthan).**

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