

Arya Samaj Newsletter November 2013 Volume 6 Issue 11

Rishi Nirwan Diwas

Maharishi Swami Dayanand Saraswati

While we all celebrate Diwali with our relatives and friends let us not forget that the day of Diwali holds a special significance for the Arya Samaj. It was on this day that Maharishi Swami Dayananda, the greatest reformer of Hinduism and founder of Arya Samaj left his physical body. Arya Samaj thus observes Rishi Nirvan Divas on Diwali. On this day we pay tribute to Swamiji through commitment in carrying on with his mission and vision. While we observe Rishi Nirvan Divas let us think about it. Why was it necessary for Maharishi Swami Dayananda to establish Arya Samaj. and the couple of lines from the famous filmy song comes to mind.

"Dekh tere sansar kee haalat kyaa ho gayee bhagwan,

Kitana badal gayaa insan,

**Sooraj na badalla, chand na badala, na badala ray asman, par
kitna badal gayaa insan."**

When Swami Ji observed the condition of the Hindu Jati and how human beings have changed and adopting the mysterious rituals and dreadful practices which had no validity in the VEDAS and which was casting a shadow of darkness and ignorance amongst the people and to bring the people back to the fold of VEDAS and to Light the Truth "Jag mein jot jagane, andhyare ko mitane aur acachai ko phalane ke liye" the only vehicle was to establish Arya Samaj.

What ultimate compliment and tribute we can pay to Swami Ji and thank him for the legacy and mission he has left us to carry on yet by another famous bhajan.

"Dhanya hai tujh ko ye Rishi, Toone hamein jaga Ddiya.

So so ke lut rahein the hum tone hamein bacha Liya.

Abdhon ko aankhe mil gai, Jaati me jaan aa gai.

Jadoo sa kya chala diya amrit sa kya pila diya."

Kewal Ahluwalia

Diwali (Deepawali)

Diwali, like many festivals, has many myths or legends associated with its origins. There are many stories associated with it but the one which is from the very beginning is that the festival of lights as is commonly known was first started in India by the farmers after they reaped their harvests. As it occurs at the end of a cropping season reinforces the hypothesis of it having originated as a harvest festival. Every harvest normally spelt prosperity. Farmers performed Hawan and celebrated with joy and thanked and offered praises to GOD for granting them a good crop.

While Deepawali/diwali is popularly known as the "festival of lights", the most significant meaning is- the awareness of the inner light.

Diwali is about the triumph of virtue over vice, of good over evil, of light over darkness and of knowledge over ignorance.

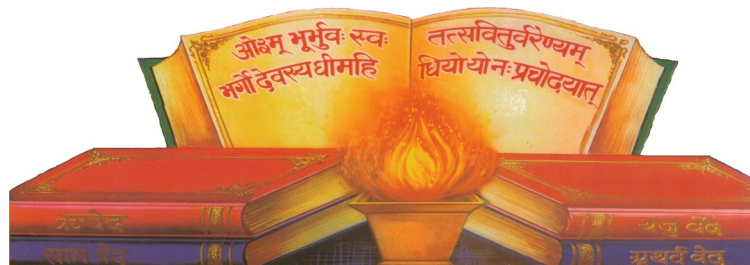
Diwali is supposed to be the beginning of a better life, better future and better prospects.

It is about unity, tolerance and understanding and our hopes and ambitions for the future. It reminds us that love, concern and respect for others is the way to a brighter day. Regardless of race or faith, people all over the world identify this with the message of Diwali.

Diwali should be a time of reflection how far we have come from the same time last year and where we are heading. It should be about celebration drawing the races together with joy to celebrate health, life and all its goodness. It is about sharing, remembering the poor, the old and the frail through service. It should be about letting the light in and letting go of bitter memories, no more fights, no more quarrels and none of those old wounds. This annual celebration of Diwali is an occasion for everyone to reach out to one another in the spirit of love and goodwill. Diwali is now one of the biggest festivals celebrated with great enthusiasm and happiness the world over. The festival of diwali also gives an opportunity to people of different faiths and communities to come together and live in a spirit of communal harmony

Diwali gives everyone a welcome chance to pause and reflect on what we achieved and hope to achieve.

The flames of the Hawan Yaj or the clay lamp is a symbolic representation of the victory of light over darkness, of knowledge over ignorance and prosperity over poverty. Hawan Yaj holds a place of great importance in all Vedic/Hindu religious ceremonies and festivals. While performing the hawan we pray to GOD and sing verses in praise of Him. These verses have meaningful thoughts which describe the attributes and functions of GOD. The verses from the VEDAS urge us to perform good deeds and make our lives nobler. (continued P2)



Arya Samaj Newsletter

October 2013 Volume 6 Issue 10

Diwali (Deepawali) article continued from page 1

The benefit from hawan is that it purifies the air and the surrounding atmosphere and people who perform hawan regularly get the opportunity of studying the VEDAS and other VEDIC-scriptures and in this way their intellect and the mind become pure and only then can we do good deeds. Let us reach out to one another in the spirit of love and goodwill that lies at the heart of all great cultures and religions of this world.

In each legend, myth and story of Diwali lies the significance of the victory of good over evil; and it is with each Diwali and the lights that illuminate our homes and hearts, that this simple truth finds new reason and hope. From darkness unto light — the light that empowers us to commit ourselves to good deeds, which brings us closer to divinity.

OM ASATO MA SAD GAMAYA,
OM TAMASO MA JYOTIR GAMAYA.
OM MRITYORMA MRITAM GAMAYA. (Upnishad)

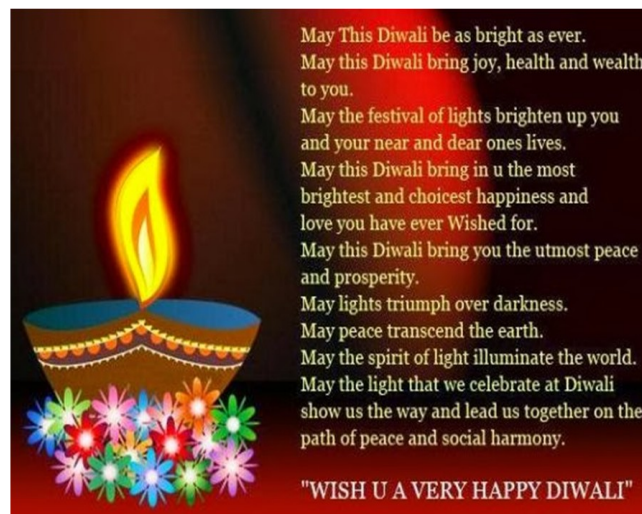
O GOD lead us from untruth to truth.
O GOD lead us from darkness of ignorance to light of knowledge.
O GOD lead us from misery of death to immortality.

Talreja KM ,Dutt B,Vichar R

**May the beauty
Of diwali season
Fill your home with
Happiness,
And may the coming year
Provide you with all
That bring you happiness!
May the divine light of diwali
spread into your Life
serenity, prosperity, bliss
and good health.
May GODs blessings be upon you all
Happy Diwali**

Vedic Thought

Wherever we may be on this earth, the main message of Diwali should be embraced in practice, ie to remove ignorance and spread knowledge -true knowledge- so that the people can be happier and live together as members of the extended family unit. And that should start from our own soul cleansing- right thinking, right speech and right action and always remember GOD. Vedic thought speaks of effort and prayer which must both go hand in hand to be really successful in life. May the light of lights illuminate our inner selves, enlighten our intellect, increase our understanding and may we prosper on the material as well on spiritual aspects.



Wishing you all a very happy diwali