

## Holi- “A Festival of Colors”

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The Hindus celebrate Dewali and Holi with the same joy and enthusiasm with which the Christians celebrate Christmas and the Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Fitr. Dewali is a festival of lights and Holi is a festival of colors. There is a story about the origin of Holi. For his devotion to god, Prahalad's father decided to punish of Holi. For his devotion to God, Prahalad's father decided to punish him to death by forcing him to sit in burning fire. Fire burnt itself out, but it could not burn Prahalad. Holi is celebrated in memory of that great day on which fire could not burn Prahalad.

There is a more realistic ground for celebrating Holy. Holi is a festival of the farmers and farmers feel happy and joyful after harvesting their crops. They celebrate Holi as a mark or expression of their joy. About a week before Holi comes, villagers start a special dancing and singing program. They beat drums to the tune of several other musical instruments and sing ballads. On the day of Holi, a big heap of wood is made and burnt. Next day, there is a colorful programme of playing Holi. The Holi of colors is celebrated more joyfully in cities than in villages. Villagers do not make so much use of colors as the people of towns and cities.

From early in the morning, there is the atmosphere of playfulness. Children who had become Holi-minded several days before are in their lightest mood today they are putting on worn out but white clothes. They have in their houses drums full of colored water and good stock of colored powder. They have brought new syringes of brass or bamboo sticks from the bazaar.

First of all, they try their strength, upon one another the members of their own party. Their next victims are the passersby and all catch the spirit. Groups of young men, women and elderly people can be seen going about in the street. This is a day on which we should go to our friends' and relatives' houses and color their faces and drench their clothes. After playing Holi, people embrace one another. Visitors are served with sweets and tea.

We can witness some very funny scenes on this day. Imagine the condition of the poor fellow upon whose head five or six persons are pouring water or who has been made to wear a garland of shoes, or whose face has been blackened with coal tar. People sing, dance and jump in joy. They enact all sorts of by four men and a mourning procession is taken out. At Delhi an All Fools Day is observed with a great zeal.

Some social organizations have been pleading for a long time that Holi should be celebrated in cleaner way, but no change seems to take place. Holi without colors seems to make no appeal to people's mind. It goes on as ever a festival of colors. Fun and seriousness cannot go together. Colored water, colored powder and colored faces will love long.

Essay No. 2

## Holi

India is known for festivals. Every community religion, place and season has its festivals. Holi is the festival of spring season. The Holi festival is one of the most important and interesting festivals of the Hindus. It comes in the month of Flagon. All person young and old, men and women, boys and girls look forward to this day with great joy.

There is a story about the origin of this festival. Prahalad was a devotee of Ram. His father Hirnakashyap, hated Vishnu. He wanted to punish his son for announcing the name of Vishnu. He tried many ways to kill him but all failed. Hirnakashyp was determined to kill him. In the end he asked his sister. Holika to enter the fire with Prahlad. Her body was fire proof. Fortunately, prahlad came out of the fire safe but his aunt (Holika) was burnt to death. So this festival is celebrated in the honour of this event.

It is also said that the Holi is the beginning of the harvest season. The harvest is ready and the hearts of the farmers are full of joy. So new ears of corn are roasted on the Holi fire and distributed among friends and relation as Prasad with greetings of new corps.

On the festival night a huge fire is made. Heaps of wood, dung, thorns and other things are collected and burnt. Great preparations are made for this fire. Mischievous people carry away cots, furniture and thatches of other people and put them in the fire secretly. This is a very bad thing.

On the Holi day many kinds of sweets and other fine things are made by women in their houses. The most important things is goonjha which is made even in the poorest family. Sweets are bought from the market also.

In the morning after the burning of the Holi people become will with joy. They make coloured water and throw it on the passers-by by means of a syringe. People go to the houses of their friends and relations. Coloured powder is rubbed on the faces on this day. Everyone looks coloured and funny on this day.

Some people go in parties to their friends and relations with music and singing on the way. They are given sweets and betels .

Every rose has a thorn. Holi is a festival of joy. But it is not free from evils. Some give Bhang – Thandai to drink. This makes persons to behave badly. They sing indecent songs. Some drink wine also. Drinking makes them like pigs. Some persons throw dirt, mud and uncleaned water on others to make them dirty. They paint the faces of other people with black colour. This is very bad practice. Sometimes, all these bad manners result in fights and quarrels.

We should celebrate Holi like good men. We should enjoy it like civilized persons. We should not spoil the fair face of joy by dirty things. People of other countries laugh at us for our foolish and wild manner. Now we are free. We should behave like civilized people. We should not throw water on those whom we do not know. Holi is colourful. Let it be a festival of colourful joy.

Essay No. 3

### **The Holi**

The Holi is one of the prominent festivals of the Hindus celebrated in India. It is the seasonal festival which marks the end of the winter season. It is the festival of fun and frolic, happiness and gaiety. The young and the old celebrated it with great joy.

There are two days attributed to this festival. They are known as “Chhotti Holi” and Bari Holi” or “Dulhandi”. On the “Chhotti Holi” day ladies and children in their best dresses go to worship a big pile of fire-wood. They throw rice and burn incense at it. Then at night at the auspicious hour this heap of fire –wood is set on fire. Men go to it with stalks of barley in order to put them into fire and then they embrace each other and wish “Happy Holi”. On this day even old enmities and differences are buried and forgotten. The night passes into the day which is called “dulhandi” – the day of coloured water and “Gulal”

Various theories warp around this festival. Some say that Holi is commemorated in honour of Lord Krishna who killed a cruel demon on this day and filled the life of people with ecstasy. Others are of the view that it is celebrated in honour of Prahlad, a great devotee of the Supreme God. His haughty father “Hiranyakush”. Who was a king regarded himself greater than God. But Prahlad did not like this attitude of his father and went on worshipping God despite his cruel father’s threat. “Hiranyakush” punished his disobedient son by throwing him into the burning flames of fire but these flames could do no harm to the real devotee of God. Then he led his son to a burning pillar out of which “Narhasingh” God

appeared and killed his atheist father. Since then his day is celebrated by playing with colour.

In villages, towns and cities the Holi festival is celebrated by all people who express their joy by singing folk songs and dancing to the beats of drums. Before noon, people come out of their house in groups. They have gulal in their hands and smear it on the forehead of each other. The children get ready with syringes and buckets full of coloured water. They throw it on passers – by, friends and relatives. Some use water balloons which hit a person like a missile. So the Government has put a ban on the sale of balloons during the Holi festival. In the afternoon feasts are arranged and delicacies are enjoyed.

Some people spoil this festival occasion by drinking excessively and throwing mud and dust at others. Such a practice must be denounced by all of us. On this day procession of fools is also taken out by great poets and writers. They sit on donkeys and wear strings of shoes round their necks . humorous and funny poems are recited in the fools conference. Thus everybody is seen in a jolly mood on this funny festival.

It is one of the most colourful festival of India.

Essay No. 04

**Holi**

**or**

### **The Festival of Colours**

Holi is one of the most famous festivals of India. It usually comes off in the month of March, mostly in the first or second week of this month.

Holi is called the festivals of colours, just as Diwali is called the festivals of lights. Holi denotes the victory of truth over falsehood and good over evil.

There is a story behind this festival. It is said that once there was a king. His name was Hiranyakashyap. He had declared himself to be God and asked people to worship him. But his own son Prahlad, refused to obey him. He refused to accept him as God or incarnation of God. Hiranyakashyap was very angry with Prahlad. He wanted to punish him for disobeying him. He had a sister, Holika. She had got a boon that fire could not burn her. She took the little 'child, Prahlad, in her lap and sat on a heap of burning wood.

It is happened that Holika herself was burnt in fire but fire could cause no harm to Prahlad. God had saved him. Holika's boon could not work because she was trying to use it for an evil purpose. Fire could do no harm to Prahlad because of his firm faith in God and his unflinching determination to follow the path of truth.

It is said that since then Holi is being celebrated in India. It is celebrated mostly in north India. On this day people smear each other's face with dry colour or they sprinkle liquid colour on each other out of love and enhance fun and happiness.

It is sad that some people start quarrelling with each other over the question of sprinkling colour on one another. The people also exchange sweets on this day. The day can be used as one for enhancing the spirit of national integrations, as the people of all communities participate in it.