

Diwali- The Festival of Light

India is famous for her festivals. Different countries have different festivals. Christians have Easter and Christmas Day as their festivals. Id-ul-Fitr. Id-ul-Zuha, Shabraat and Moharram are the important festivals of the Muslims. The Hindus celebrate Holi, Dewali and Dussherea festivals with joy. But Dwewali is the most important of their festivals. It comes off in the last week of October or in the first week of Nov. People say that on this day Shri Ram Chandraji returned to Ayodhya with Sita and Lakshman after winning victory over Ravana. People of Ayodhya rejoiced over this happy occasion. They illuminated their houses etc. Dewali is a festival of lights, feasts, presents and greetings. It is celebrated all over India with enthusiasm.

A few weeks before Dewali people start preparations for it. They white wash their houses and paint the doors and windows. New clothes are ordered for the whole family. Halwais, toy makers and traders in wax candles and crackers have a very busy time. They display their goods for sale in their shops or on the pavements. People start purchasing these things two or three days before Dewali.

On the day of Dewali people put on new clothes. They decorate their homes for the "Pooja" of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. They purchase sweets, utensils, toys, wax candles and earthen lamps. Children ask their parents to buy crackers and phuljharis. There is a great hustle and bustle in the bazaars. All the shops are tastefully decorated. Halwais have put up shamianas before their members of the family sit together. They in the evening members of the family sit together. They offer their prayers to the goddess Lakshmi. Candles and earthen lamps are lighted on the house tops, verandahs and gates. Rows of lighted lamps on the buildings present a beautiful scene. People visit relatives and friends. It is a wrong belief. Gambling is a very bad habit. It should never form a part of the Dewali festival.

Businessmen start new account books on Dewali. They keep themselves awake throughout the night. They invoke the goddess Laskhmi to pour favor on them. Thus Dewali is the most important festival of the Hindus.

The festivals play a very important role in the life of the Indian people. India is a land, where fairs and festivals are held very frequently during the year. They occupy an important place in religious and social life of the people. There are four biggest festivals of the Hindus. Diwali is one of them. The other three are the Raksha Bandhan, the Dusshera and the Holi.

Diwali is the most excellent festival of all the Hindu festivals. It is celebrated on the 15th of Kartik month every year in all the parts of India. Though it is really the festival of year in all the parts of India. Though it is really the festival of the Vaishyas, it is celebrated by all. It is a festival of happiness and pleasure. The word "Diwali" is a corruption of the Sanskrit word "Deepawali" which means a row of light. Different views and opinions are given about the origin of this festival. Some say that on this day Shri Ram Chandrajai returned to Ayodhya after that on this day Shri Ram Chandrajai returned to Ayodhya after defeating Ravana the king of Lanka. In order to welcome him the houses and streets were illuminated.

The children are very happy on this day. They get holidays from the schools the schools. Great preparation are made. The women prepare many kind of sweets and other food articles. People buy small clay cups called Devas. In the evening these cups are filled with mustard oil and lighted. These cups are put on the walls or on bamboo frames in rows at small distance. The whole house becomes bright with lights. In cities and towns electric bulbs are lighted. Everything looks bright and beautiful. Some people make paper candles and hang them from the ceiling of the houses and trees. They look very beautiful.

Thus, all the houses and the whole market look very bright and charming. The sweet shops are the most charming. The sweets are put in an attractive manner. Everybody lets off parched paddy. People worship the Goddess Laxmi and offer sweets to her. The prasad is given to children and other people. The traders worship their Bahis and pray to Goddess Laxmi to bring them good luck all the year round.

The children are the happiest. They enjoy sweets and fireworks. They light these fireworks of different kinds. They enjoy the flying sparks and the bright coloured lights. They have a great liberty to do so.

This festival is useful in many ways. It comes after rainy season. So, the mosquitoes and other dirty things are removed in white- washing. The old houses are repaired. In this way all the dirt and dust of the whole year is removed and are renewed. The businessmen close their old accounts and open new ones.

This festival is not free evils. People gamble on the night of this festival. They believe that if anybody wins this night, he will be fortunate all the year round. In this way in trying their luck they are ruined. So this evil should be checked and we should celebrate this festival with mirth and joy. The second evil is that people waste their money on fireworks. Sometimes people and children are hurt and burnt. This should also be checked.

Diwali is really the festival of pleasure and happiness. No other festival is celebrated with so much joy as this. It brings new hopes and aspirations. We hope that Diwali should come every year with greater happiness.

Essay No. 03

Diwali

Diwali is perhaps the most famous festival of India. It comes off twenty days after Dussehra. It occurs mostly towards the end of October or in November.

On the day of Diwali, Lord Rama returned home after killing the cruel demon king Ravana. Then the people of Ayodhya illuminated their houses. It is since then that Diwali is celebrated all over India with great pomp and show.

Many days before Diwali, people get their houses whitewashed. On the day of Diwali, they wear new clothes. Particularly, the children-are fond of new clothes.

People distribute and exchange sweets. The markets and bazaars are tastefully decorated. At night, the houses are illuminated with electric and earthen ware lamps and candles.

On this day, the businessmen start new account books. Some people indulge in drinking and gambling. That is very bad.

Diwali is an important day for people of all communities in India for one reason or the other. On this day people of all communities greet each other and exchange sweets with each other. People worship goddess Lakshmi at night. Many people fire crackers. That should be avoided as crackers pollute the atmosphere. If children insist on firing crackers, their parents must stand close to them to avoid any accident.

Diwali can be very helpful in bringing about national integration. People of all communities should join hands to change Diwali into a national festival, as in fact, it is not the festival of just one community.

Essay No. 04

Festival of Diwali

The festival of Diwali is known as the festival of Lights and, is a festival peculiar to India and Indians. This festival is one of lights, sweets gaiety and meeting friends and relatives.

In India this festival is one of the most wonderful festival celebrated by one and all together with loved ones. Once in this period of the festival, I had gone to London with my parents. To London, my father was being sent for a three months assignment, and, in these three months, Diwali was to fall. This made me very morose for, this was my favourite festival, and I did not want to miss the festivities. I wondered how we would celebrate this there, and how lonely we would be in an alien land, with no one to celebrate with us. I did play truant and tried my best to convince my mother, that we would go only after Diwali. I was in a real fix for, I did not want to miss celebrating Diwali and neither _ did I wish to miss the trip to London. After a lot of tantrums, , I realised that nothing could be done, so I just had to go.

It was mid-November, the fourteenth of November and Diwali was on the 26th of November. So much against my wishes, we had to finally leave for the United Kingdom on the 14th. Now I was absolutely convinced that, this year Diwali would have to be forfeited, for, we were to return after three months. We boarded the plane on the 14th night and on the 15th afternoon we were at London. There, at the airport an uncle had come to receive us and all was fine. However, my mood was still off and, believe me, Daddy even noticed it, and asked me what the matter was. After a lot of cajoling, I finally told him that, I was upset about having to miss Diwali at home in India. In reply to this, a surprise awaited me as, Daddy told me that, I need not worry about this little thing as, in London also, Diwali is celebrated with a lot of gaiety just as in India. This did surprise me though I did not believe it and thought that, Daddy was saying so, just to make me happy.

However, after a week came the D-Day, it was Diwali knocking at the door, and I was in for a number of surprises. We had all been invited for a Diwali get-together. Aha, there I got to see all that I see in Delhi, back home. First of all, I found it hard to believe as to how many myriads of Indians live there. The huge numbers that flocked to the party stunned me, and above all, I saw them all dressed in beautiful silk sarees, the men in silken Kurtas and Churidars while the young girls in typical Indian dresses. The very aura created by just the dresses made me forget that I was in England. It was a true and real picture of an Indian Diwali get-together on Diwali in India.

There was a huge pandal for the prayers, where all of us went to offer prayers, then hymns for Goddess Lakshmi were recited and sung by all and finally the prasad was offered to all. After the prayer, all of us went to another huge open space where there was a spectacular show of crackers. For as much as about forty-five minutes we enjoyed a show of color and noise of crackers. After this display of crackers we were once again directed to another huge area beautifully decorated with earthenware lamps, candles, and chandeliers. Here I could see rows and rows of Indian sweets laid out for all of us to help ourselves to, and so we did. After the sweets there were laid down foods of different Indian choices for us to enjoy. I had, to be true, never seen this much in India, such a collection of Indian sweets, Indian foods, and Indian decor all under one roof and that also in a foreign country. What surprised me and also pleased me was the fact that, Indians abroad maintain their Indian traditions so well when they are out of their country. While, on the contrary, we, living in India wish to leave our traditions.

The Diwali celebrations in London that we were treated to, were far better than what we enjoy here in India. The grandeur, the details of the tradition and the plenty of everything was so perfect that, for the time being, I had completely forgotten that I was not in India, but in an alien land. It pleased me a lot to notice that, India was so well represented in England. Now, I was glad that I had come , to England during the Diwali season for else, the festival of lights of England would have remained unknown to me, It was a great pleasure and a great knowledge. This visit to London was my first visit and two years have passed since but my memories of the occasion have still not faded. Whenever Diwali comes, I remember that Diwali and ask Daddy when he will take me again to that land of fantasy and enjoyment.