

Customs & their meaning



What are you thinking about the picture? In India people give some money to mahout and take blessings of Elephant. Do you know the reason? Read below.

In this world each person is unique. I like reading books. But my friends like to watch movies. Some of them like old movies. Some of them like movies of their own favorite hero. As we mentioned in another cover story, if Ten people watch a scenery,

each one of them have their own version of appreciation or comment. Similarly with worship, each one will have their own object or image to stick with. In many occasions, they may not accept other person's entity. That is where the situation end up in violence. There is no problem if a person worships his own entity, but if he blames other person's image – it leads to argument. Every one of us know that India is lots of Gods namely Sri Rama, Sri Krishna, Siva, Vishnu and so on. Of course! Each god's name is given by some characteristics. There is some hidden meaning in each personality. Those who seek education, approach Goddess Saraswathi. Those who seek courage, approach Hanuman. So each personality is meant for some characteristics. Worshipping a formless energy is tough. It is always better to have something to stick with and later when we realize, we can drop it. A child when (s)he is learning to walk uses some support. But, when (s)he gets confidence that they do not need support, they can simply stop accessing the support. Same with spirituality.

Have you ever wondered why some people put turmeric marks on steps while going to Tirumala? They pray the god to help them achieve success in an event and they pay respects like that when they succeed. Basically the energy which controls the universe(s), whether you call it as God or with some other name, is pervading in all living and non-living entities. That is why each and every living and non-living entity is deserves worship. Similarly an Elephant. You may ask - the mahout sits on Elephant – isn't it wrong? Every entity is doing its duty. That is why we greet each other with Namaste (joining palms with respect). It does not mean that you are saluting the person in front of you, you are saluting the divinity within him. As one poet says "There is nothing in this universe which does not deserve respect". So let us respect everyone and experience peace.

Send your comments to susri@sanghamitra.org. Let us meet again in October issue. Till then good bye!