

Importance of Dussehra.



Vijayadasami also known as Dussehra is a festival celebrated on the tenth day of the bright half of the Hindu month of Ashwiyuja. It is the grand culmination of the 10-day annual festival of Dasara or Navaratri and is celebrated the victory of the forces of Good over Evil. It is also considered to be an auspicious day to begin new things in life. In South India Vijayadasami commemorates the legend in which the Goddess Durga, also known as Mahishasura Mardini or Chamundeshwari, vanquishes the demon Mahishasura. People believe that the event have taken place in the vicinity of Mysore in Karnataka. In Northern India, the festival commemorates the victory of Sri. Rama, prince of Ayodhya in present day Uttar pradesh, over Ravana, the ruler of Lanka.

There is another belief from Mahabharata, during the 1 year of exile at Virata King's kingdom, Pandavas kept their divine & distinctive weapons on a Shami tree. When Duryodhan's army tried to capture the cattle of Virat king thinking Pandavas were in the kingdom of Virat, Arjun went and collected his weapon from the Shami tree and won the war on Kauravas.

It is believed that any activity started on this day will be successful. Kids pray goddess Saraswati seeking blessings to achieve knowledge. Merchants pray goddess Lakshmi seeking her blessings to achieve profits. Ladies pray goddess Gouri seeking her blessings to achieve blissful life to their family members. On this day most of the people decorate and offer puja to the instruments earning them food. For example, a tailor offer puja to his sewing machine, a driver offer puja to his truck or car, a farmer offers puja to his cart, axe, tractor etc. In the name Vijaya Dasami, 'Vijaya' means win. Dasami means 10th day of the moons cycle. Vijaya Dasami is celebrated on the 10th day after new moon in the month of Ashwiyuja.

In villages, the kids used to have holidays for about 2 weeks, during which they used to serve the needy people and by which they used to learn to contribute to the society. Now-a-days that culture is fading and the kids are after studies all the time. They are not being encouraged to build public relations and social activities. We should bring that rich culture for a peaceful world.

Let us all wish for a peaceful world!

- SuSri.