

शुभ दीपावली
Śubh Dīpāvalī

Ārya Samāj
Greater Houston



2019-10-27

By Acharya Suryanarayan Nanda
for Arya Samaj Greater Houston

असतो मा सद् गमय ।
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय ।
मृत्योर्माऽमृतं गमय ॥



Lead me from Untruth to Truth
Lead me from Darkness to Light
Lead me from Death to Immortality.

2019-10-27

By Acharya Suryanarayan Nanda
for Arya Samaj Greater Houston



Dīpāvalī” means “a row of lamps” and signifies the victory of brightness over darkness. The festival is held on “Amāvasyā” or moonless night in the dark half of Kārtik.

2019-10-27

By Acharya Suryanarayan Nanda
for Arya Samaj Greater Houston



Darkness represents ignorance, and light is a metaphor for knowledge.

Therefore, lighting a lamp symbolizes dispelling ignorance through knowledge.

2019-10-27

By Acharya Suryanarayan Nanda
for Arya Samaj Greater Houston

4

The origin of Diwali can be traced back to ancient India, when it was an important harvest festival (*Śārādīya Nava-śaṣṭeṣṭi*) around the time of the autumn harvest and the start of the winter sowing.



2019-10-27

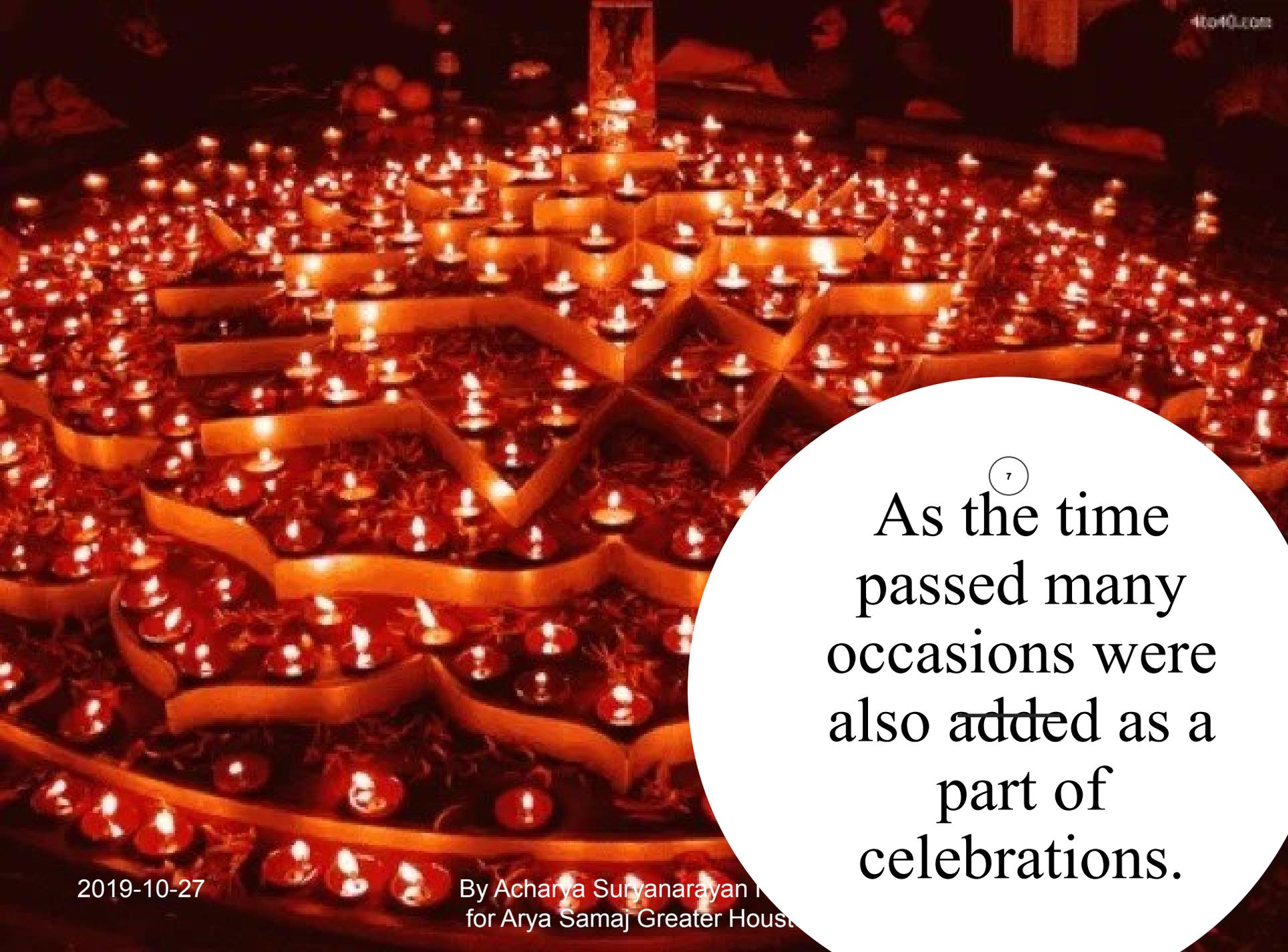
By Acharya Suryanarayan Nanda
for Arya Samaj Greater Houston

Farmers give thanks for the bounty of the year gone by.

Later on it was decorated by lighting multiple Diyā - earthen lamps with clarified butter.

This Yajña and the lamps also help clear atmosphere -make free from germs that spread diseases.





7
As the time
passed many
occasions were
also added as a
part of
celebrations.



One such occasion is considered that Śrī Rāma returned to his kingdom **Ayodhyā** with his wife, Sita, and his brother, Lakṣmana, after several years of exile and defeating Rāvaṇa.

Although according to authentic **Valmiki Rāmāyaṇa**, the correct arrival date is month of fifth day of Chaitra-Shukla.

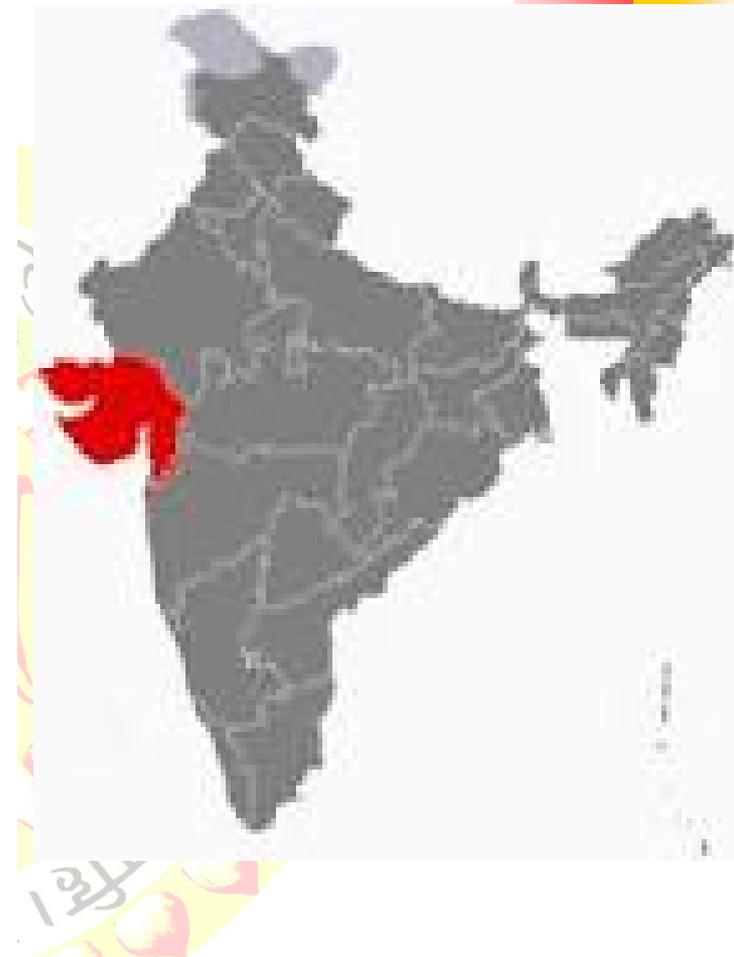
For Jains, Diwali marks the attainment of Nirvāṇa (final release) or liberation by **Mahāvira** in 527 BCE.

It also marks the end of the year for the Jains.





For the people of Gujrat, Diwali also marks the beginning of the New Year, is an opportunity to make a fresh start.



Nirvāṇa Day of Maharṣi Dayanand



2019-10-27

By Acharya Suryanarayan Nanda
for Arya Samaj Greater Houston

Maharshi Dayanand

Swami Dayanand started reformation movement in India in view of degradation of Vedic values and propagation of various myths on the name of dharma.

Maharshi Dayanand



Child marriage, polygamy, castism,, ignorance towards Vedic scriptures, un-education, poverty, unemployment, superstitions etc. were many evils which were prevalent in his times.



2019-10-27

By Acharya Suryanarayan Nanda
for Arya Samaj Greater Houston

Maharshi Dayanand



He discouraged
dogma and symbolism that
run contrary to common
sense and logic,
and encouraged skepticism
in beliefs.

**He taught people to
think independently
and fearlessly.**

Maharshi Dayanand

He advocated the equal rights and respects to women and advocated the education of a girl child like the males.

Maharṣi Dayanand



He inspired the nation to aspire to *Swarājya* (self governance), nationalism, and spiritualism.

He was the first to give the call for **Swarājya** in 1876, later taken up by Lokmānya Tilak.

He was the first to give the word of *Swadeshi*.

Maharshi Dayanand

He said; Your ancestors were not uncivilized men living in forests.

They were great men who enlightened this world.

Your history is not a bundle of defeats.

It is the eulogy of the conquerors of the world.



Maharṣi Dayanand

Your Vedic Scriptures are not
the songs of cowherds.

They are the immortal truths
which shaped mighty souls like
Śri Rāma and Śri Kriṣṇa.

Be proud of your glorious
history.

Take inspiration from it to mold
the present.



The Saṁyāsī Who Knew No Fear

He was a fearless
Sanyasi. Whatever he
believed to be the truth
He spoke out without
fear.

The uncompromising,
firmness with which
Maharshi Dayanand
preached truth, made him
enemy of all those who
followed untruth.

2019-10-27

By Acharya Suryanarayan Nanda
for Arya Samaj Greater Houston



This is the festival of awareness of the inner light.

- For that purify your heart and mind from ignorance and acrimony.
- Just like our homes, our soul also needs cleansing for the light of God to reach and touch our souls.
- The light of higher knowledge dispels ignorance.
- With this awakening comes compassion and the awareness of the oneness of all things (higher knowledge).
- This brings **Ānanda** (joy).

O man !

Wake up from
the slumber of ignorance.
Realize the constant and
eternal light of the Soul.



Light the lamp of love in your heart;
the lamp of abundance in your home;
the lamp of compassion to serve others;
the lamp of knowledge to dispel ignorance; and
the lamp of gratitude for the abundance that
the Divine has bestowed on us .



May you all attain full inner
illumination!

May the supreme light
enlighten your understanding

May you all attain the
limitless spiritual wealth of
the Self !

May you all prosper
gloriously on the material as
well as spiritual planes!

Śubh Dīpāvalī
&
Nirvāṇa Day
of
Maharṣi Dayanand

Ārya Samāj Greater Houston

2019-10-27

By Acharya
for Arya Samāj

Ārya Samāj Greater Houston

शुभ दीपावली
Śubh Dīpāvalī

2019-10-27

By Acharya Suryanarayan Nanda
for Arya Samaj Greater Houston