



Maha Har Har Mahadev

Om Namah Shivaya

My dear and respected devotees Jai Shree Krishna and Har Har Mahadev and I offer my reverence to all of you on this great and auspicious night.

As everyone knows tonight we are celebrating Maha Shiv Raatri so it is my privilege to share some humble thoughts about this occasion and about Lord Shiva

Maha Shiva Raatri means it is a special night dedicated to the worship of Lord Shiva

This night is used to make changes in our lives from falsehood towards truth from darkness to light and from Death to immortality. So we pray together.

Om Asato maa sadgamaya ,tamaso maa jyotir gamaya, mrityor maa amritam gamaya.

Lead me oh Lord, from untruth to Truth; from darkness to Light; from death to immortality (Brihadaranyakopanishad,)

Another name for Lord Shiva is Maha Mrityumjaya the controller of death, meaning He can change death into life and also make any inauspicious into auspiciousness.

Om Tryam bakanj yajaa mahay sugandhim pushti vardha namma,Urvaa ruka miva bandhanaan mrityorm muksheeya maamritaam.

I worship thee, O sweet lord of transcendental vision. O giver of prosperity to all, may I be free from the bonds of death like a ripe fruit dropping from a tree. May I never forget again my immortal nature.

For example everyone hates to use ashes from cremation site but Lord Shiva puts the ashes on His body like sandal powder. This action makes the ashes very holy and becomes like chandan.

Using the ashes Lord Shiva tells us that life is not endless and in the end the entire Universe will become Ashes because only Bhagwan is Eternal and Immortal.

Our scriptures contain many stories and legends describing the origin of Maha Shiv Raatri. According to Shreemad Bhagwatam and also Shiv Purana during Samudra Mantham (churning of the Ocean) a pot of poison emerged from the ocean. This terrified both the Devtas and the Rakshasas as this poison was capable of destroying the entire world and they ran to Lord Shiva for help.

To protect the world from the poisonous and evil effects Lord Shiva Drank that Poison but kept it in his throat instead of swallowing it. This made his throat turned blue and he was given the name Neel Kantha—The Blue Throat One.



When Lord Shiv was drinking the poison some drops of poison dropped on the earth. From those drops some creatures and plants became poisonous. Maha Shiv Raatri is a celebration of this event by which Lord Shiva Saved the world

Another Legends in the Maha Shiva Purana and Linga Purana one Brahma and Vishnu had a disagreement as to who was more superior. To make them realize the Truth Lord Shiv assumed the form of huge column of LIGHT between the two of them. Awestruck by its magnitude they both decided to find the top and the bottom of this column of light to establish Supremacy.

Brahma nor Vishnu could not find the beginning or the end as that column of light had no limit. When Brahma said he found the end of that light Lord Shiva cursed him for for telling the untruth and said that there will be no Murtees of Brahma

Since this happened on the 14th day in the dark half of the month of Phalgun that Lord Shiva first manifested himself in the form of a Lingam this day is especially and celebrated as birthday of Lord Shiva's Lingam and as Maha Shiv Raatri

Worshipping Lord Shiv on this night is believed to bestow one with happiness and prosperity

Another possible reason for the all night worship, being a moonless night, people worship Bholenath as he wears the crescent moon as an adornment on his head. This was probably to ensure that the moon rose the next night.

Maha Shiv Ratri is thus not only a ritual but also a cosmic definition of the Hindu Universe as it dispels ignorance, emanates the light of knowledge and enlightenment and makes everyone aware about the universe

Another reason for Maha Shiv Ratri celebration is that it was on this night, after severe penance, that Mother Parvati got her wishes completely fulfilled as the wife of Lord Shiva so tonight celebrated as their wedding anniversary.

My devotees Lord Shiva is a Multipurpose aspect of Bhagwan. He has the power to provide every need, and fulfill all wishes and take away all the sufferings. He can remove the darkness of ignorance and provide immortality to you.

He can also give you real devotion as he generates real love in the Lotus feet of Lord Krishna and whomever your Ishta Devta is.

From Lord Shiva you can have worldly happiness as well as spiritual divinity and that way you will have everything to make your life one of peace, prosperity and pathway to God

May Lord Shiva Bless us all and shower his Divine Grace on all of us.

Thank you and Har Har Mahadev.