

STUDENT MPE LNN

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What is... Holi? By: Caroline Li

Holi is the traditional Hindu festival that celebrates the beginning of Spring, and the triumph of good over evil.

The Holi festival started in India, but today it is celebrated all over the world. Every year, the festival takes place over two days. It begins at the full moon of Phalguna (a month in the Hindu calendar). Phalguna often falls between the months February and March. This year, the Holi festival will take place on Sunday, March 28 to Monday, March 29, 2021.

The first day of Holi, called the Holika Dahan, or Chhoti Holi, where festival-goers gather around a

bonfire to celebrate the victory of good as evil is burned away in the fire. They also sing and dance and pray that any evil inside of them be destroyed. The second day of Holi is called Holi, or Rangwali Holi. This is when the colorful powders are thrown, sometimes the powders are mixed with water, so the powder sticks to everyone.

One legend about how Holi started relates to one of the Hindu gods, Krishna. When Krishna was little, he was embarrassed by his dark blue skin color. He told his mother he was afraid that the woman he loved, Radha, would never accept him. His mother playfully suggested he paint brightly colored powder on Radha's face and make it any color he wanted. When Krishna painted her face with the powder, Radha fell in love with him. That's one of the seven legends to why Holi started, and it explains why people throw colorful powder at each other.

I hoped you enjoyed and learned a lot about Holi. Thank you for reading!

Poem of the Week Topic: Holi

Namaste, friends! How are you? This week's poem is based on Holi, one of the most famous holidays of Indian History. So, I will be showing you the festival of Holi and the interesting history behind it. There will be two poems joined about the story of Holi. Come on! Let's learn together!

True Colors

Red, Orange,
Yellow and Green.
Blue, Purple,
Magenta and Pink!

Colors
are everywhere,
On your clothes,
And in your hair!

This only happens
In the festival of Holi.
But why do we even celebrate?
Is it because we just want to be great?

No, little child,
It isn't like that.
Really,
The history about Holi isn't that flat!

There are two stories about Holi.
One is about equality, fun, and good will
While the other,
Is about good's victory over evil.

Holi is about equality and love.
On Holi, we put colors and water on each other
To show that everyone is
joyous and together.

Now here is the second story.
The story about good over evil.
It all started when the demon king Hiranyakashipu
Declared that worshipping the mighty god Vishnu was illegal.

Soon, Hiranyakashipu had a child.
The child was Prahlad.
Hiranyakashipu thought that Prahlad would be the next demon king,
But Prahlad wasn't even close to the thing!

Prahlad was a magical child.
He did wonders and miracles!
But nobody actually knew
Who was the real person behind this view.

Lord Vishnu was there,

Either a man,
A lion,
Or maybe even a bear!

Vishnu would save Prahlad.
And so one day,
Hiranyakashipu's sister, Holika, was told to sit with Prahlad at the middle of a fire.
Holika had a magical cape that wouldn't let her burn without her desire.

Everybody thought
That today was the day.
The day that Prahlad,
Would burn away.

But Vishnu came
in the form of air.
He gave Holika's cape to Prahlad,
And Prahlad didn't lose a single hair.

And so even today
We celebrate the arrival of Holi together with family and friends.
We burn bonfires, prepare delicious foods,
And throw packets of water and color!

This is the creation of Holi,
And it's a wonderful story.
Remember: Holi is the festival of color;
But it is also the festival of equality and everyone being together.

