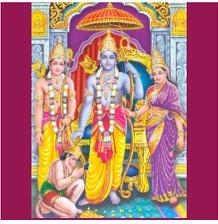


Sita Ram



Ganesh



Krishna



Durga



Shiva



The Story of Tulsi Vivah

Tulsi or the basil plant is deemed highly sacred in Hinduism and is extensively used in the worship of Lord Vishnu. Tulsi Vivah or the marriage of Tulsi with Lord Vishnu is an interesting ceremony that is performed on Prabodhini Ekadashi the eleventh day of Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of the moon) or the twelfth day during the month of Karthika (November - December). Here is the interesting story of Tulsi Vivah and the procedure of Tulsi Vivah.



Once upon a time there was a demon called Jalandhar who was a terror to all the worlds. He had a chaste wife named Brindha. Due to her piousness, the demon had secured immortal powers and became invincible. Unless the chastity of Brindha was challenged, the demon could not be conquered.

Upon the behest of the gods, Lord Vishnu disguised himself in the form of Jalandhar and violated her. Thereupon, the powers of the demon vanished and Shiva killed him in the battle.

Brindha realized the shame that befell her and therefore cursed Lord Vishnu that he would turn black and would get separated from his wife. Her curse came true when Lord Vishnu incarnated as Ram and got separated from his wife Sita.

Brindha burnt herself in atoning for her sin and then became Tulsi plant attaining immortality. As per her prayers, she was married to Lord Vishnu in this form. Since then, worship of Tulsi, offering Tulsi for Lord Vishnu and Tulsi Vivah came to be practiced by the devotees.

Tulsi Vivah Procedure

On the day of Prabodhini Ekadashi or on the next day, the devotees wake up early in the morning and take holy bath and clean their homes. Usually most homes in the Hindu tradition have a Tulsi plant in their house growing in a pot.

This pot is placed in the center of the house and given a holy bath and decorated with auspicious objects like turmeric, vermilion, sacred thread, ornaments and flowers. The idol of Krishna or a salagram shila is decorated with male attire and placed adjacent to the Tulsi plant and preparations for the marriage ceremony happen.

Usually on the day of Tulsi Vivah, the performers observe a day long fasting and the Vivah takes place in the evening. If possible, there is a priest coordinating with the marriage ceremony and the ladies of the household with the attendees perform the marriage.

After invoking the presence of Tulsi and Krishna, the mantras are chanted and a cotton thread is tied around the statue and plant as a mark of wedding lock.

Tulsi Vivah is performed both in temples and homes. It is believed that performing Tulsi Vivah is a very auspicious thing for childless parents. They perform the role of the parent of Tulsi plant and give their daughter Tulsi in marriage to Lord Krishna.

After the marriage ceremony, the prasadam is distributed to all the attendees. On the night of the ceremony, devotees keep vigil and sing the glories of the Lord and Tulsi concluding the proceedings in the morning.

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Things to do On Kartika Purnima

Kartik Purnima is also known as Dev Diwali (Diwali of the Gods) and Tripuri Purnima (as it marks the victory of Lord Shiva over the demon Tripurasura). Lord Vishnu appeared as Matsya (fish) avatar on this day.

This festival is awaited by many devotees who look forward to perform various rituals and please gods. Traditionally, people keep a fast on this day, take a holy dip in the river, light diyas for the entire night, and carry out charities. It is said that doing these things today give results equivalent to that of Ashwamedha yagya. Gifting gold is believed to fulfill all the desires.

1) Offer kheer (rice in sweetened milk) to Lord Shiva on the night of Kartik Purnima. Consume some of it yourself as prasad afterwards. This would bring mental peace and prosperity in life.

In Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, Shivaling Mahajala Abhishekam is organized on the day.

2) Stare at full moon for sometime (around 4-5 minutes). The rays emitting from moon on purnima have potential to calm nerves and relax your eyes.

3) On this day, light an earthen lamp which has 4 wicks lighting in all the four directions (North, South, East, West) in front of Lord Hanuman's idol or photo. This would bring blessings of the god.

4) Chant Mahamrityunjay mantra 108 times.



As per the name this holy month is dedicated to Lord Kartikeya. It is also the birthday of Vrinda (the epitome of the Tulsi plant) and the last day to perform 'Tulsi Vivah'.

Kartik Purnima is closely associated with Prabodhini Ekadashi, which marks the end of Chaturmas, a four-month period when Vishnu is believed to sleep. In Rajasthan, the famous annual Pushkar Mela is held to mark this.

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November 2017 Dates

Based on Lafayette, Louisiana, US Time

01 Wednesday	Tulasi Vivah
03 Friday	Kartika Purnima
10 Friday	Kalabhairav Jayanti
13 Monday	Utpanna Ekadashi
23 Thursday	Vivah Panchami
29 Wednesday	Gita Jayanti, Mokshada Ekadashi

For more details please refer

DrikPanchang.com