



କହ ଇ ଲର୍ଡ ଶିବା?

Lord Shiva is the creator, destroyer and preserver of the universe — both terrible and gentle. Destruction and Recreation taking place in a cycle. He is a representation of the Supreme Being and a part of the Hindu Trinity, the other two being Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu.

Shiva is often shown with many faces, as creator, destroyer and preserver. He contains both good and evil. He blesses his devotees with grace, knowledge, peace, and he protects them from the evil that may be around them.

Shiva is also described as the god who walked beneath the river Ganges. He saved humanity from destruction when the River Ganges threatened to flood the earth. Shiva allowed the waters of the river to flow over his head and through his hair, which divided his hair into seven sections which formed the seven holy rivers, Ganga, Yamuna, Sarasvati, Godavari, Narmada, Kaveri and Sindhu the Indus.

Images of Shiva are usually of him meditating or dancing. His dance is to the beat and rhythm of creation. He is shown in sculptures with many hands; for example, one pair of hands represents the balance between life and death. Shiva is often associated with Kali (wild and violent), Parvati (very gentle) and Durga (a powerful goddess created from the combined forces of the anger of several gods).

The three tangled locks on Shiva's head represent the balance between physical, mental and spiritual world that channel in one direction. Lord Shiva is the only God with three eyes; the sun is his right eye, the moon being the left and fire as the third. The two eyes on his face indicate his activity in the physical world as the third eye in the center indicates knowledge and wisdom. It can search evil from anywhere and destroy it completely. Shiva's eyes are usually half open, because when they are closed, it signifies the dissolution of the universe and when they are completely open it shows a new cycle of creation begins. A snake is curled around Shiva's neck three times, for past, present and future. Rudra means strict and Aksha means eye, therefore form the word Rudraksha which means that Shiva maintains his laws. It has 108 beads, to represent the elements used in making the world. There are two reasons for him having the trishul. The first is that the three spokes represent his three fundamental powers being – will, action and knowledge. Secondly, it symbolises his power to destroy evil and ignorance.

History of Mahashivratri



One day, a poor tribal man called Lubdhaka, went into the deep forests to collect firewood. As night fell, he got lost and could not find his way home. To find safety and shelter, Lubdhaka climbed up a nearby bell tree and fell asleep in its branches till dawn. Throughout the night, he could hear the growls of tigers and other wild animals, and became too frightened to leave the tree. In order to keep himself awake, he plucked one leaf at a time from the tree and then dropped it, while chanting the name of Shiva.



As the sun rose, he noticed that he had dropped thousands of leaves on to a Shiva lingam, which he had not noticed in the darkness. Lubdhaka's all-night worship had pleased Shiva. The tigers and wild animals went away and Lubdhaka survived. He was also rewarded with 'divine bliss.'

Om Namoh Shivai

What happens on Mahashivratri?

Mahavshivratri is a festival dedicated to Lord Shiva, the destroyer. It is celebrated during the night and day, just before the new moon. Every new moon that we have in the year is dedicated to Shiva, but this one is especially special – because it is the same night as to when he did his "Tandan" dance. This festival also celebrates the wedding of Shiva and Sati. The night represents evil, injustice, ignorance, sin, violence and misfortune. Tradition says that Shiva (symbolized by the new moon) appeared to save the world from darkness and ignorance, before the world entered complete darkness.



On the day of Mahashivratri, devotees of Lord Shiva fast on that day and stay up all night at the temple. Seasonal fruits, root vegetables, and coconuts are offered to Shiva during the worship. Those who choose to fast on Mahashivratri break their fast the next morning, and eat the prashad that was offered to Shiva. Young girls fast and worship Lord Shiva so that he may bless them with good husbands. They sing devotional songs and holy texts is chanted throughout the nights.



The pundits in the temple perform the Puja according to the scriptures. The Shiva Linga is a representation of Lord Shiva. Devotees gather up to bathe it in milk, water and honey. It is then anointed with sandalwood paste and decorated with flowers & bell's leaves ("billipatra")

